

Talk: The Way

I am quite a shy person.

I don't do parties very well, and meeting people I don't know always brings up a moment of terror within me, when I speak to new people for the first time. I'll become tongue tied, and I'll probably stutter.

And I'll normally resort to one of two questions to break the ice. The first thing I might ask or say is, "*So what do you do for a living then?*" Not very original, I know, but it's the best that I can do.

And then the other thing that I might ask, is, "*So where I you from, then?*" Another show-stopping conversation maker!!!! **(Please personalise your own intro for this talk)**

So where are you from then?

And have you ever noticed how often we ask that question when we meet people we don't know? We're obsessed with it! We really want to know where the person we're talking to, has come from! Maybe that's because we want to know whether or not we can trust them. Or maybe it's because we want to see if they're worth listening to.

And I guess that that was the question that everyone wondered about - that everyone puzzled about - whenever they came into contact with Jesus. And during his public life, Jesus tried to answer that question. He tried to show why he was the way when he once said:

"I came from the father, and have come into the world, and now I leave the world to go back to the Father."
(John 16:28)

You see, Jesus wasn't just laying down a set of rules about how you got into the Kingdom of God. Far from it. Because actually, Jesus was claiming that his presence *is* the Kingdom of God amongst men and women.

Ad-lib on the Teacher of the law.

"You are not far from the Kingdom Of God." **(Mark 12:34)**

The way into the Kingdom of God, the way to God himself, was and still is, through Jesus Christ. Because if you know and follow Jesus, you are already close to God and his kingdom – what we call heaven.

God wants us to know that we don't need to be separated from him anymore. That we don't need to be lost. Because Jesus is the Way.