

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 10TH-11TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

THE WAY (JOHN 14:1-7) THE ULTIMATE LEVEL OF TRUST

The disciples had seen some amazing miracles and had learned to trust Jesus with daily provision and even their eternal souls, but now they had to trust Him with their literal lives, and it was making them "troubled."

- **Faith is easy until it's costly. As tension continues to grow, will we remain faithful? "MANY ROOMS"**

When people are troubled, they need peace and assurance. **Jesus looks at His followers in times of great fear and assures them they have a place with Him for eternity.**

- The point of v2 is that **Jesus loves us and there is ample room for anyone who wants to be with Him.**

KNOWING THE PATH TO PEACE AND SECURITY

V3-4 are very personal affirmations from Jesus that He will not leave us alone in this life (more in v15-25) and He will also physically return to take us to our permanent home.

- **As true followers, we should know the way to Heaven is through the Word of God and living in relationship with Jesus.**

"HOW CAN WE KNOW THE WAY?" (HEBREWS 10:19-20)

Thomas' question prompts some of the most important words ever recorded, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**

- **There is no understanding of God or security of Heaven without Jesus.** This is both true and highly offensive in our society.

GREATER THINGS (JOHN 14:8-14) STILL NOT GETTING IT

Thomas and possibly the other 11 still were not fully comprehending who Jesus is. **They had been fascinated by His work but hadn't paid close enough attention to His words.**

- There is no difference between the Father and the Son, and Jesus had been clearly teaching them this.

THE UNDERSTANDABLE SIDE OF GOD

In Jesus, we learn the nature and character of God. How Jesus speaks, thinks, reacts, loves, and disciplines show us how we are to think about and live in a relationship with God.

- **Though we may not ever understand everything about God, we can know His heart and standard of righteousness.**

"...WILL DO THE WORKS I DO"

True Christians have been **empowered to live similarly to Jesus in practical ways, like how we think, act, and treat others.** We have also been **empowered spiritually by the Spirit to participate in the miraculous.**

- **"Greater works"** is spreading the gospel to the world while Jesus is physically away.

"IF YOU ASK ANYTHING IN MY NAME..."

We're only able to practically and spiritually live similarly to Jesus and spread the truth if we ask everything in His name. **This isn't "name it claim it," but knowing the heart of God and seeking things He wants for us.**

- **When we seek the things of God we receive them. It's a matter of whose will we desire.**

THE COUNSELOR (JOHN 14:15-25) "IF YOU LOVE ME..."

John 14:15 is profound! **To say that we love Jesus but consciously do not keep His commands and principles is incompatible with true Christianity.**

- **Jesus has made it clear that we are not Christians and do not love Him if we do not continue in His word** (John 8).

WE WILL NOT BE PERFECT IN OUR PURSUIT

Jesus tells us to follow His commands, but He also knows we need grace and help. So, Jesus promises that His followers will have the aid and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

- **We will fail at times, but in those failures, we are to repent and ask the Spirit to give us wisdom and discernment.**

THE SPIRIT IS ALSO GOD

The Father, Son, and Spirit comprise one God. If we deny the Spirit, we become legalistic and cold. If we fail to balance the Spirit with the Father and the Son, we become mystics.

- **The Spirit is present in Christians. We're not to be ignorant or extra-biblical (1 Corinthians 12) but to rely on and engage Him daily.**

OBEDIENCE ENABLES US TO SEE GOD

John's thesis is "believing is seeing," and Jesus again reinforces this in v21. When we're obedient to God's Word, we're "loved by [our] Father" and Jesus will "reveal [Himself] to [us]."

- **If we are not living according to God's Word, we cannot expect to experience the benefits and blessings of God.**

THE OTHER JUDAS

The other Judas is probably Thaddeus, one of the 12 who is barely mentioned and called several different names (Luke 6; Acts 1).

- His question about how Jesus would reveal Himself while not physically present again leads to the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

THE "SPIRIT OF TRUTH"

We must approach God both intellectually and spiritually. This means **we're to learn and follow simple biblical teachings but also depend on the Spirit to continue to "teach [us] all things" through the fruit** (Galatians 5) **and gifts** (1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4; Romans 12) **that He offers.**

A GREAT GIFT (JOHN 14:26-31) NOT LIKE WHAT THE WORLD OFFERS

A relationship with Jesus and obedience to His Word yields a peace, even in extreme times of trouble, that the culture of the world doesn't understand.

- **In this chaotic world, we're to not only be at peace because of our hope in Christ but be "peacemakers."**

WAIT, I THOUGHT THEY ARE ONE

Jesus says God is greater than He is. We reconcile this by understanding that, in this moment, Jesus was fully human and God simultaneously. This is the "Son of Man" talking about God the Father.

THE "RULER OF THIS WORLD IS COMING"

Satan rules over culture (the world), but his time is coming to an end, starting at the cross. In the meantime, **we must lean on the Spirit to be godly parents, spouses, friends, citizens, etc..., because Satan has no power over Jesus.**

- **If we fail to walk closely to God, we will be derailed by evil and be led to destruction.**

"GET UP; LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE"

Jesus wraps up this portion of His last lessons to the 12 and then tells them to get up so they can talk in the garden. Not only was the cross coming, but also temptation and agitation from Satan.

- **Though troubles and temptations are present, we have a responsibility to honor God and fulfill our call.**

DO WE TRUST EVEN WHEN IT IS COSTLY?

- **There is only one path to eternal life: Jesus Christ.** This belief will lead to sacrifice of self and maybe even our literal lives. Are our hearts prepared to stand firm?
- We must remember that **Jesus is preparing a place for those who love Him, and until He returns, we are not alone.**

ARE WE SEEKING HIS WILL?

- If we are to see God work in our lives in both practical and miraculous ways, we must be submitted and obedient to His will, plans, and desires.
- When we pray, whose desires are at the forefront of our minds? **Do we long to discover and live in God's will?**

DO WE TRULY LOVE GOD?

- We're unable to stand firm in our faith and know God's will if we're not in love with Him.
- **Do we strive to live out the teachings of the Bible? Do we repent when we fail?**
- Do we have a relationship with God through **prayer, study, and meditation?** If so, **it will be evident in how we live.**

DO WE HAVE PEACE AMONGST CHAOS?

- Jesus has sent the Comforter/Counselor to lead and assure us, but **we must tap into Him daily in order to deny self, reject evil/sin, and be who God has designed us to be.**
- If we walk with Christ, we will not only **experience supernatural peace**, but we'll begin to **cultivate peace** with people lost in chaos.

Has the "ruler of the world" tempted, pressured, or distracted us away from relying on Jesus and obeying His Word? If so, **do we understand that any path except Jesus inevitably leads to destruction?**