

9.02.18 ~ John 14:1-14, Jesus Consoles the Eleven

On the night before His death, a Thursday, the Lord spent the evening, in an upper room, eating with, comforting, and instructing the eleven disciples (Judas had gone to betray Him).

Read John 14:1... Jesus had come to Jerusalem to offer Himself up as God's Lamb, to take the punishment for our sin (*John 1:29*), "*John [the baptizer] saw Jesus coming to him and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'*"

A few days ago, on Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding the colt of a donkey, and the people were shouting (*John 12:13*), "*Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel.*" Tomorrow, on Friday, the people would be yelling (*John 19:15*), "*Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!*"

But our narrative today takes place on a Thursday night, and as we read last week in John 13, Jesus predicts His betrayal at the hands of one of the Twelve, tells His disciples that He is going to leave them and they cannot follow, and then He tells Peter, that he will very soon deny the Lord.

And now Jesus, on the eve of His own execution, speaks words of comfort to the eleven, in the upper room, so that they should not be troubled by the incomprehensible reality that He is going to be taken from them and put to death.

Jesus is preparing the 11 to continue to trust Him, even though He will be taken from them soon, they will need a faith like many in Israel displayed, throughout history:

Genesis 15:6, "He believed in the Lord; and [God] credited it to him as righteousness."

Deuteronomy 6:4, "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!"

Psalms 25:1, "To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust."

Isaiah 12:2, "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid."

Jeremiah 17:7, "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord."

Read John 14:2-3... The Father's house is heaven and Jesus is going there soon; His promise is to provide a place for the disciples, so that they might be forever with Him.

Revelation 21:3 tells us God is going to live with us in heaven, and there is plenty of room for everyone; for in **verse 16**, we are told the New Jerusalem is fifteen hundred miles long, wide and high, more than half the size of the United States.

Jesus will come back and take all true believers to be with Him forever; this occurs at the rapture of the Church (see 1Corinthians 15:51-57; 1Thessalonians 4:13-17).

Back to John 14:4-6... Jesus expected the disciples to know that He would be returning to the Father in heaven, as He had already said in John 7:33; yet they had not understood it. Thomas states the obvious lack of understanding among the disciples, that they do not know where He is going and so they don't know the way to get there..

Jesus' response in **verse 6** is the sixth "I AM" statement made by Jesus in John's gospel, and it is undoubtedly one of the most quoted sayings of Christ, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

Jesus is the only Way to God, the only Truth of God, and the only Life with God, (**John 20:31**) "these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name," (**1John 5:11-13**) "And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."

The way to God is accessed through a small gate onto a narrow path [Jesus Christ], any other "way to God," leads only to death and destruction (cf. **Matthew 7:13-14**).

No wonder Paul writes (Philippians 2:9-11), "God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

No wonder Peter proclaims (Acts 4:12), "there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved" [only Jesus Christ the Lord].

Christians in the first century were known as Children of "The Way," because Christ is the only Way of Salvation.

Read John 14:7-11... The disciples didn't really understand the fullness of Jesus' deity and His relationship to the Father, at this time, it wasn't until after His crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and sending of the Holy Spirit, that they got it!

When Jesus says (**verse 7**), "from now on you know Him, and have seen Him," it would seem that the disciples didn't really understand, i.e., Philip says, "just show us the Father, that will be enough," at which the Lord rebukes their lack of faith, they should know by now that He and the Father are One (cf. John 10:30), and so by seeing Christ they have seen the Father (Colossians 1:15), "He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God," (Colossians 2:9), "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form."

In **John 14:10**, Jesus asks them directly, "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me?" Then He commands them to believe, to have faith in the unity that belongs to the Father and the Son; if they can't do that, then they must at least believe in the miracles themselves; for the very words Jesus speaks and the works He does all come from the Father (see John 7:16; 10:25; 37-38; 12:49).

Read John 14:12... I have heard this passage taught incorrectly more often than I have heard it taught accurately.

Look! No one will ever do anything greater in importance or magnitude than Jesus Christ, God's Son, has already done. Jesus is God, the Creator of the heavens and earth and all that is within them; He is the Savior who died in our place, the Redeemer who granted forgiveness for our sins; He is the Resurrected Lord who demonstrated and now provides eternal life to everyone who believes in Him.

There is nothing greater or more significant than the God ordained payment for all sin for all people, and the granting of eternal life to all those who believe in Him.

But, there was something greater in extent, something that Jesus didn't do, and that was to take the message of God's free gift of salvation outside of the boundaries of Israel, for Jesus never preached or shared that message outside the boundaries of Palestine.

And yet, the followers of Christ would take the message of salvation to the ends of the earth, but this would happen only after Jesus returned to the Father in heaven.

The power necessary for the followers of Christ to do this greater work was the indwelling of God's Spirit; and the Holy Spirit wouldn't be sent from the Father, until the Son of God returned to the Father in heaven.

Read John 14:13-14... Believing in Christ, trusting in Him, is at the heart of saving faith. Jesus had been providing everything for these guys for three years, and now He is about to leave them, what are they going to do?

The disciples had really nothing of their very own, as they had given up nearly everything to follow the Lord, (Matthew 19:27) Peter said to Jesus, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You."

Christ's departure meant He was not going to be there to provide for them anymore; how could they understand that He was still going to care for them from heaven? No wonder Jesus says two times (**verses 13-14**), whatever they need He will supply, if they will just ask Him, He will do it.

Verse 14 is another verse that inevitably gets taught incorrectly more than it does correctly. This is not a formula for getting whatever you want by tacking on Jesus' name.

To pray in Jesus' name is to pray in accordance with the will of God, in alignment with the Word of God, as exemplified in the very character and nature of God.

Jesus gave an example of how to pray (see **Matthew 6:9-13**):

Matthew 6:9... This is a guide, telling us How, to Whom, for What we are to pray.

Our Father in heaven: God is the Creator of all but Father only to those who come through Christ, into the Family of God (cf. John 1:12-13; Galatians 3:26).

Hallowed be Your name: God's name is Holy and we are to revere, honor and glorify Him. We must prayerfully acknowledge Him in every detail of our thoughts, our words, and our actions (cf. Colossians 3:17; 1Corinthians 10:31).

Matthew 6:10... Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven: God's sovereign rule in heaven is not being exhibited on earth. Men sin, men die, and men go to hell; even though it is not God's will for people to sin, die, or go to hell.

God commands us to pray His will be done on earth: God desires everyone to repent, believe and be saved (1Timothy 2:3-4; 2Peter 3:9-10).

God commands His children (believers and followers of Christ) to obey His Word with a willing heart in all that we do (Romans 12:1; 2Peter 3:11-12).

God is allowing sin to run its course and Satan to have his way, for a time; but sin and Satan will end just as God determined, and all who rejected Jesus Christ will go to Hell (2Peter 3:3-7; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10, 15).

Matthew 6:11... Give us today our daily bread: Bread is symbolic of the sustenance we need for our physical and our spiritual needs. Jesus is the bread of life (John 6:35-41) who came down from the Father in heaven.

Our Provider is the Father, and His servant Jesus Christ is His Provision. We ask God to supply our basic needs through Jesus Christ, and the schedule for God's provision is daily, not weekly, monthly or yearly, but daily; and very often it is moment by moment.

Matthew 6:12... Forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors: This is not talking about financial debts, it is talking about sin, our sin debt, paid in full by Christ. Sin separates man from God and is man's greatest enemy. Therefore, man's greatest need is forgiveness, and that is what God provides when we confess our sinfulness (Romans 10:13; 1John 1:8, 10). Because the Father is forgiving, His children are to be forgiving (Ephesians 4:32).

Matthew 6:13... And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: This has to do with temptations, trials and testing, through which we are enticed to

sin. God tempts no man, but He does allow us to be tested (James 1:13-14; 4:8-9); and so we appeal to God to place a guard over and around our eyes, ears, mouth, feet, and hands -- so that, whatever we do, where ever we go, we will not give in and do that which is sinful (1Corinthians 10:13; Romans 12:9).

We are all weak at times, when tempted to sin, and we need God's help to avoid the traps and snares set by the world, the devil, and our flesh; God has provided all we need to succeed (2Timothy 3:16-17; Romans 12:2; 2Peter 1:3-4).

We live in a cursed world and evil is all around us. Our flesh is weak and we are not equipped in our human resources to combat sin.

Therefore, we are to confess our need for the protection and deliverance that only God can give.

This great and divine lesson in prayer concludes with a reminder of how our own genuine and heartfelt forgiving of others, while at the same time being willing to receive their forgiveness, gives testimony and illustrates that we have indeed received the Father's forgiveness.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen!

[This addition to verse 13 is not found in the earliest manuscripts, but it is biblical.]

1Chronicles 29:11-13, "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name."

To pray in Jesus name is to pray in accordance with God's plan and purpose, as fulfilled and exemplified in the life of Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior and Lord: Crucified, Resurrected, and Coming Again!

Pastor Mike

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