

The background of the entire image is a photograph of a person, likely Jesus, walking on the surface of the water. The person is wearing a long, white, flowing robe. Their feet are visible, stepping on the water, which is splashing around them. The scene is set during a sunset or sunrise, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow that reflects off the water's surface. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The overall mood is serene and miraculous.

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

PART FORTY

The Word Made Flesh

JOHN 14:18-21



1. Jesus Does not Abandon His Disciples

a. Jesus promises to not abandon His disciples, though He is going away

b. So then, what this must mean is that whatever Jesus does will be just as good or better than His remaining with them



c. This is why Jesus could say that the disciples would be able to do greater deeds (works) in vv.11-12, based upon His plan to send the Spirit



d. This should increasingly give God's present people (the Church) confidence in the Spirit's ability and power; meaning, everything that the disciples had access to with Jesus on earth—so do we



e. In the latter part of verse 18,
Jesus says "I will come to you"

i. Some see this as a reaffirmation of
14:3 above where He promises to return
to them; this would also include
overtones of the Parousia (Second
Coming)



ii. Others see this as a reference to post-resurrection appearances

iii. Others still to Jesus coming in the Holy Spirit

iv. All three are true and defensible from the grand narrative



f. Verses 19-20 refer to the Resurrection and that the disciples will continue to see Jesus because He lives

g. Verse 20 emphatically points to a particular day, when the disciples will perceive and understand that the Father and the Son are together, and that they are unified with the Son



h. Verse 21 echoes a prominent theme in the Gospel—keep God's commandments and there you will find life

i. The verse teaches us that you can have God's commandments and not keep them; don't be consoled by the fact that you have a Bible in your vicinity (close by)



ii. Keeping Jesus' commandments is an indication of one's love for Him; the extent to which you are determined to believe God and live His way is the best barometer of your love for Him



iii. God reveals Himself to those who do what He says; you want to draw closer to Jesus, start by doing what He says

1. God does not reveal Himself equally to everyone, because everyone cannot be trusted with God's truth

2. Not everyone, even in the Church, can be trusted to rightly divide the Word of truth

