

You’ve been there in life...where? The place where you experienced something that’s left you speechless, shell-shocked, confused, overwhelmed... I’m convinced that’s what it felt like in that upper room in Jerusalem, the night of Jesus’ arrest. It’s Thursday night of Passion Week. Jesus will be dead by 3 pm the next day. The tragedy of all of these events would leave the Apostles in utter dismay...and it all began on Thursday night in that upper room.

For you see, they had witnessed Jesus washing their feet...demonstrating His amazing love for them and exemplifying the fact that they should be willing to do the same for one another. Jesus had showed them that love is humble and kind and selfless. **Selfless**...yes, they had been arguing about who’s the greatest...no...they were self-absorbed.

Judas had suddenly left. Peter had been scolded... “No, you can’t follow Peter...you’ll deny you even know me...three times by morning.” Thomas, hearing and seeing all of this, is unwilling to say that he would follow Jesus until he knew where Jesus was going, so he asked Him: “Where are you going...we don’t know the way.” And, as we saw last week, Jesus said (as is the title of our series):



“I am the way, the truth and the life.” I AM THE WAY, Thomas! And then, Jesus offered them such great comfort and encouragement...telling them that He was going home...to heaven...yes, He’s leaving, but He says, I’m coming back...I’m going away to build you rooms where? The Biltmore...



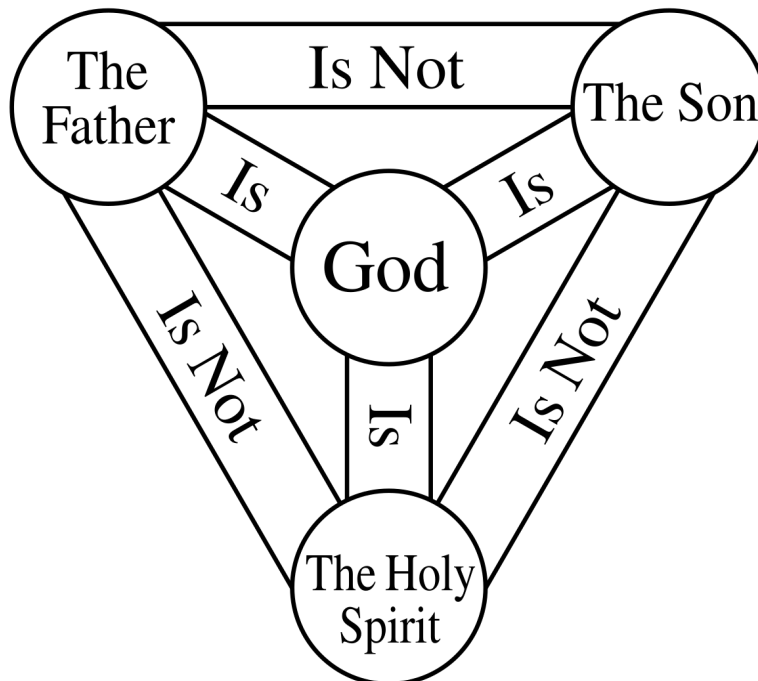
No, that’s nice house...I’d take any one of those 250 rooms...no, Jesus is building rooms for us in His Father’s House...“Yes, I’m leaving, but I’m coming back to get you.” And this should have been

a great encouragement to the disciples; but instead, it left them floundering, reeling, and so, Jesus offers even more promises of encouragement. The title of this morning's message is: "You Can Trust Jesus' Promises." Let's see them:

John 14:7-14

⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also.^[d] From now on you do know him and have seen him." ⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. ¹² "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me^[e] anything in my name, I will do it.

Church family, what we just read is really another look into the Trinity...the fact that Jesus is God. And I get it...the questions come: Now how does that work: Jesus is God? How can that be? Let's review this image again:



Top-left...the Father (go across the top to the right) is not the Son, (go down to the bottom), the Son is not the Holy Spirit (back up the left side), the Holy Spirit is not the Father. Yet...top left again...The Father (go to the center) is God...(top right) the Son is God, and bottom The Holy Spirit is God. You got that? ☺

Listen, God is one in essence and yet three in persons. Still struggle...I get it. It's impossible for any human to be able to fully understand the Trinity in our finite minds, therefore it's even harder to attempt to explain it. You see, we accept the Trinity as one God existing in three Persons. Not three Gods...just one God existing in three persons, with each person performing a different function or role. **The Father** being the ultimate head of all things...**the Son**, being the agent through whom the

Father works in revealing who He is and for providing salvation to humankind. And **the Holy Spirit** who is the Helper, Comforter, Teacher and Guide, (whom we'll see in more detail next week).

So, for today, we're going to be talking about the role of Jesus and His Father and you'll remember from last week that the Apostle John recorded the word "Father" 53 times in chapters 13-17...which are Jesus' "Upper Room Discourse" and His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. Now, the reason I share this is because Jesus' entire mission...His entire trip to this earth is about accomplishing the Father's will. That's why Jesus said in verse 1, "You believe in God...you've got to believe in me." In other words, "I and the Father are connected...trust me...I'm not going to let you down, just as the Father won't let you down."

Now think with me about this: for close to three years, Jesus had provided the disciples' food, shelter and protection. He's provided for them every step of the way. They've watched Jesus overcome every obstacle. They watched Jesus get attacked and dragged to the brow of Nazareth...where they sought to throw Him off that cliff to His death...(Come with me to Israel, and I'll take you there)...but, what happened? Jesus slipped right through their hands. The same thing happened in the Temple with the Pharisees. They had Him cornered too...but, yet again, He slipped right through their hands. So, they've seen Him escape trouble all along the way, but now He's talking about dying leaving and they're scared to death!

Therefore, Jesus has to remind them...(my vernacular): "Guys, my Father will provide and take care of you, just as I have provided for you," in other words: "Your help is all going to come from the same source." Watch verse 7 again...

John 14:7

⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also.^[d] From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Can you see what Jesus is doing? He's reminding them of what He's been saying for three years, "If you've seen me, you've seen the Father."

Church, let me ask you something. Have you thought about the fact that you and I don't have to wait to get to heaven to get to know the Father? We can know Him because we know the Son, right!

Let me show you the nature of the Father and the Son...

Hebrews 1:3

³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Colossians 1:19

¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

Church family, Jesus is God incarnate and He operated as God's agent on the earth to accomplish His Father's will. We saw this back in **John 8, turn with me there**. As you're turning, keep in mind, the Apostles are still struggling to understand that Jesus is God...**but, after the resurrection**, they're going to get it. But, for now...they're struggling...just like the Pharisees were struggling when Jesus was talking to them in the Temple.

John 8:27-30

²⁷ They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father. ²⁸ So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. ²⁹ And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.” ³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

Of course, we know the disciples believed in Jesus, but it wasn't until after the resurrection that so many of their questions would be answered.

Remember what happened when all the disciples were finally gathered in the upper room a week after the resurrection? Remember, Thomas wasn't there a week earlier. Jesus appears again (Thomas is now there) and he was honest...no, not “Doubting Thomas.” I call him “Honest Thomas.” He had said, “I won't believe He's alive until I see him with my own eyes.” When Thomas saw Jesus, do you remember what he said?

John 20:28

²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus is God! Thomas finally got it and the other Apostles did as well...the resurrection sealed the deal... Jesus had been dead, but now He's alive...yes...only God could do that!

So, go back with me to the UPPER ROOM. Back to John 14. Jesus is seeking to comfort them because they're afraid...confused...they're wondering: “What's going to happen to us if you leave us?” And Jesus simply says, “My Father is going to take care of you, just like He has always take care of you, just like I've taken care of you...because we're *one-in-the-same*.”

Philip hears all of this and I believe he sees an opportunity to ask to see the Father, (which proves that he's still not fully grasped what Jesus is saying...if you've seen me, you've seen the Father).

John 14:8

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”

It seems that Philip wanted to see sort of appearance of God. How? I'm not sure. Maybe he wanted to see Jesus split the sky open and show them God. I'm not sure...but, before we're too hard on Philip, I appreciate the fact that he wanted to see the Father. That was prominent on his mind.

What is prominent on your mind? What drives your thinking? It's been said: “Whatever you can't get enough of is your god.” What's your god? In other words: What do you want the most out of life? Is it your kid's future success, getting into college, (listen, there's nothing wrong with that...but, if it's out of order...there's a problem. God must come first). What about money? Does that drive you? Paying off your house? Retirement? Reaching a certain dollar-figure...you know: What's your number (as they say on the investment ads)? Church, our goals may be worthy goals...but, the highest goal should be to please God. Because if you put Him first, everything else follows. (Matt 6:33)

For Philip, he said: “Show us the Father...” Was he thinking about the Old Testament appearances of God...the “preincarnate theophanies of Jesus.” Like when Jesus appeared to Abram. When Jesus spoke to Moses who was in the fiery bush, or when Jesus appeared with the three Hebrew men in the fiery furnace... Did Philip want some sort of experience like that?

You know, I think about our culture in Christendom today. So many want some sort of “experience” with God...some sort of supernatural touch... People tell me they want “more” and I’m afraid the “more” is often some sort of ecstatic, super-charged, emotional experience. And you know what, there are people out there who will give folks what they’re craving for... Paul told Timothy:

2 Timothy 4:3-4

³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound^[a] teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

So many people today don’t want “sound doctrine,” or “healthy teaching.” They want emotionalism and you’ll see people out there give them what they want. These super-charged services...seeking to rev-up the crowd to a fever pitch and then call for decisions. That kind of stuff scares me to death. When I see that going on...my spirit checks and I want no part of it. Jesus never used those kinds of tactics when teaching and preaching. And I believe this is why Jesus tenderly scolds Philip...

John 14:9

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

Jesus said, “When you look at me, you’re seeing God made invisible in the flesh.” Remember, God is Spirit and no one can look upon Him and live... and so, again, I’m convinced this is part of the role of Jesus in the Second Person of the Trinity, is how we can see and know the Father. Jesus revealed the Father to humanity in flesh and bones...Jesus is: **Emmanuel**, “God with us.” Jesus continues to help Philip understand in verse 10:

John 14:10

¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

Jesus said there, “The WORDS...the words...that I say to you speak my own authority.” Words are important...Jesus said, “My words have all authority!” That’s why this book (the Bible) trumps everything else you hear out there. THIS IS THE AUTHORITY!

Church family, this book is the revelation of God, and this book has withstood all scrutiny and the test of time. It’s survived and thrived throughout every generation since it was written, and has summarily dismissed and debunked all the haters and all the skeptics throughout history...AND IT ALWAYS WILL, because it is THE WORD OF GOD! And I want you to understand this...your faith increases proportionately to your hearing and understanding the Word of God. Listen, right now, your faith is increasing...watch this...

Romans 10:17

¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Right now, your faith is growing, because Scripture reveals God and the more you and I hear, read and understand the Word of God, the greater and stronger our faith becomes. Being here today means you’re being strengthened and cemented in your faith! Jesus said: “Believe my words” and then He said, “Believe my works.”

John 14:11

¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

Church, how many miracles had the disciples seen? Thousands!!! Feeding the 5,000. Jesus walking on water...raising Lazarus from the dead! Jesus did those works because God, the Father was working through Him. Even Nicodemus, the Pharisee (back in chapter 3) said, "We know you are from God...only someone who has come from God can do the works you are doing."

I'll tell you something else...the "works" are also changed lives. Did you know that YOU are a work...I am a work. We're miracles...God changed our lives through Jesus. The miracle of salvation is a "work" like no other. I look across this room and I see miracles sitting everywhere!

Church, what have seen through John's Gospel? Over and over again, the words and works of Jesus...they fit hand-in-glove and cannot be separated...and they all come from the Father...**they reveal the Father**. And that's why Jesus came. He came from the Father to do the work of the Father, the will of the Father, to reveal the Father. Now watch this...this next verse is going to blow the disciples minds...verse 12...

John 14:12

¹²"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

This had to be an amazingly, positive jolt to their weakened spirits. Think about it...they had sat there in that upper room around that table and had been totally humiliated because of all of their talk about who's the greatest; and yet, Jesus had shown such kindness, mercy and love by stooping to wash their feet. And now Jesus is talking to them about doing greater works than He has done. What? They had to be thinking: "We're such failures." And Jesus (in essence) was saying, "No you're not. You're mine and through me, you will do greater things."

You know, church family, it's so easy to get beaten up in this life isn't it. Everywhere we look we're told we're not good enough...we don't measure up...we're not smart enough, pretty enough, handsome enough...SOMETHING enough. But, listen...your identity is not defined by any of that. Your identity is defined by Jesus, who says, "You're mine, sons and daughters of God; therefore, through me, you can do anything. You WILL DO greater works than me."

But you say: "How? How will they/we do that?" Well, Church, who's coming? Who's the third person of the Trinity that we've not spoken of yet. The Holy Spirit... He's coming at Pentecost...that's 50 days after Jesus' resurrection, God sends the Holy Spirit to indwell the believers gathered in Jerusalem. And because of that fact, ever since Pentecost, at the moment a person trusts and believes in Jesus, repenting of their sins, choosing to follow Him, they get the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

BTW, all you're ever going to get. Contrary to what's taught by some, there is no second filling of the Spirit. What might look like are indications of that in the book of Acts are actually the initial indwelling for that group of people...such as the Samaritan's or Gentiles. Acts is a book of transition...be careful of building your theology on an isolated passage in the book of Acts. Many have done that and are in error.

But, you may ask: "What are these greater works? How can we do greater works than Jesus?" Well, we can't...they're not greater works in quality, but in quantity or scope. Meaning: more works... Peter preached one sermon at Pentecost and 3,000 were saved in one day. AND HOW ARE WE TO DO THESE WORKS? Watch verses 13 and 14...*in His name*...

John 14:13-14

¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me[Ⓜ] anything in my name, I will do it.

Now, let me tell you what this verse is and what this verse isn't. **First, what it is.** Remember church, what IS Jesus' sole purpose in being here on earth when He came in the first place? To do the Father's will, right? And thus, when that's accomplished or done...the Father gets the glory... So, when we pray "in Jesus' name," we're seeking to bring the Father glory. That's the model prayer, right? "*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name...thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*" It's making God's name great! We're to honor His name...His kingdom! That's what praying in Jesus' name is.

Now, what it isn't. Praying in Jesus' name, (tagging that on at the end of our prayers), is NOT some sort of magic formula to get what we want. It's simply praying prayers that are consistent with the Father's will. It must be in the Father's will.

Listen, you can pray for a million dollars and say, "In Jesus' name I pray." But, that doesn't mean you're going to get it. It must be in the will of the Father...it's not about your kingdom...it's about His kingdom. That's:

1 John 5:13-15

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

As we close, I want to go back to the question Jesus asked Philip. And I want to put it on the screens for us to see it (this is from verse 10):

Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, _____?

Place your name in the blank. I'll do so... "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Kevin?" **Do you know Jesus?** Do you understand what it means to follow Him? You say, "Yes, I do." **Are you?** Are you truly following Jesus? If you aren't, you have the opportunity of being a WORK of God here today...right back there in that corner...I pray you'll come see me.
