

Friday, February 20, 1st week in Lent.
A Prayer by Thomas Merton

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself and the fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never be anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this, You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust You always, though I may seem lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear for you are ever with me and will never leave me to face my perils alone.

I think one of the reasons I like “doubting Thomas” so much is that he resigns himself to follow Jesus back to Judea. He knows that Jesus faces danger there but is loyal enough to face the risk. (John 11). Our risks are different in this time and place. Our questions and doubts often arise because we are unsure of God wants from us. I find this prayer of Thomas Merton encouraging. Like Mother Teresa, there can be long periods in our lives when we are unsure that we are on the right path. God seems silent. This prayer assures us that, if our desire is to truly follow Jesus, God the Father is pleased with us.

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.
Corrie Ten Boom