

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 11TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

THE WAY TO THE FATHER (JOHN 14:1-11)

Chapter 14 opens Jesus' farewell discourse to His disciples—at the end of the chapter, they'll leave the upper room, and for three more chapters, Jesus will speak with the disciples on the way to Gethsemane.

- This is the night Jesus would be betrayed, arrested, and put on trial, and the night before He would go to the cross.

The disciples had every reason for their hearts to be troubled, but Jesus commanded them to calm their hearts by believing in God and in Him (vs. 1).

- This was going to be an incredibly difficult, painful, scary, and confusing couple of days, but through it all, God was completely in control.
- Not only that, God was going to accomplish something great because of it.

While Jesus is going away to a place where they cannot follow, He's also going to prepare a place for each one of them (vs. 2).

- They can't follow Him there now, but He promises to come back and take them there so they can be with Him (vs. 3).
- The disciples don't need to worry about how to get to this place—they already know the way (vs. 4).

We worry and let our hearts get troubled about so many things in this life—some things that are quite trivial and some things that are truly difficult, painful, scary, and confusing. Uncertainty is often what creates anxiety in our lives.

- If you're in Christ, you can be certain that right now Jesus Himself is personally and intimately preparing an eternal home for you that will be perfectly suited for your every need.

Thomas (the natural skeptic) voices the confusion many of these guys probably felt: "...how can we know the way?" (vs. 5).

- Jesus points to Himself: He is the way. These disciples want to know a path, but Jesus points to His person.
- Jesus is the source of all truth, and He's the source of eternal life, and no one gets to God except through Him.

If we know Jesus the Son, we will know God the Father (vs. 7).

- Phillip requests that Jesus show them the Father (vs. 8).
- Philip had seen a lot in following Jesus, but He hadn't yet seen God the Father with his physical eyes.
- Maybe He thought that such an experience would bring life-changing assurance and courage.

Phillip had been close to Jesus, yet still, He didn't understand Him—to see and know Jesus is to know God the Father because Jesus is the perfect representation of God (vs. 9-11).

- We can believe Jesus because of His person and words, and we can believe Him because of His works.
- Believing is seeing: When we truly believe and trust in Jesus, we see Him for who He is.

THE COUNSELOR (JOHN 14:12-17)

Even though Jesus is going away, when He departs to the Father, His work will continue on the earth through those who believe in Him (vs. 12).

- They'll even do greater things than what Jesus did during His earthly ministry!
- Jesus' disciples can make requests in His name and He will move and He will act to glorify the Father in the Son (vs.13-14).

GREATER THINGS ... ?

Greater things have been done by Jesus' disciples numerically, geographically, ethnically, and spiritually (the gospel that saves souls and changes eternal destinies has been preached).

- Greater things are accomplished through God answering prayer in Jesus' name: What we request must be in accordance with the character of Jesus, the will of Jesus, and the ministry of Jesus.

If we truly love Jesus, we will pray prayers that align with His will and we will live lives of obedience to His commands (vs. 15).

- In Christianity there is an unbreakable bond between saving faith, love, and obedience.
- To believe in Jesus is to gladly and willingly receive Jesus into our lives out of love and gratitude (Jn. 1:11-12). It doesn't work to say that we have saving faith but no love or obedience.

How can we love and obey Jesus and do greater things in His name when He's not here?

- Jesus promised to send the paraclete (Counselor/Comforter) who will be with us forever and lead us to truth (vs. 16).
- A counselor in a court of law is an advocate who stands beside you.
- A counselor could also be someone who listens, supports, comforts, and guides you.

We can love, obey, and follow Jesus because we have the Holy Spirit as our advocate who empowers us in obedience to do more than we could ever do on our own.

- We have the Holy Spirit to support, guide, and comfort us when we feel overwhelmed, confused, and we don't even know how to pray (Rom. 8:26).
- You can grieve, quench, and sadden the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is not simply an emotion that gives you goosebumps at a concert.

- The unbelieving world doesn't know the Holy Spirit because they haven't received the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ: He is the Spirit of Truth (vs. 17).
- The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity, co-equal to the Father and the Son, and He dwells inwardly in anyone who has believed on and received Jesus through saving faith.

FATHER, SON, AND SPIRIT (JOHN 14:18-26)

One commentator stated that, "The disciples of a particular teacher among the Hebrews called him father; his scholars were called his children, and, on his death, were considered as orphans" (Clarke).

- Jesus says, "I'm not leaving you as orphans—the world's not going to see me, but you will see me because I'll be living and you will be too!" (vs. 18-19).

Through the Holy Spirit, the disciples will know a life of relationship, fellowship, and union with God the Father and God the Son in the disciple's life (vs. 20).

- As God dwells with us and within us, obedience to the commands of Jesus comes about as a result of our love relationship with God (vs. 21).
- As we obey, we experience the love of God, and as we experience His love, we want to obey!

The other Judas (not Iscariot) asks a very reasonable question: "How in Jesus' departure would He reveal Himself to His disciples but not the world?" (vs. 22).

- Jesus is revealed to disciples through our love, obedience, and union with Him (vs. 23).
- As we love Him, obey Him, and keep His word God makes His home in us and we see Him in our lives in a real, tangible way.

The one who doesn't truly love God doesn't keep His words; therefore, that person doesn't know Jesus the way a true disciple does (vs. 24).

- There are so many who know about Jesus, but they don't know what it's like to have God make His home in them and see Him work each day in their lives.
- If there's faith in Jesus, there's love; if there's love, there's obedience; and if there's faith, love, and obedience, there is the presence of God.

Jesus was speaking these words to the disciples while He was with them face to face, but once He was gone, it would be the Holy Spirit who would remind them of these truths and teach them what they meant (vs. 25-26).

- There's a difference between knowing intellectually about the Word of God and knowing what that truth means as it's applied to your life: the Holy Spirit is the one who does that.

PEACE (JOHN 14:27-31)

There was so much for these men to feel troubled and fearful about.

- Jesus leaves them with the greatest gift of all: supernatural peace from Jesus that is unlike anything the world can offer (vs. 27).
- Peace is defined as a state of tranquility or quiet; or freedom from anxiety, disquieting, or oppressive emotions or thoughts.
- Peace is a rare commodity in the world today.

The difference between the peace from Jesus and the peace the world gives is where we go to acquire that peace.

- The world offers us cheap substitutes for peace that are simply distractions: indulging our flesh (sex/food/retail therapy/entertainment), intoxication (alcohol/drugs), or looking inward.
- Jesus offers us peace by actually conquering the objects of our fear and worry.

Even though the situation seemed bleak, hopeless, and scary for these disciples, Jesus assures them that they can rejoice as He goes to the Father (vs. 28-29).

- In the end, it's all going to be okay! Jesus went away, but He's coming back for His people.
- The world is going to get dark, but we know that God is still in control and Jesus will be victorious.

Even as the "ruler of this world" (Satan) had entered into Judas and was working behind the scenes to enact a demonic, evil plan to murder Jesus, he had no power over Jesus (vs. 30).

- On the contrary, this was all part of the Father's plan that Jesus was fully surrendered to.
- A result of that plan would be the world knowing that Jesus loves and was sent by the Father (vs. 31).

Jesus would go to the cross willingly in submission to the Father's plan: it wouldn't be a victory for Satan; it would be his greatest defeat.

- The ruler of this world is busy right now working behind the scenes to animate our cultural idols in an effort to drown out the light of Jesus.
- Sometimes it looks like darkness is winning.
- The ruler of this world will not win, and he has no power over you if you're in Christ.

THE PLACE CALLED HEAVEN (VS. 1-3)

- There exists within us a longing for experiences we've never had and a place we've never been that the world can't satisfy.
- Family vacations, memories of childhood homes, sporting events, and holidays might briefly satisfy that longing, but ultimately, this world is not our home.
- We have a perfect home that Jesus Himself is preparing for us: Don't let your heart be troubled.

THE PATH TO HEAVEN (VS. 5-11)

- Manmade religion seeks to find the path made of works we must do to perhaps get to God.
- The gospel points us to the person (Jesus) who came for us.
- There is only ONE way to Heaven: Jesus.
- There is only ONE way to attain eternal life: Jesus.
- There's only ONE way to know the truth of all reality: Jesus.

THE POWER FROM HEAVEN (VS. 12-17)

- The only way to love, obey, and follow Jesus is to be filled with and to surrender fully to the Counselor Jesus has sent: the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit strengthens, guides, encourages, and comforts us when we feel overwhelmed, confused, and we don't even know how to pray.
- Are you relying on the Holy Spirit? Are you grieving, quenching, and saddening Him?

THE PEACE FROM HEAVEN (VS. 25-27)

- God didn't design you and I to live our lives as victims to fear, anxiety, worry, and oppressive emotions/thoughts.
- We, at times, will still experience those things—but it's what we do with them that reveals where our faith rests.
- Where do we look to find peace? In the "peace" the world gives or in Jesus?