

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

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

THE WAY (JOHN 14:1-7)

"DON'T LET YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED."

Jesus tells His disciples to not worry. That seems very difficult when we're experiencing worry, anxiety, and fear. **When troubled people are worried, our greatest desire is to have peace and reassurance.**

- Just like the Good Shepherd (John. 10:11), Jesus attends to His sheep at the moment of their greatest need.

"BELIEVE IN GOD; BELIEVE ALSO IN ME"

Jesus' disciples were Jewish men who already believed in God. They followed Him because they believed based upon the signs and wonders He performed. **Now they're faced with the challenge of trusting Jesus with their lives.**

- **In order to gain eternal life, we must surrender our earthly lives to Him.**

"IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE..."

Jesus again reassures them and tells them about Heaven. In the KJV, the word used is translated to the word "mansions." The meaning behind this verse is the sense of **belonging; everyone who follows Jesus has a place prepared for them to belong with Him.**

- He will come back and take us to this place so we can live forever with Him.

"THE WAY, TRUTH, AND LIFE" PT.1

Thomas has the boldness to plainly ask Jesus, "How can we know the way?" Thomas is just like us because when we're worried, doubt starts to creep in. **Doubt causes us to have this feeling of uncertainty.** Why do you think "do not be afraid" is one of the most quoted phrases in the Bible?

- **Doubt affects our belief and our faith.**

"THE WAY, TRUTH, AND LIFE" PT. 2

Jesus responds to Thomas' doubt will another emphatic "I am" statement. Jesus proclaims this exclusivity to God only through Him. **There is no universalism or method in which we can reach God or have a relationship with Him.**

- **Even though the path to God is narrow, all are welcome to come and see (John 20:27).**

THE REVEAL (JOHN 14:8-14)

"SHOW US..."

Philip was looking for reassurance. He shows us his humanity by wanting Jesus to show them the Father. **We as humans believe by seeing.** We're never satisfied until we see it. Jesus wants us to have faith.

Faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not yet seen (Hebrews 11:1).

- **The opposite of faith isn't fear but seeing.**

"I AM IN THE FATHER AND THE FATHER IS IN ME"

Jesus tells Philip that one who has seen Me has seen the Father. The Father and Jesus are both equally God. Jesus was God in the flesh. All of Jesus' characteristics, thoughts, and emotions represent who God is.

- And if that's not enough, look at the works Jesus performed during His earthly ministry. All the signs and wonders prove who He is.

"GREATER WORKS THAN THESE"

Jesus' earthly ministry was limited by time and region. **Jesus is implying that we will be able to take the gospel and go places and reach people that He didn't get the chance to.** Anyone who disciples people should desire their disciples to do "greater works" than what they did.

- It is the passing of the Great Commission.

"ASK ME ANYTHING"

Verses 13 and 14 can be easily taken out of context. Jesus isn't some genie, and He will grant you every wish. **Jesus is saying when we pray and pray for things that align with His will, character, and bring glory to the Father, He will answer those prayers.**

- **Our prayers should be directed toward glorifying His will over ours.**

THE HOLY SPIRIT (JOHN 14:15-26)

"IF YOU LOVE ME" PT. 1

Jesus just showed the disciples what loving one another looks like (John 13:1-5). Now He is telling them how to love Him. **The only way to love Jesus is by obeying His commands.** Loving Jesus is not based on legalism or emotionalism but on pure obedience.

- **Failure of obedience isn't a failure of performance but a failure of love.**

"ANOTHER COUNSELOR"

Jesus knows that we're going to mess up and not get it right all of the time. Jesus asks the Father to send the Holy Spirit to be with us forever. **The Holy Spirit or "counselor" will help us obey Christ's commands and comfort us in our time of need.**

- The promise of the Holy Spirit had not yet been given to the disciples.

"I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU AS ORPHANS"

The disciples are still troubled, worried, and anxious. Jesus was departing from them physically for a short time. **He's leaving them to go fulfill God's plan so that salvation can be given to all and the Holy Spirit can come to those who trust in Jesus.**

- He tells them that He will come to them on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2.

"IF YOU LOVE ME" PT. 2

Judas (not Iscariot) asks him, "Why us?" Jesus, for the second time, tells them, "if anyone loves me, he will keep my word, ...we will come make our home with him." **A home is a place of serenity (peace), vulnerability, and love.**

- **Our true home can only be in the presence of God.**

PEACE (JOHN 14:27-31)

"PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU"

Jesus is leaving His disciples with peace that comes through the Holy Spirit. **This peace is the reassurance and evidence that Christ is with them.** With the power of the Holy Spirit, it will bring the word of God before their minds and give them peace.

- **Only those who have peace with God and receive the peace of God.**

"IF YOU LOVED ME, YOU WOULD REJOICE"

Jesus tells His disciples how they should be glad that He's returning to the Father. When Jesus says, "the Father is greater than I," He isn't denying His place in the Trinity but continuing to bring glory to the Father rather than Himself.

- **This is essential because, on our behalf, Jesus intercedes for us to God.**

"GET UP; LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE"

Jesus tells His disciples that the "ruler of the world," Satan, is coming. **Satan has no power over Jesus because it is Jesus who is choosing to give up His life rather than Satan taking it from Him (Genesis 3:15).**

- Jesus instructs His disciples to follow Him and leave the upper room. They most likely walked out to the garden, as we see in John 15.

THE WAY

- When we're troubled, where do we run to? It may seem like there's no clear-cut path on what to do or where to go.
- **Jesus is the way. He's shining light in the midst of the darkness. He's standing right there in front of us, waiting for us to reach out to Him.**

THE TRUTH

- When we are troubled, what are we choosing to believe? Are we allowing our insecurities, worries, and doubts to bleed into our beliefs?
- **Jesus wants us to have faith. We know that all things work out for the good of those who love God (Romans 8:28).**

THE LIFE

- When we are troubled, what kind of life are we living? Do we resort back to our sinful nature or run away and hide?
- **The Holy Spirit helps us and comforts us. He reminds us that we're not alone. He calls back to obedience and love for Christ.**