

The doubleheader train was bucking a heavy snowstorm as its steam engines pulled it west. A woman with a baby wanted to leave the train at one of the little stations along the route.

She repeatedly called, "Don't forget me!" to the brakeman responsible to call out the stations they approached. Her husband was to meet her. The train slowed to a stop, and a fellow traveller said, "Here's your station." She hopped from the train into the storm. The train moved on again.

Forty-five minutes later, the brakeman came in. "Where's the woman?" "She got off at the last stop," the traveller said. "Then she got off to her death," the brakeman responded. "We stopped only because there was something the matter with the engine."

They called for volunteers to go back and search for the woman and child. When they found her hours later, not far from the track where they stopped, she was covered with ice and snow. The little boy was protected as she snuggled him in under her coat and kept him warm with her body. She had followed the man's directions, but they were wrong; dead wrong.

Those directions were deadly, as that man didn't KNOW THE WAY. He led a person to their death.

What really disturbs me, is the world is giving people directions that lead people to their eternal death. Jesus gives Thomas very clear directions in his story in John about how to have eternal life. Thomas asks "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" (John 14:5) What a great question "**How, can we know the way?**" Until you know the answer to that question... you're always going to be lost.

Its important to note this conversation with the disciples actually began much earlier when Jesus said these words: "Let not your hearts be troubled..." John 14:1

Have you ever been on a trip, and gotten lost? Anyone who knows me well, knows I do not have a sense of direction. A few years ago I went to Melbourne for an evangelism conference. When I arrived at the airport I hired a car with a GPS. That was excellent until I ventured into the city centre and the signal dropped out!

I was lost. I was uncertain. And I was... TROUBLED! I didn't like the idea of driving with trams and I had no idea how to get back to the main road, I just wanted to go back to my hotel and forget about going into the city.

And that is how many people look at their lives. They feel lost, they feel uncertain, and... they are TROUBLED.

It's the uncertainty of life that causes stress and a sense of hopelessness. Many people are experiencing this at the moment with the corona virus.

I recently read this article that said: "As the present PANDEMIC continues to spread, more countries and states order lockdowns, and the prospective slope of financial recovery steepens by the day. Many are facing tremendous uncertainty. Questions swirl in our heads. What if I -- or someone I love -- gets the virus? Am I still going to have a job tomorrow? Will I EVER be able to retire now? What if I lose the house? Will life ever be the same? Everything in our lives can be stripped away in a moment... by disease, economic collapse, and most inevitably by death. God does not promise money or good health in this life.

Jesus said nothing on this earth is a sure thing. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21

NOTHING on this earth is permanent... and that's often why we get stressed.

And Jesus said: do not let your hearts be troubled trust me, if you're looking for the WAY to go... that's me. If you're looking for TRUTH you can trust... that's me. If you're looking for assurance LIFE will turn out all right... that's me. You Trust in God? Trust also in me. I am the way, the truth and the life.

So what is it about Jesus being the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE that would help me deal with my Doubts, Distress and Discouragement?

## 1. **JESUS IS THE WAY.**

Albert Einstein was traveling from Princeton on a train. When the conductor came down the aisle punching tickets Einstein reached in his vest pocket; he could not

find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets. It wasn't there so he looked in his briefcase, but still could not find it. He looked in the seat next to him, but it was not there.

The conductor kindly said, "Dr. Einstein, I know who you are, we all know who you are. I'm sure you bought a ticket, don't worry about it." The conductor then continued on his way punching tickets. Just before he went to the next car he turned around and saw the great scientist on his hands and knees looking under his seat for his ticket.

The conductor rushed back and said, "Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein, don't worry. I know who you are. No problem. You don't need a ticket." Einstein said, "Young man, I too know who I am. What I don't know is where I am going."

To know Jesus we have to be like Einstein and own we need help, we cannot make our own way to heaven. We are lost without Jesus. JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY!

This is very good news for those of us who may have made the wrong choices, or even gone down the wrong road in life. Jesus gives us a new direction and helps us along the way

Once you turn your life over to Him, He brings direction and hope. In fact, Ephesians 2:10 says "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works that He prepared in advance for us to do." Even if you have known Jesus for years and you feel like you are on the wrong road just as our GPS recalculates so can Jesus put us back on the right road if we ask HIM.

In the book "The purpose driven life", by Pastor Rick Warren it says: "you were made by God and for God, and until you understand that, life will never make sense." Until you know WHY you're here and WHERE you're going you will always be lost.

## 2ndly - **JESUS IS THE TRUTH**

In my sewing room I have a tape measure. It's just like 1000s of other tape measures you can buy at woolworths. I use it to do measurements when I am knitting a jumper or making overalls for my grand daughter. It tells me the truth about how long a centimeter or a meter is.

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But my tape measure is not “the truth.” It merely tells me truth. The “truth” of that accurate measurement is found at the Australian govt dept called the National measurement unit. They have laws and “prototypes” for our weights and measurements.

So, when you use that “truth” as the basis of measurement, you don’t have to worry if your tape measure is accurate if it’s made in Australia. That govt body holds THE *measurement* TRUTH, and it is the measure of TRUTH.

In the same way, Jesus is THE TRUTH. He is the reality against which everything else in our world is measured. For example – do you know how valuable you are? All you have to do is look at John 3:16 “For God so loved the world (YOU) that He gave His only Son...” You were so valuable to God, that Jesus came to die on the cross just for you. That truth tells us all we need to know about how much God cares for us; and about God’s love and mercy, and about how we can be forgiven of things that embarrass us and cause us to be ashamed. And that truth is more important than anything else this world can offer you. Because Jesus is the truth!!!!

LASTLY, **JESUS IS THE LIFE**. He is good news! Paul wrote: “Let remind you, of the GOSPEL I preached to you... JESUS DIED for our sins just as the Scriptures said, HE WAS BURIED, and was RAISED ON THE THIRD DAY 1 Corinthians 15:1 & 3-4

TRUE STORY: In January, 2008, a story made the rounds about a 15-year-old girl in Australia named Demi-Lee Brennan. Brennan became the world's first known transplant patient to change blood types from O negative to O positive, taking on the immune system of her organ donor. At first the doctors assumed someone had made a mistake, because it's always been assumed that a change like that can't happen. Now they say she's a "one-in-six-billion miracle."

The blood stem cells in Brennan's new liver invaded her body's bone marrow, taking over her entire immune system. She now has an entirely different kind of blood—blood that welcomes life, rather than carrying death. "It's like my second chance at life," Brennan says.

Something similar happens to us when we ask Jesus to save us. It was His blood that was given to forgive us and change us. When we put our faith in Jesus, he gives us that life now and eternally. He is the only way the truth and life.