

Promises, Promises

John 13:36-14:31



Promises, Promises! (John 13:36-14:31)

Jesus made several incredible promises to His disciples just hours before He was arrested & crucified. And THEIR promises are OUR promises too!

Catch the Context: Jesus washed His disciples feet and told them one of them was going to betray Him. Jesus also talked about leaving them. Simon Peter spoke up and asked the question everyone was thinking:

John 13:36-38 (CSB) ³⁶ "Lord," Simon Peter said to him, "where are you going?" Jesus answered, "**Where I am going** you cannot follow me now, but **you will follow later.**" ³⁷ "Lord," Peter asked, "why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." ³⁸ Jesus replied, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly I tell you, a rooster will not crow until you have denied me three times.

Wherever Jesus was going was somewhere that Peter and others would **follow later**. But Jesus told His enemies something different.

John 8:21 "I'm going away; you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I'm going, you cannot come."

Where was Jesus going? The disciples were asking the same question. Wherever it was, Simon Peter was ready to follow. He was determined that nothing would stop him. The disciples of Jesus were upset, and we would be too!

- One of our best friends was going to betray Jesus. Jesus had just told Simon **Peter** that he would **deny** Jesus **three times!** And now Jesus is talking about LEAVING THEM!

What internal strife they must have been feeling. Knowing this, Jesus says these words.

John 14:1 ¹ "Don't let your heart be troubled. **Believe in God; believe also in me.**

There are 3 different occasions in this writing where JESUS was **troubled**:

- 1) when he faced Lazarus' tomb (11:33),
- 2) when he contemplated the cross (12:27), and
- 3) when he reflected on the betrayal of Judas (13:21).¹

In those times, Jesus had leaned on the Father's purpose and power, and now he was encouraging His disciples to do the same. There's a great lesson to be learned as WE go through difficult days - WE TOO should **Believe/ TRUST** in **God** (the Father & Spirit) and TRUST in Jesus.

Jesus wasn't running away. He was following the Father's plan.

PROMISES...POWERFUL PROMISES.

John 14:2-3 ² In **my Father's house** are **many rooms**; if not, I would have told you. **I am going away to prepare a place for you.** ³ If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and **take you to myself**, so that **where I am you may be also.**

MY FATHER'S HOUSE - MANY ROOMS

Jesus is **going away to prepare a place** for them in the **Father's house**. The King James Version translated this as "*In my Father's house are many mansions*". But this is not a good translation for today and here's why:

- 1) In the time that the KJV was translated (1611), **mansions** (simply transliterated the Latin Vulgate term - *mansiones*),² referred to **modest dwellings**, not huge heavenly homes.³
- 2) The context of the passage along with a better understanding of the Greek language points to these as **rooms** in **my Father's house**. That's why modern, scholarly translations, render this as **rooms** (CSB, ESV, NIV) or **dwelling places** (NET, NAS).

YOUR NOTES

¹ Gary M. Burge, John, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000), 390.

² D. A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John, The Pillar New Testament Commentary* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans, 1991), 489.

³ Burge, 391.

☀ John MacArthur

The dwelling places of which the Lord spoke must not be pictured as separate buildings, as if heaven were a giant housing tract. The picture is rather of a father building additional rooms onto his house for his sons and their families, as was often done in Israel.⁴

Jesus is not focusing on a heavenly upgrade to a bigger house. That would have been no comfort to these "troubled" disciples during this talk about His departure.

This is one **house**, the **Father's house**, with **many rooms**. Jesus is comforting them saying, "*You are going to live WITH ME and the Father, as one big family!*"

Our focus should look beyond WHERE we go to WHO we are with!

PROMISE: I AM GOING AWAY TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU

Jesus not going to pound nails, to build and renovate rooms. He is NOT the interior designer for your room!

Instead, Jesus is going to the CROSS. This is the way that all come into the family, by trusting the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (1:29). This is the way that we can be assured that we have a place in the household of God.

PROMISE: I WILL COME AGAIN AND TAKE YOU TO MYSELF

Jesus is going TO the Father through the CROSS and will **come again** to them at His resurrection. Whether you believe in a *secret coming* (typically called "rapture") or *the second coming of Jesus*, that moment we reunite ALL His disciples Jesus and one another (1 Thes. 4:13-18).

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and **so we will always be with the Lord.**

Here too, notice that **the focus isn't about WHERE WE GO, but WHO WE'RE WITH!**

And so, Jesus has PROMISED His disciples that He is:

- 1) Going away to prepare a place for them via by His substitute sacrifice on the cross
- 2) Coming back to take them to be with Him forever (resurrection & 2nd coming)

John 14:4-6 ⁴ You know the way to where I am going." ⁵ "Lord," Thomas said, "we don't know where you're going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus told him, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**"

In our intolerant world that denies exclusive claims, the words of Jesus are so offensive! You can hear people saying it, "*You mean to tell me, there is NO OTHER WAY to heaven! That is so intolerant!*"

Like it or not, according to JESUS, He is the ONLY WAY to a relationship with God.

🚫 Not good works, not good outweighing bad, not giving money, showing up to church, being baptized, being 'spiritual', reading the Bible or another religious writing, not giving money, and NOT being sincere.

★**Jesus is THE WAY to God**...the early church was known as people of "the Way" (Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23; 24:14, 22)

John 14:7-11 ⁷ If you **know me**, you will also **know my Father**. From now on **you do know him and have seen him.**" ⁸ "Lord," said Philip, "show us the Father, and that's enough for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been among you all this time and you do not know me, Philip? The one who has **seen me has seen the Father**. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own. **The Father who lives in me does his works.** ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and **the Father is in me**. Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves.

If you want to know what God the Father is like, you look to Jesus. How does Jesus care for people? How does Jesus confront proud sinners? What does Jesus think and respond to sin & righteousness, judgment, and forgiveness? If you know the heart of Jesus, you know the heart of God the Father.

This is no small claim, claiming to be ONE with God - and in just a moment we will see our **ONE GOD in 3 PERSONS.**

⁴ John F. MacArthur Jr., *John 12-21, MacArthur New Testament Commentary* (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2008), 100.

PROMISE: ASK & BELIEVE JESUS TO DO GREAT THINGS!

John 14:12-14 ¹² "Truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ **If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.**

This is not a magical phrase that gets us what we want. Asking **in Jesus' name** means we are asking by His authority and for His glory, not for ours. Jesus is saying: "*When I'm gone ask me for what you need - PRAY to me!*"

Later when Jesus ascends **to the Father**, the apostles of Jesus WERE able to do amazing things like Jesus did (Acts 2:43; 3:2-10; 5:15-16, 19-23; 6:8; 8:6-7; 9:33-34; 36-41, 14:3, 8-10; 16:16-18; 19:11-12; 20:9-10; 28:9).

❓ **What are YOU asking Jesus for?** - by His authority & for His glory? Is it possible that you have a limited view of what Jesus can do?

John 14:15 ¹⁵ **"If you love me, you will keep my commands.**

If you don't OBEY Jesus, you don't LOVE Jesus. It's that simple. The one who says they love Jesus, but does not obey Him...is lying to him/herself.

PROMISE: THE SPIRIT IS COMING TO LIVE IN YOU

John 14:16-17 ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and **he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever.** ¹⁷ He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and **will be in you.**

Jesus PROMISED to send the Holy **Spirit to be in you and be with you forever!** They weren't going to obey Jesus in their own power. They would & YOU can experience the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit!

BIG TRUTH: Followers of Jesus are EMPOWERED and EXPECTED to Obey Jesus

PROMISE: JESUS WILL RISE FROM THE DEAD!

John 14:18-21 ¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; **I am coming to you.** ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ **The one who has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I also will love him and will reveal myself to him."**

NOW Jesus talks about His **resurrection**. The world won't see Him risen, but HIS DISCIPLES WILL! **On that day** it will be obvious of the intimacy between Jesus, the Father, and His disciples.

➡ To those who love Jesus and obey Him, empowered and in-dwelt by the Holy Spirit... **Jesus will reveal Himself.**

If you want to KNOW God is near, you must ACT like God is near.

• When we refuse to acknowledge Jesus Presence why should it be any wonder when we don't feel like He is near?

❓ What difference would it make in your life if you began to read and heed what Jesus **commands** on a daily basis? THAT'S how you demonstrate **love** for Jesus. AND...that's when He **will reveal** Himself to you!

John 14:22-26 ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it you're going to reveal yourself to us and not to the world?" ²³ Jesus answered, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and **we will come to him and make our home with him.** ²⁴ The one who doesn't love me will not keep my words. The word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me. ²⁵ "I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. ²⁶ But the Counselor, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, **will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.**

Jesus "**will come**" to the disciples at 3 distinct moments⁵: 1) Jesus' second coming 2) Jesus' resurrection 3) By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He is WITH US...NOW! The Holy Spirit will **remind** and **teach** - reminding disciples what Jesus said & giving insight about what Jesus says.

John 14:27-31 ²⁷ "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. **Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful.** ²⁸ You have heard me tell you, 'I am going away and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ I have told you now before it happens so that when it does happen you may believe. ³⁰ I will not talk with you much longer, because the ruler of the world is coming. He has no power over me. ³¹ On the contrary, **so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do as the Father commanded me.** "Get up; let's leave this place.

Just like Jesus obeyed the command of the Father to give His life for YOU and ME!

Our King hasn't left us alone! He has made us PROMISES...PROMISES - many which have already been fulfilled!

- **Jesus HAS PREPARED a PLACE FOR US** by sacrificing Himself on the cross! He is THE WAY to forgiveness & eternal relationship with God!
 - **Jesus HAS RISEN from the dead!** Persecution, sickness, death...is NOT forever - but LIFE in Jesus is!
 - **Jesus HAS SENT the HOLY SPIRIT to live with us and IN us!** Those who turn from their sin are given THE SPIRIT and a FAITH FAMILY with others who love Jesus!
- 👉 We still await the Return of Jesus, but ONE DAY...one day...we will talk about the fulfillment of all His PROMISES....PROMISES.

But until that day...may we do what He has told us to do...TOGETHER!

Followers of Jesus are EMPOWERED and EXPECTED to Obey Jesus

3 QUESTIONS

1. Are YOU in right relationship with Jesus? What's your evidence?
2. Who are you WALKING WITH to encourage you to follow Jesus?
3. Who are you PRAYING FOR and SHARING WITH?

* **Want to talk further?** Please contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon! Or call our **deacons & wives:** Tom & Martha Waddail, Steve & Debbie Bass, Freddy & Joyce Howard, Jere & Darlene Burnette, Alan & Christy Androski, Willy & Melissa Gamalero.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What impacted you most from the teaching today?
2. **Read John 14:2-3.** Why does it matter whether we view our eternal home as a place where we have our own MANSION, versus Jesus' teaching that we live in the SAME HOME with our God and other believers?
3. **Read 1 Thes. 4:16-17** and note that this doesn't talk about WHERE we go to live. What encouragement ARE we to take from this passage?
4. **Read John 14:6.** How are the words of Jesus in conflict with what our culture thinks about what it takes to have heaven? What are the greatest proofs that Jesus CAN be trusted over other claims?
5. **Read John 14:12-14** and the attached verses to see how Jesus' promise played out in the lives of the early disciples of Jesus. Take your time and be reminded that our God is all-powerful! (Acts 2:43; 3:2-10; 5:15-16, 19-23; 6:8; 8:6-7; 9:33-34; 36-41, 14:3, 8-10; 16:16-18; 19:11-12; 20:9-10; 28:9).
6. What are YOU praying for in Jesus' name (by His authority & for His glory) that we can pray WITH YOU about?
7. **Read John 14:15, 21, 24.** What would you say to the person who claims to love Jesus yet refuses to obey Him? Based on v.21 what are the privileges of loving and obeying Jesus?
8. **Read John 14:16-17.** What promises of the Holy Spirit do you most appreciate and how does that impact your daily life (e.g. You might share a time when you knew the Spirit was with you and helping you).
9. **Answer the 3 last questions with each other.**
 - Are YOU in right relationship with Jesus? What's your evidence?
 - Who are you WALKING WITH to encourage you to follow Jesus?
 - Who are you PRAYING FOR and SHARING WITH?