

## **That You May Have Life In His Name - John 14:1-14**

### **Pastor Matt Dean**

#### **I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life**

**14** “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup> 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’? <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup> “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. <sup>13</sup> Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

(Jn 14:1–14)

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Their context: in this upper room eating a Passover meal of remembrance, on the night before the crucifixion of Jesus, where their dirty feet have been washed by Jesus, where Judas was identified as a betrayer, where Peter was told he would deny knowing Jesus three times before the sunrise, where an argument arises among the disciples about who among them was greatest — these guys were struggling. Jesus is less than 24 hours from his death — and yet He is the one comforting his disciples as they wrestle with the reality of this moment.

Let not your hearts be troubled. You believe in God. You believe also in me.  
Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Don’t let. Believe God.

<sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going.”

Jesus says clearly – there is room in the Father’s house. He is going to prepare a place for you and He will come again – that where He is we may be also. The hope of heaven is real. Jesus says “and you KNOW the way to where I am going.”

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

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Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. Again we hear Jesus say to these Jewish men – the God they have believed in, the same God who gave the promise to Abraham, the same God who gave the law to Moses, the same God who gave victory to Joshua, the same God of glory that Isaiah prophesied about – Jesus is saying if you’ve seen me you’ve seen Him.

<sup>12</sup> “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. <sup>13</sup> Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

To believe in Jesus is to do the works of Jesus – and greater works will he do. These disciples couldn't yet know what this would mean, in this upper room during this Passover meal, they didn't yet know what the Holy Spirit would do at Pentecost where thousands of people would put their faith in Christ in one day, or how the Church would grow around the world...

(In the weeks ahead, we will hear Jesus will talk about the Holy Spirit and what it means to abide in Him and bear much fruit)

Whatever you ask in my name – this I will do – that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

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The disciples were struggling and the hours were quickly approaching where Jesus would be arrested at the Mount of Olives, taken to the high priest's house, where soon after he would remain in custody, being blindfolded, beaten and mocked, brought before the council of Jewish elders, chief priests, scribes.... And then Jesus would be taken before Pontius Pilate, and then to Herod, where though Herod did not find him guilty, Jesus was still treated with contempt and was mocked, and then Jesus was given back to Pilate who also did not find him guilty, but the crowd demands for the release of a murderer names Barabbas — and in exchange for this truly guilty man, Jesus was sentenced to death by the roar of an angry crowd and Pilate who simply gave in to the demands of an angry crowd of people shouting Crucify Crucify Crucify....

Where we find ourselves today — we have the blessing of knowing this crucified Jesus is also our Resurrected King Jesus.

So we can hear these words of Jesus with the blessing of history.

- Jesus says in a very troubling situation....

**14** “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

Can I invite you to that place this morning – if your heart is troubled, can you give your heart and the burdens on your heart to Him? Are you too busy to pray? Are you too self-reliant to slow down? Do you know what it’s actually like to be still and know that He is God?

Jesus speaks of heaven and the reality of plenty of room in the Father’s house – He speaks of preparing a place for those who believe in Him and the promise that He will return and bring us home – that we may be where He is – forever.

Can I remind you this morning that for those who trust in Jesus – death is a doorway into eternity with God?

- Cancer does not get the final word over you, Jesus does.
- Suffering on earth does not get the final word over you, Jesus does.
- Depression and anxiety does not get the final word over you, Jesus does.
- Your wealth or poverty does not get the final word over you, Jesus does.
- Your life’s accomplishments don’t get the final word, Jesus does.
- In view of God’s mercy, why would you not leverage your life as a living sacrifice back to God for as long as you can on earth – that every hour of all your days are an offering of praise back to Him?

Heaven is a glorious and true reality – a place of infinite joy and glory made by God, made accessible in this life to people who trust in Jesus, eternally secured by the work of Jesus where the unspeakable worth of Jesus will be forever enjoyed by all the saints. This new heaven and new earth is beyond our capacity to comprehend — but it’s true and real.

<sup>6</sup> Jesus says, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Can I encourage you today – to be about Jesus. There are a million other things you could be about – and while those may be good (or bad) – they are not Jesus.

Jesus is the way.

Jesus is the truth.

Jesus is the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Jesus.

If there is anyone in your life that does not know about God’s love made known through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus –

... don’t waste a moment, don’t begin the conversation with another name, don’t confuse them with some other way or some flash bang distraction, don’t bait and switch them, don’t promise them their best life now, don’t promise them health and wealth, don’t promise them a life free from suffering, don’t say Jesus is your homeboy, don’t present Jesus as some weak, fragile, universal, arbitrary concept or intellectual ascent...

No person is too far gone

No circumstance too far broken

If anyone calls on Jesus in faith – He indeed is faithful.

Tell them about King Jesus.

Victory over sin Jesus.

Triumphant over death Jesus.

Glorious and trustworthy Jesus.

The way to heaven Jesus.

The truth of God Jesus.

The Resurrection Life Jesus.

<sup>12</sup> “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. <sup>13</sup> Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

What will you ask for ? What will you pray for? What do you want Jesus to do? This promise – whatever you ask – it comes with a purpose – that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Hudson Taylor, a faithful missionary to China once said, *“I used to ask God to help me. Then, I asked Him if I might help Him. Finally I ended up asking Him to do His work in me and through me, if He would be so pleased.”*

So when you pray – and when you want to see greater works – this is what you can pray.  
 Jesus, how can I bring You glory?  
 Jesus in your name – and for your Name – this is what I am asking...  
 What does it mean to have life in His Name?

### **By Grace Through Faith**

**2** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

(Eph 2:1–10)

But God.  
 Being rich in mercy.  
 With great love with which he loved us.  
 Even when we were dead.  
 God made us alive together with Christ.  
 By grace.  
 You have.  
 Been saved.  
 He's raised you and seated you with him.  
 To show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Jesus.  
 Saved by grace. Through faith.  
 The gift of God.  
 To boast in God.  
 The workmanship of God.  
 Created in Christ Jesus for good works.  
 Good works prepared by God.  
 That we.  
 Should walk.  
 In them.

What to pray? Jesus show me the good works. Glorify Yourself in and through my life.