

## Meditation #28: The New Life = the Life

### What does it say?

STUDY: John 14:1-10

GOLDEN TEXT: John 14:6 = *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

### What does it mean?

Years after the first Christmas, Jesus is alerting his followers to his imminent departure. He puts it in terms of preparing the eternal place, and he engages their minds and curiosity by saying that they "know the way." When Thomas—already a doubting Thomas—questions whether they really know the way, Jesus responds that he, Jesus himself, is the way—as well as "the truth and the life." The birth we celebrate at Christmas is "the life" himself.

1. In what ways is the Christmas Infant "the life"? How many ways can you list—and share with others? How can we remember this "fact of life" at Christmas time?
2. One of the reasons he is the *only way* to "come to the Father" is that, as he already claimed, "I am in the Father and the Father is in me" (John 10:38). What does this mean? Do we divide the Son and the Father too much?
3. Being "the life," how is Jesus related to the life of the creation? What do we learn about the creation by watching Jesus' birth and life? What do we learn about Jesus by watching birth and life in the creation?
4. What do we learn from Jesus becoming "the way" and "the truth" along with "the life"? Is Creator-awareness part of our "way" of life? Is Creator-awareness part of the "truth" in our lives? How else are the way, the truth, and the life interrelated?

### What are we going to do about it?

5. Does "the life" include your life? From whom did your life come? Where is your life going? Does your life respect other life? Including other people's lives? Including animals' lives? Plant lives? Including what helps sustain these—water, air, soil?
6. If it is "the life" himself (alias: "the Lord Jesus") we are truly attending to in "Creator-awareness," should we do it better? If we were more attentive to "the life" of the creation, would we love Jesus more?
7. The Lord's presence as *life himself* is a consistent teaching of Scripture. For example, he is the "breath of life" in Genesis 2:7, the I AM of Exodus 3:14 and John 8:58, and the "bread of life" of John 6:48-51. Could these truths be taught better? How could we help develop a culture committed to Creator-awareness?

Truth To Celebrate: *It always matters that we do things that protect human life—whether that life is close by or on another continent. Any life we benefit and protect also belongs to another image of God and to our Creator-Savior.*

Advent-Action: *Use timers on indoor and outdoor lighting to help reduce the minutes of electricity use according to your needs—and to protect creation for others and yourself.*

