



THE THREAD

weaving Sunday's message through the week

Date: July 26 2020 **Passage:** John 14:1-14

Outline:

1. 14:1-4 :: Replace fear with faith
 - a. (v. 1) "Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God; believe also in me."
 - Exhortation: "Let not your hearts be troubled" - "be in control of yourself"; remove fear from your heart
 - Command 1: "believe in God"
 - Command 2: "believe also in me"
 - b. (v. 2) Foundation of belief
 - Jesus encourages his disciples by pointing them to their ultimate possession, which is to dwell in God's house as God's children
 - (v. 2a) "In my Father's house there are many rooms"
 - (v. 2b) "If it were not so, would I tell you that I am going to prepare a place for you?"
 - (v. 3) "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you with me, in order that where I am you also may be."
2. 14:5-7 :: Jesus is the I Am
 - a. (v. 5) Thomas's confusion
 - b. (v. 6) "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"
 - Sixth of seven formal "I Am" statements (the Light of the world, the Gate, the Bread of life, the Good Shepherd, the resurrection and the life, the true vine)
 - Jesus is the way, because he is the *truth* and the *life*
 - Summary: "Jesus destroys the wall that divides humanity from God (the way), denies the falsehood that distorts humanity in relation to God (the truth), and defeats the last and greatest enemy of humanity, death (the life)." (Klink, quoting Calvin, p. 618)
 - c. (v. 7) "If you have known me, you will know my Father also. From now on you know him and have seen him."
3. 14:8-14 :: The Christian's Work
 - a. (v. 8) Philip's ignorance - "Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.'"
 - They were looking for more - something else - but Jesus is enough!
 - Jesus's glorification (death, resurrection, and ascension) will finish the work, usher in the Holy Spirit and illuminate the eyes of his followers so they apprehend the way, the truth, and the life
 - b. (vv. 9-11) Jesus's rebuke
 - (v. 12) - The Christian's involvement in God's workChristians are brought into God's redemptive work *in Christ*
It is better to have Christ *in* us than Christ *with* us

- c. (vv. 13-14) Prayer is the work
 - "Prayer is the lifeblood of Christian existence. . . and the most property basic Christian activity." (Klink, p. 626)
 - People are the mission. Prayer is the work. Christ is the hope. The Spirit is the power. To God be the glory.

Benediction:

Romans 15:13 - "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Discussion Questions:

1. What causes your heart to be troubled? Where are you prone to fear? What does it mean for you to "believe in God, and also in [Jesus]" right now?
2. Faith in Jesus stabilizes in a consistently unstable world. What anchors you in the midst of life's storms? What false anchors are you prone to grasp for when life is hard? What false anchors is the church prone to grasp for in troubling times?
3. What shapes your understanding of truth? How can Jesus stabilize us in a day when truth and facts are constantly being blurred?
4. Meditate on this statement: Jesus shows us the Father, makes us pleasing to the Father, reconciles us to the Father, and gives us access to ask anything according to the Father's character. We are brought into the heart of the Father and invited to join Jesus in his work, empowered by his Spirit.
 - Which parts of that statement catch your attention? Which parts do you struggle to believe? Which excite you?
6. "Prayer is the lifeblood of Christian existence...and the most properly basic Christian activity" (Ed Klink).
 - What does Jesus teach us about the importance of prayer in God's continual redemptive work in the world?
 - How is your prayer life? What motivates you to pray, or to not pray?
 - What kinds of things do you typically pray for? Are they after God's character, desiring to submit to him, or after what God might give you to make life better?
 - How can you join Christ's work in prayer this week? Who can you pray for?

Connect with us online:
www.clearwatercommunity.org