

Session 7 Jesus Revealed the Father (Jn. 14:7-9)

I. REVIEW: JESUS' COMMAND NOT TO ALLOW TROUBLE TO DOMINATE OUR HEART

A. Jesus commanded the disciples not to let trouble dominate their hearts (Jn. 14:1). In other words, we are to take every thought captive to agree with Christ (2 Cor. 10:5). We do this by replacing negative thoughts with the biblical truths—by speaking these truths over our lives.

¹***“Let not your heart be troubled...believe in Me...²⁷My peace I give to you... ” (Jn. 14:1, 27)***

⁵***casting down arguments [lies against the truth]...against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity [agreement] to the obedience of Christ... (2 Cor. 10:5)***

B. Jesus declared 5 core truths in John 14:2-7 which they were to embrace in believing in Him.

²***In My Father's house are many mansions...I go to prepare a place for you...³I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also...⁷If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.” (Jn. 14:2-3, 7)***

1. ***Truth #1—My Father's house:*** The Father's house is the New Jerusalem. The redeemed will live together with Him forever in His immediate presence as part of His family.
2. ***Truth #2—I am going to prepare a place for you:*** Jesus went to the cross to prepare our place in the Father's house. He secured the way for us to enjoy the Father's house forever.
3. ***Truth #3—I will come for you:*** He will come to His people *physically* at the end of this age, while He comes to them *spiritually* in this age by the indwelling Spirit (14:23).
4. ***Truth #4—That where I am, there you may be:*** Here, Jesus gave one of the reasons for going to the cross. He desires His people to be with Him even more than they desire to be with Him.
5. ***Truth #5—From now on you know the Father:*** We can know the Father through Jesus. Relating to the Father empowers us to “not let trouble” dominate our heart according to 14:1.

II. JESUS REVEALED THE FATHER TO HIS PEOPLE (JN. 14:7-9)

A. One of Jesus' primary themes in John 14 is how we are to understand the Father. Each person of the Trinity is emphasized in John 14-16—the Father (Jn. 14), the Son (Jn. 15) and the Spirit (Jn. 16).

B. We can see the Father's personality, power, and purposes through the life and ministry of Jesus. In a Jewish context, most thought of God as being distant from His people because He is the transcendent creator of Genesis 1. They rightly *trembled* before His power and holiness. Jesus taught that by understanding the Father's heart, they could also have *confidence* before 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.” 8Philip said..., “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” 9Jesus 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; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’” (Jn. 14:7-9)

C. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also (14:7): To the degree that we understand Jesus’ teaching, mission, and personality, we know the Father. Jesus clarified that one of the main purposes of His teaching ministry was to reveal the God of Israel as our Father. Jesus emphasized the affectionate, deeply involved, relational dimension of God’s personality as Father.

1. If you had known Me or understood Me, you would have understood My Father’s heart, embrace, and leadership over your life. Jesus is saying how important it is that you understand the Father’s leadership, heart, promises, narrative, and who He is and who you are to Him. The implications significant in empowering us to walk in truth and liberty and free from fear, accusation, shame, and deception.
2. The enemy will work overtime to convince you of his accusation narrative of your life. Often our view of our lives is influenced by enemy or from lips of others.
3. The incarnate Christ revealed the Father (Jn. 1:14, 18; 8:19; 10:30; 12:45).

14The Word became flesh and dwelt among us...the glory as of the only begotten of the Father... 18No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son...has declared Him. (Jn. 1:14-18)

D. From now on you know Him and have seen Him (14:7): Jesus told them that from that day forward they now understood that they have significant information about the Father’s leadership from Jesus’ life and teaching. From now on you know Him and see Him. This is the most reliable road map to blessing.

1. Jesus declares the fact: from now on **you do know Him**. There are dynamic new possibilities for our life because you can now engage with the Father directly and “see” His activity in your life through the paradigm of Jesus’ life and ministry as set forth in the gospels. What a glorious gift the four Gospels are in giving us knowledge of the Father so that we can connect the dots and “see” the Father’s leadership in our life in this hour even though He is invisible. This is what 14:1 is about. Jesus is saying do you understand that from NOW on you can understand and interact with the Father, and the possibilities are endless in terms of you growing in peace and love and humility.
2. He gives us clear insight into His leadership, and into what He wants and how He relates. Jesus declared that from “now on” we know this about God and, therefore, we can “see” evidence of it when we review our life through this lens.

3. As we look at the life of Jesus in the four Gospels, we search for understanding of the Father's heart, mind, leadership, and activity, so that we can anticipate it in our own lives to find peace and comfort in times of pressure and thus refuse to allow trouble to dominate our heart (14:1).
4. The essence of eternal life is to encounter the Father and the Son in a growing relationship. Life without the Father is the essence of the darkness and torment in hell.
³This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus... (Jn. 17:3)
5. Unbelievers will stand before Jesus in His presence which is so filled with beauty, life, and joy. When unbelievers are brought there, He will command them to go from Him (Lk. 13:27).
²⁷But He will say, '...I do not know you...Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.'
²⁸There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac... and all the prophets...and yourselves thrust out. ²⁹They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God." (Lk. 13:27-30)
6. God's names reveal different facets of His personality. He has over 300 names in Scripture.
²⁶I have declared to them Your [the Father's] name, and will declare it... (Jn. 17:26)

E. Show us the Father (14:8): Philip asked to see the Father. He apparently was asking Jesus to give them a theophany or a visible manifestation of God (Ex. 24:9-10; 33:18; Isa. 6:1) like what Peter saw on the Mount of Transfiguration (Mt. 17:1-7). The prayer to see the Father or to grow in the knowledge of God is one of our most important and needed prayers (Eph. 1:17; 2 Pet. 1:2; 3:18).

⁸Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." (Jn. 14:8)

1. I don't think Philip understood that he declared two significant truths—"Show us the Father" and "it is sufficient" Why must John 14:8 must be a priority prayer? There is prevailing stronghold related to fear of rejection and trauma of shame.
2. Philip was confused. When did he see the Father? How can Jesus say that Philip saw Him? Jesus was talking about seeing the Father in a different way, but Philip did not understand it.
3. There are three questions in John 14—Thomas (14:5), Philip (14:8), and Judas (14:22).

F. It is sufficient for us (14:8): Philip declared that it would be enough for him. One of the deepest cries of our heart is "to see the Father." The Spirit is calling the Church to encounter the Father.

1. Our greatest emotional need is to have *the assurance that we are enjoyed by God* even in our weakness. Every person was created with a longing to be delighted in and enjoyed by God. A prevailing stronghold in many is related to the fear of rejection and the trauma of shame.
2. Our lives are unsettled and without a "stabilizing anchor" until we know the narrative and embrace of our Father. Many sincere believers are paralyzed by shame in their walk with God. A life of shame leads to a life of sin. If we feel dirty before God, then we will live dirty.

G. *Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip?* (14:9). Earlier Jesus established the truth that to see Him was to see the Father (Jn. 8:19; 10:30; 12:45). Now confidence that the Father is like Jesus was a life-and-death issue for them spiritually—that the Father had the same zeal for healing, multiplying food, forgiving sinners, and calming storms as Jesus had.

¹⁹***“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.”*** (Jn. 8:19)

⁴⁵***“And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.”*** (Jn. 12:45)

³⁰***I and My Father are one.”*** (Jn 10:30)

1. I am going to die tomorrow and therefore, you must believe in, understand, and thus “see” the Father’s leadership. It is crucial that you believe the truth about what My Father is like; it will equip you navigate the pressures that you will face so that trouble does not dominate your mind and emotions.
2. Philip, you don’t understand that I have been giving you is very rare and even perfect insight in the Father’s leadership and His embrace over your life. You must connect the dots to see My Father’s work in your life by both what He allows and prevents from happening. Jesus wanted to awaken Phillip and His disciples to urgency, knowing that He would die the following day.
3. In Mark 6, after He multiplied the food, they still did not understand it because their hearts were hardened. Now Jesus wanted them to take seriously their need to cultivate understanding. In Lk. 24:25, Jesus said to the disciples on the road to Emmaus that they were slow of heart. He was alerting the disciples to this because He loved them and wanted them to be intentional about interacting with the Father.

H. *He who has seen Me has seen the Father* (14:9): Jesus was calling them to interpret His 3½ year ministry of teaching and miracles as revealing the Father. The disciples had not yet realized who Jesus was as the exact representation of the Father (Heb. 1:3). Here Jesus declares His deity.

³***He [Jesus] is the radiance of His [Father’s] glory and the exact representation of His nature...***
(Heb. 1:3; NAS)

I. *How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’* (14:9): Jesus’ astounding reply to Philip is that to see Him is to see the transcendent God of Israel who is their heavenly Father. “How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ That is what I have been doing for 3 ½ years by My teachings, prayer life, miracles, and lifestyle,” Jesus was saying. “Philip you still do not understand one of My primary missions was related to revealing the Father—what He is like, how He relates to His children, and what He wants.”

1. Jesus is not rebuking Philip but saying to him, “I will die tomorrow and you must cultivate this growing dialogue with what the Father is like. The more you understand the Father the more you will process the future with confidence.”

2. As we read the gospels, we gain understanding of the Father’s leadership. “He who has seen Me”—that is, My countenance, the joy I have in forgiving and rescuing broken lives.
3. As we study the gospels to see what Jesus said and did, we learn about the Father’s personality. If you want to know what the Father thinks about **death**—meditate on Jesus weeping at the tomb of Lazarus—or about your **sin**—think on Jesus going to the cross to secure your forgiveness—or about **social outcasts**—look at Jesus eating with tax collectors and prostitutes and sending them on their way forgiven, and feeling clean—or about **religious hypocrisy**—review Jesus denounce the Pharisees—or about **exploiting religion for monetary gain**—watch Jesus in the Temple, turning over tables, and rebuking them for making it into a den of thieves. If you’ve ever questioned how the Father **serves** you—look at Jesus washing their dirty feet—or how He sees **disease**—watch as Jesus heals all who are brought to Him. Meditate on all that Jesus is, says, and does.

III. THE FATHER HEART OF GOD —10 EXPRESSIONS OF HIS LOVE

A. The Father knows that relationship or friendship-based leadership is the most effective way to lead (Jn. 15:15). Being trained in the context of relationship is far more effective than just learning principles. There are many principles of godly fatherhood. They include building relationships, being committed, serving, affirming, calling forth, training, correcting, honoring, communicating, listening, investing, understanding, following through, celebrating, and supporting in difficulty.

B. Expression #1 *The Father engages and dwells with His children* (Jn. 14:23): The Father will openly display His enjoyment and pleasure in the relationship with and lifestyle of those who value His love as evidenced by a life of obedience. The Father loves everyone in the sense of valuing and caring for them. Yet He only loves the lifestyle, choices, and fruit of those who seek to obey Him.

23Jesus 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. (Jn. 14:23)

1. In 14:23, Jesus assured them that the Father wanted to engage with them and manifest His presence and activity in their life. This is the first thing the Jesus emphasized related to them knowing and seeing the Father. They had to have a new paradigm about God to recognize His activity in their life as being exactly like what the disciples saw in Jesus’ activity.
2. Moses prayed, “Show me Your glory!” The Lord proclaimed the name of the Lord: He is gracious kind tender slow to anger. That is the glory of God. It is our inheritance.

18And he [Moses] said, “Please, show me Your glory.” 19Then He said, “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you..” (Ex. 33:18-19)

6And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth...” (Ex. 34:6)

C.Expression #2 ***The Father “prunes” His children*** (Jn. 15:2): We must see the Father as a zealous vinedresser who oversees the fruitfulness of His vineyard. He takes the initiative to intervene to “prune” every fruitful believer to bring them to greater fruitfulness. The Father’s pruning is not discipline. The purpose of the Father’s *pruning* is to *remove distraction* from an obedient believer, whereas the purpose of the Father’s *discipline* is to *remove sin* from a compromising believer.

1“...My Father is the vinedresser...²Every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken...” (Jn. 15:1-3)

D.Expression #3 ***The Father shows tender mercy and grace to His children***: The Lord expresses His tender mercy and His delight in His relationship with His children, even in their weakness.

1. In Luke 15, Jesus gave three parables that have profound implications for our lives today. This chapter gives us one of the most significant revelations of the Father in the Scripture. The way we view God’s heart toward us in our failure affects how we approach God. This is one of the most important issues. It determines if we run *to* God or *from* God when stumbling.
2. The truth that Jesus most emphasized here is that God rejoices as He forgives and restores His people (Lk. 15: 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 23, 32). In other words, He enjoys relationship with His people even in their weakness.
3. In the parable of the prodigal son (Lk. 15:11-32), Jesus taught how the Father responds to a son who rebels against Him and then returns to Him.

¹⁷When he came to himself [repentance], he said, ¹⁸“...I will...go to my father, and will say, ‘Father, I have sinned...” ²⁰He...came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father...had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. (Lk. 15:17-20)

4. Jesus told the Pharisees to go and learn that God desires mercy (Mt. 9:10-13).
¹⁰...As Jesus sat at the table...many tax collectors and sinners...sat down with Him... ¹¹The Pharisees saw it and said..., “Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors ...?” ¹²He said ...¹³“But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’” (Mt. 9:10-13)
5. The Father delights in showing mercy to His people (Isa. 62:4; Mic. 7:18).
¹⁸He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. (Mic. 7:18)
6. The Lord delights in and rejoices over His people (Deut. 30:9; Isa. 62:4; 65:18-19; Jer. 32:41; Zeph. 3:17). The view of many is that *God is mostly mad or mostly sad when He relates to us*.
⁴...But you shall be called Hephzibah...for the LORD delights in you...⁵as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. (Isa. 62:4-5)

7. Our spiritual immaturity does not affect the way He feels about us. He never loves us less in this age than He will love us in heaven, when we will live in the perfection of the resurrection state. We *experience more* of His love as we mature spiritually, but He does not love us more.

E.Expression #4 ***The Father encourages and affirms His children***: The Father speaks words of affirmation to His children to help them not to quit in the face of condemnation and failure. Our Father does not relate to His children based on their failure. The Lord sees the budding virtues in His people. He sees the intention of their heart and their budding virtues, just as they begin to grow. He sees the early stages of our longing to obey Him and values it. Fathers speak in ways to help their children overcome temptations to quit. **Fathers build confidence.**

F.Expression #5 ***The Father trains and teaches His children***: The Father both equips and coaches His children in every area of their life in which they ask Him to teach them.

G.Expression #6 ***The Father corrects and disciplines His children***: The Father chastens His children to highlight blind spots that hinder them from their destiny. His correction is not rejection.

⁶For whom the LORD loves He chastens...⁷If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons...¹¹No chastening seems to be joyful...afterward it yields...righteousness... (Heb. 12:6-11)

¹²Whom Lord loves He corrects, just as father the son in whom he delights (Prov. 3:12)

⁶For whom the LORD loves He chastens...⁷If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons...⁸But if you are without chastening...then you are illegitimate and not sons... ¹¹Now no chastening seems to be joyful...but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Heb. 12:6-11)

¹⁹As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. (Rev. 3:19)

H.Expression #7 ***The Father provides for and blesses His children***: The Father promises to provide for His children in His way and time.

²⁵...do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink...²⁶Look at the birds...for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. (Mt. 6:25-26)

I.Expression #8 ***The Father protects and guides His children***: The Father promises to protect and guide His children from danger and into safety.

J.Expression #9 ***The Father rewards and honors His children***: Jesus emphasized that the Father will openly reward His children in His time and way (Mt. 6:4, 6, 18). Eternal rewards are God expressing how He feels about the way we loved Him, though it seems so small and weak to us.

⁴“Your charitable deed...your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly...”

⁶“When you pray...your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly...”

¹⁷“When you fast... ¹⁸your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.” (Mt. 6:4, 6, 18)

1. Some of the rewards are *external*, as circumstances are changed by God's power. Some are *internal*, as our hearts encounter Him and are tenderized. Some are *eternal*, affecting our destiny in the age to come.

⁶...*he who comes to God must believe...He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*
(Heb. 11:6)

2. Jesus taught more on eternal rewards than any other man in Scripture (Mt. 5:5, 12, 19; 6:4-6, 18-20; 10:41-42; 16:27; 18:4; 19:21, 28-30; 20:16, 27; 22:14; 23:11; 25:21-23; Mk. 9:41; 10:21, 42-43; Lk. 6:23, 35; 9:48; 12:21, 33; 14:11; 16:11; 18:14, 22; 19:17-19; 22:26-30; Jn. 12:26; Rev. 2:7, 10-11, 17, 26-28; 3:4-5, 9, 11-12, 18, 21; 11:18; 16:5; 19:7-8; 22:12).

K.Expression #10 *The Father plans for and calls forth His children to their divine destiny:*

The Father prepared the kingdom for His children. He calls forth the destiny of His children by helping them see themselves as He does. He does this through the Word and by speaking through others. Jesus called Peter, "a rock" (Mt. 16:18) and John, "a son of thunder" (Mk. 3:17).

³⁴"*Then the King will say... 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'"* (Mt. 25:34)

⁹*But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."* (1 Cor. 2:9)

L.The Father feels about you the same way that He feels about Jesus. This is the ultimate revelation of our worth. John 17:23 beckons us to become lifelong students of how the Father loves the Son and, thus, gain insight into how the Father loves us. The Spirit will teach us about God's love. Pray, "*Holy Spirit let me see and feel what You see and feel about the Father's love for me.*"

²³"*...that the world may know that You [the Father]...loved them as You have loved Me.*"
(Jn. 17:23)

1. The Father always loves us in the way that He loves Jesus because He only loves in fullness. He does not withhold His love when a sincere believer stumbles or struggles with sin.
2. The Lord always loves in fullness because He is always 100% true to who He is. Never for one moment is He less than 100% loving or 100% wise or righteous. He cannot ever be less than who He is; if He did, He would deny Himself—even if He was 1% deficient in one attribute. He will never diminish or grow in love because His love is infinite in measure and eternal in duration.

IV. BEHOLDING GOD'S LOVE BY TALKING TO GOD ABOUT IT

A.We are to *behold* or be attentive to the quality of the Father's love for us (1 Jn. 3:1).

¹*Behold what manner [quality] of love the Father has bestowed on us...* (1 Jn. 3:1)

B. We “behold” or engage with the Father by speaking the truths about Him back to Him. Talking with God is the core activity of abiding in Christ. Bible study is to lead us into conversation with God by giving the “conversational material” for our prayer life. It is simply speaking the truths of the Word back to Him as we read it. (*For free notes on How to “Pray-Read” the Word, see mikebickle.org*)

²Take words with you, and return to the LORD. (Hos. 14:2)

C. In Deuteronomy 30, Moses taught that the command to love and obey God was not *too mysterious* (too hard to understand), nor was not it *far off* (outside their ability), nor did they need to *ascend to heaven* (have a heavenly encounter), nor *go overseas* (to receive it at a revival center) to do it.

¹¹This commandment [30:6]...is *not too mysterious* for you, *nor is it far off*. ¹²It is *not in heaven*, that you should say, “Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us...?” ¹³Nor is it *beyond the sea*, that you should say, “Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us...?” ¹⁴The word is *very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. (Deut. 30:11-14)*

D. There is a connection between what we say with our mouth and what our heart believes, or is moved by, with confidence. In Romans 10, Paul referred to what Moses said in Deuteronomy 30:14.

⁸The word is near you, *in your mouth...that is, the word of faith...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart...you will be saved [from the penalty of sin]. ¹⁰For with...the mouth confession is made unto salvation [freedom in this age]. (Rom. 10:8-10)*

1. When we speak God’s promises back to God, and they get into our conversation with the Lord, it releases the power of God a little bit on our heart. It is near us.
2. Start talking to the Spirit about it—engaging in conversation with Him—you will experience small measures of insight and inspiration on your heart. Over the years it increases. But we must get His promises into our mouth in our conversation with God. You will find out that you do not need to cross the sea, or wait for a heavenly visitation.

E. Our words are powerful in causing faith or fear to grow in us. If our words agree with God’s Word, we release His power in our life. If our words agree with lies, we allow darkness to continue. Many have “faith” in the devil’s words. The war of words determines who has dominion in our heart.