

John 14

Good morning and thank you for joining us. Would you please turn in your bibles to John 14?

Last week we saw the incredible commands of Jesus to love one another just as He has loved us. We also saw Judas slip out into the night to betray Jesus, and chapter 13 ended with Jesus' prediction that Peter would deny Him.

The night didn't exactly turn out to be a night of celebration as the apostles might have anticipated!

The mood in the upper room is serious, it's somber and sullen. This morning, we see Jesus' encouragement through His farewell address to His disciples. He will be leaving them soon, as He's heading to the cross.

But Jesus assures them, and us, He is going to return.

The title of this morning's message is WHY SHOULD WE FEAR?

Let's read verses 1-4 and then we'll pray 1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions;[fn] if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.[fn] 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know."

Lets pray

SHOW PIC 1

STORY

CLOSE PIC 1

We don't like the unknown do we?

I was thinking in the early morning hours this morning, how this year is the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

Think about how your life has changed in just 20 years. Think about how our nation has changed in just 20 years!! It's astonishing, I'm speechless when I think about it. And if we dwell on today's current events, it can start to get overwhelming.

That is until, we remember our victorious King is coming back.

There is perhaps no greater section to encourage downtrodden believers than what we see in John 14 this morning.

Remember Chapters 13-17 all take place the night before His crucifixion. The disciples are confused and desperate for encouragement over what we've seen in our last few studies. And Jesus provides this encouragement.

Jesus is about to be horrifically tortured and mutilated on the cross. Yet how does He spend His last night?

Not sitting on the beach. Not drowning His sorrows. His focus is upon comforting His struggling apostles. What an example for you and me.

1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

The disciples had plenty of reasons to be troubled. Jesus had just told them that one of them was a traitor, that all of them would deny Him, and that He would be leaving them.

All of this would be incredibly frightening and concerning to the apostles, yet Jesus told them, let not your heart be troubled.

It's pretty easy to get discouraged today isn't? Chances are your worry list is longer than your prayer list. We get worried about so many things that never come to fruition!

Now Jesus never says we will have a life without trouble. On the contrary, He promises it. But Jesus promises that we can have a peaceful heart even in a troubled life.

2 In My Father's house are many mansions;[fn] if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.[fn] We just had a couple of babies born to parents in our fellowship this past week-always a delight.

Now even before those babies are born, what do you see from expectant parents? A crib is setup, the car seat is installed, and clothes are gathered. There's a whole lot of planning, and preparation. Why does an expectant parent do such things? Because of their love and anticipation for the arrival of their child!

And how much more it is with our heavenly Father! Jesus prepares a place for us because He knows we'll be arriving soon!

We know our final destination as believers-it's heaven! Why should we fear?

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

Jesus tells the apostles He's leaving them, yet He is promising a reunion. Jesus will personally come for His followers, and He assures them His return will be as certain as His departure.

Now I want to know more about this place Jesus is preparing for me. Does it have a bball hoop? Infiniti pool?

But that's really the wrong focus. The greatest blessing of heaven will be our unending personal fellowship with the Lord there, not the splendor of the place, as amazing as that will be.

4 And where I go you know, and the way you know." **5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"** Thomas speaks up, and declares on

behalf of the apostles their confusion about where Jesus was going. Apparently the "Father's house" wasn't clear enough that Jesus is talking about heaven.

So Thomas asks Jesus for to share His GPS directions

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. This is the sixth of Jesus' 7 "I am" declarations in Johns gospel.

Christianity is not a code of ethics, or a set of doctrines -
Christianity is a person!

You don't become a Christian just by following Jesus' teachings, but by receiving Jesus Himself personally.

Jesus doesn't just show us the way... He is the way.

Jesus doesn't just speak the truth... He is the truth.

Jesus doesn't just give us life... He is the life.

Jesus is not one of many roads that lead to God. He is the only road.

And this is where the non-believing world will argue-"that's narrow-minded." And they're right, it's very narrow. Jesus said as much in **Matthew 7:13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because[n] narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.**

We can only come to God on God's terms, or not at all. And the only way to God the Father is through Jesus.

The problem today in our world is that society does not like absolutes. And the reason society doesn't like absolutes is because it then forces a person into the position where they could

be wrong. Absolutes mean that I must alter, I must change to the truth, not me shaping the truth to fit my standards.

The creator, NOT the creation makes the rules. And God says that no man comes to Him except through Christ.

But why does it have to be through Christ?

It's only because of Jesus' work on the cross that anyone can enter heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Yet if a person rejects the offer of salvation through Jesus, this means they CANNOT spend eternity with God. This denial will tragically result in eternal damnation-hell- **John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."**

7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

If a person is seeking to know God, all they need to do is look to Jesus. And this has wonderful implications for us today!

Because not only do we have the hope of heaven, and know the way to heaven, we know the nature of the Father who is in heaven! All because of Jesus!

But the disciples are struggling still to grasp all of this.

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." Philip had walked with Jesus as an apostle for 3 years, but he hadn't seen God the Father with his physical eyes. So Philip thinks that such an experience would ease their troubled hearts.

9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Once again Jesus asserts His deity. He was God incarnate - or God in human flesh.

SHOW PIC 2

Though three separate persons, the members of the Godhead are of one substance. That means to see Jesus was to see the Father. Both are fully God. **CLOSE PIC 2**

For three-and-a-half years Phillip walked with His Creator along the grassy paths of Galilee, and down the dirt roads of Judea; yet it never dawned on Phillip Who was really by his side. He had walked with God.

11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.” Both the words of Jesus, and His works testified that He is God.

12 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. Jesus didn’t mean greater works in the sense of more sensational, but greater in magnitude.

The promise of verse 12 seems not just improbable, but frankly impossible. Yet consider that after Peter’s first sermon in Acts 2 there were more saved in that moment than there are recorded during Jesus’ entire earthly ministry.

And what will be the catalyst for these greater works? Jesus tells them at the end of verse 12: **Because I go to My Father:**

It was because Jesus went to the Father that the Holy Spirit came upon His people, enabling them to do these greater works.

13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask^[fn] anything in My name, I will do it. Jesus further explained how greater works would be possible through His followers. It would be possible because Jesus would do His work through His prayerful people, who asked and acted in His name.

Now we don't end our prayers with 'in Jesus name' as though it's a blank check for our prayers, or some 'incantation of prayer'. No, we pray in Jesus name because we are praying according to His character and authority.

We come to God in Jesus' name, not in our own.

Praying in Jesus' name is praying for things that will honor and glorify Jesus.

1 John 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

You and I have no authority to come to God in of ourselves. It has to be through the name of Jesus, who paved the way.

15 "If you love Me, keep^[fn] My commandments. Jesus had just demonstrated His extraordinary love to the disciples by washing their feet in John 13. And now He tells them what their loving response should be; to keep His commandments.

It was by His obedience that Jesus showed His love of God; and it is by our obedience that we're to show our love to Jesus.

How do we determine if we truly love God? 1 John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and

keep His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

A person can declare they love God all they want with their lips. Jesus says the true test of loving Him, is keeping His commandments.

Now if you're keeping count, Jesus has now given the apostles 4 commands here in the upper room discourse.

1st He commanded them to wash one another's feet, after the example He just displayed (John 13:14-15)

2nd He commanded them to love one another after the pattern of His love to them (John 13:34)

3rd He commanded them to put their faith in God the Father and in Himself (John 14:1)

4th Now He tells them to keep His commandments.

16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— one of the most neglected topics in the church today is that of the HS. It's not uncommon to hear from Christians-'WHAT is the HS?'

And that's the 1st problem.

The HS is not a what, the HS is a WHO-look back in verse 16-HE.

We will be speaking more of the HS in the coming weeks, but it's critical, and foundational to our relationship with God to recognize who the HS is.

The Holy Spirit is indeed a divine person because He possesses a mind, emotions, and a will. 1 Corinthians 2:1 But God has

revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

The Holy Spirit can be grieved **Ephesians 4:30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us **Romans 8:26-27** Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us^[fn] with groanings which cannot be uttered.

The Holy Spirit makes decisions according to His will **1 Corinthians 12:7** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: **8** for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same^[fn] Spirit, **10** to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. **11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

The Holy Spirit is God, the third Person of the Trinity. As God, the Holy Spirit can truly function as the Comforter and Counselor that Jesus promised He would be.

And notice Jesus calls the Spirit, “another Helper.” In the Greek its ‘parakletos’, which means “another of the same kind.”

God intended for the disciples to have the same relationship with the Spirit they had with Jesus, without the physical constraints that limited Jesus on earth.

17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. Another one of the many confusions about the HS is His function regarding salvation.

I know a lot of folks who love the Lord and believe differently regarding the HS, and you know what, that's ok. It doesn't bother me that they're wrong!

At Calvary Chapel, we believe the empowering in the life of a believer is distinct and separate from the indwelling of the HS that takes place at conversion.

Why?

Paul asked the Ephesians if they had received the HS when they believed or since they believed. More than once we see in the book of Acts that there is an experience with the HS that is separate and distinct from that of salvation.

Now some call it baptism of the spirit, others call it being filled with the Spirit. Whatever you choose to call it, it means being overflowed with the HS.

In the Greek there are 3 prepositions-"para", "en", and "epi".

In verse 17 we see the HS With you-speaks of the para relationship, the coming alongside. The Holy Spirit is "with you" prior to your salvation. It is the HS that convicts us of sin, and draws us to the Savior.

The "en" in the phrase 'in you' is equivalent to our English preposition in as in "He is going to dwell in you"

The third relationship is separate and distinct from these 2, and we see it in **Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me[fn] in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**" This is the Epi- which means upon or over, or overflow. It describes the HS flowing out of our lives.

Which means our lives then are not just a vessel contain the Spirit, but our lives become channels by which the HS flows from to impact the world around us.

Today, a believer has the same relationship with the Holy Spirit that the disciples had with Jesus.

But don't expect the unbelieving world to understand. Jesus says here in verse 17 "the world neither sees Him nor knows Him." The unbelieving world cannot understand or receive the Spirit, because He is Holy and true.

And you better believe The Spirit of truth is not popular in an age of deception.

Jesus has now described the coming of the Spirit, but what about His personal return to them that He promised them back in verse 3?

18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. 19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. Because of Jesus, we will have eternal life with Him in heaven! But for the apostles, after Jesus' death they will physically see Him after His ascension.

20 At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. 21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." " The word manifest means to reveal, to make plain. A love for God results in further obedience to God. And this obedience results in a more intimate relationship with God.

So, whenever a Christian declares they are feeling distant from God, they need to get back to loving God, by being obedient to God.

22 Judas (not Iscariot) pause here: Judas was a popular name in Jesus' day. And 2 of His apostles had this name, one of course being Judas Iscariot. The other Judas was also called Thaddaeus, and he is the one that asks this question in verse 22:

said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" Clearly there was still a lot of confusion in the upper room.

The apostles had heard Jesus teach that all the earth would see the Messiah in His glory back in Matthew 24. So it didn't make sense that Jesus now spoke of revealing of Himself and the world would not see.

23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. What an amazing promise! Love and obey Jesus and the Father God will make your heart His home.

But how was this the answer to Judas' question? Jesus is saying to Judas that He'll reach the world one by one. Before Messiah reveals Himself to everyone all at once, He first comes to each believing heart.

24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me. Jesus restated the point He had made in verses 15 and 23, but this time in the negative. A lack of love for Jesus will result in a lack of obedience to His teachings, which came from God the Father.

25 "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. This is another

wonderful example of the truth of the Trinity woven into the fabric of the New Testament. God the Father sends God the Holy Spirit at the request of God the Son.

So much of what Jesus said to the disciples sailed over their heads. It was the Holy Spirit who brought it back to mind in the years that followed.

And this is something the Holy Spirit does in our lives. Ever have that happen-where you recite a verse and you didn't even know that you knew that verse? That's the HS!

27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. What the world calls "peace" is merely the absence of conflict. But that's not the peace Jesus offered-He promises conflict-He promises hardship!

What the world calls peace is lots of money, and a big house, and a secure financial future. But that's not what Jesus promises!

Yet what Jesus promises are greater than anything the world can offer: the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, and the prince of peace Himself-Jesus, and His imminent return.

Jesus offers us His peace! Why should we fear?

28 You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said,[fn] 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I.. Jesus explained that their fear of Him departing was actually a failure to love Him as they should. They should have rejoiced that, even though His departure meant loss for them, it meant glory and joy for Him.

We experience a similar conflict of emotions when a Christian loved one dies. We mourn our loss, but we should rejoice more that our loved one is with the Lord.

29 "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. 30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me." Jesus refers to Satan as "the ruler of this world."

When God created Adam He gave Adam dominion, or authority, over His creation. When Adam sinned, he lost that dominion to Satan.

Satan has usurped the authority that once belonged to Adam. Today, the world is still ruled by Satan. And it will be until the return of Christ, and we'll celebrate the scene of **Revelation 20:10** **The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**

Satan's days are numbered. Why should we fear?

31 But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here. Next week in John 15 the scene shifts as they walk across the Kidron Valley, and up the Mount of Olives to the Garden of Gethsemane.

If John 13 was a convicting chapter, then John 14 is the encouraging chapter. We have nothing to fear. We know the end of the story.

Remember, fear is always a thief. It will rob you of your joy. Fear will steal your enthusiasm. Fear will hinder your willingness to serve your creator.

As a Christian we have the helper, the HS to empower us to do what God has called us to do. Why should we fear?