

The Gospel of John

Oneness with the Father

John 14:7-15

INTRODUCTION:

This morning we will be continuing in the Gospel of John. Please open your Bibles to chapter 14. Last week we finished with verse 6. It is Thursday night. We find ourselves still in the upper room with Jesus and the eleven faithful disciples. This night was so important that God gave it almost 6 whole chapters of the 21 chapters in John.

The evening has become quite depressing. Judas has left. Peter has been told that he will deny the Lord three times that very night before the rooster crows. And they are all going to scatter and forsake Him.

Not only that, but Jesus keeps telling them that He is leaving and they would not be able to go where He is going for now. He has even told them that He would be arrested, beaten, and murdered just as the Old Testament had prophesied.

They have been with Him for three full years. They love Him and believe in Him, but they are **very** confused. Their entire sense of what was supposed to happen has disappeared. All of their hopes and ambitions are collapsing around them.

How could Jesus die?

Wasn't He supposed to be setting up an earthly kingdom? That is what the Messiah was supposed to do according to **their** theology. They had been arguing between themselves who would be greatest in His kingdom. This kingdom was supposed to bring glory for the Lord and for them. But now it seemed there was not even going to be a kingdom. This is **not** how it was supposed to happen!

How could this be?

We have forsaken **everything** to follow You and now **You** are going to abandon us? If you leave us behind in the middle of hateful enemies, they will certainly attempt to murder us as well! This is happening so quickly. They are having a very hard time trying to process it all.

Jesus understood their anxiety. They were continuing to see things from an earthly perspective. They did not understand the spiritual implications of what was about to take place. They still thought that Jesus was going to set up an earthly kingdom. But instead they are about to experience the arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane that night and He will be tried and hung on the cross by tomorrow afternoon.

So He takes a break from His effort to prepare them for what was about to occur in order to comfort them.

He tells them "Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in me." I am leaving so I can prepare a place for each of you in heaven. You cannot go with me now, but you will be able to come in the future and you will know how to get there.

Thomas spoke for the group and said "'Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?'"

It is at the cross where Jesus will provide the **way** for our salvation. They couldn't go now because He had not yet paved the way.

Thomas acknowledges that they still do not grasp that He is talking about His death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven. If we do not know where you are going, how can we know the way to get there? They are still trying to process this from earthly terms. Will we have to build a spaceship and follow a Google map?

And Jesus tells him, "**I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.**"

What He is about to teach them is that there is a transition that is about to take place. I am leaving and I will be handing you off to God. And that is where our text begins this morning.

Stand and Read Scripture

John 14:7-15 (NASB)

⁷ If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you 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 so long with you, and *yet* you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who 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 initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Truly, truly, 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 the Father.

¹³ Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do *it*.

¹⁵ "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

Prayer

BODY:

I. THE PERSON OF CHRIST.

John 14:7 (NASB)

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

They understood God as the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. And they knew He was the Son of God. Now He's saying, "I'm going to the Father," and they are deeply troubled by this. And so He is saying, You need to arrive at the place where you believe in Me **and** you believe in God. "If you have seen me you have seen the Father."

It is pretty easy to live by sight, right?

They have woken up every morning for three years and Jesus was there. Even when they feared that things were going bad, He was always able to avoid the obstacles in front of them. He had provided everything they needed in life.

Now He was about to open the floodgates of heaven and pour out blessings which they were not prepared to comprehend.

The disciples knew and confessed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. They knew and confessed that He was the Holy One of God. They knew and confessed that He was the Messiah, the Anointed One. They knew and confessed that He was the Son of David.

So what did Jesus mean when He said "**If you had known Me**"?

As much as they knew, it still wasn't the full story. Yes, they knew He was the Son of God. They knew He was the Messiah. They knew He was the Holy One of God. But what does that fully mean? Obviously, it came short of knowing this: "**If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.**"

So what they didn't really understand was that He was, in truth, God incarnate. He was God in the flesh. He was also deity. He was God in spirit. What they didn't understand is what we read in Hebrews.

Hebrews 1:3-4 (NASB)

³ And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

He was, "**The exact representation of God**". Jesus was the **visible** image of the **invisible** Father. So even though they could **not** see the **invisible** Father, they could see Him through the **visible** Christ.

In other words, what they believed and confessed was accurate, but not complete. They didn't get the whole picture.

John 14:8 (NASB)

⁸ Philip *said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."

Notice that Philip says "us". He is speaking for all the disciples. "**Show us the Father.**"

He wants Jesus to show them a sign, a vision of the Father, such as the burning bush. Philip thinks that if Jesus can do this, it will be **the** "sign" that will confirm all He has said and they will be satisfied.

They want a visible God. We want a God we can touch or we are going to have trouble believing." This is a preview of Thomas: "**If I don't see, I won't believe.**"

So this is their mentality. Then Jesus answers him in verse 9.

John 14:9-11 (NASB)

⁹ Jesus *said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and *yet* you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who 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 initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

Come on, Philip. You have been with Me three years! You still don’t get it? All the time you have been with Me you have been with the Father. “**He who has seen Me has seen the Father.** How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

They should have known. What I have taught you is truth. He continues in verse 10...

John 14:10-11 (NASB)

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 initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

Remember back in chapter 7 when the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers out to seize Jesus? They came back empty handed and the leaders ask why.

John 7:46 (NASB)

⁴⁶ The officers answered, “Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks.”

Also in chapter 8 the Pharisees unsuccessfully tried to seize Him.

John 8:18-20 (NASB)

¹⁸ I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me.”
¹⁹ So they were saying to Him, “Where is Your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also.” ²⁰ These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.

Jesus expected the cynical, skeptical, and unbelieving Jewish leaders to want to see the Father in order to believe, but He was probably disappointed that Philip and the disciples demanded it as well.

Jesus had just told them that He is the way, the **truth**, and the life. They are still having a hard time believing everything Jesus was teaching them. This is the problem: **They are finding it hard to live by faith!** They were so used to **seeing** Jesus. However, no man has ever seen God, at any time, in His fullness. God is not visible. God is the invisible God. Sometimes He manifests Himself in a cloud, or a pillar of fire, or some vision; but has never manifested Himself with such clarity as He did in the person of Jesus Christ. They want a vision of God.

We tend to go there as well at times. If you came here to see a miracle in order to believe, you are not likely to see one. If you came here to hear the audible voice of God or to

physically see Him in order to believe, it is not going to happen. If you came here to be surrounded by angels or to talk with your dead uncle, it is not going to happen.

Here, we live in faith. I, unlike the disciples, have never seen Jesus. I have never had a vision of Jesus. I have never met an angel face to face. But I believe with all my heart that God exists, Christ exists, and the Holy Spirit exists.

Why do I believe? Do I have some elevated spiritual sight?

No. I have this book. It is obviously the revelation of God and the only one I need.

I do see Jesus in this book. I do meet angels in this book. I do hear the voice of heaven here. I do understand the location of my dead relatives by reading this book. I do see God revealed throughout the pages of this book. It is the truth and I believe it.

We live by that faith, faith in the invisible God of Holy Scripture. So we are not here offering miracles or supernatural experiences. The miracle that we do get to experience is the miracle of salvation when God transfers someone from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of His beloved Son. That is a total transformation of a human being from spiritual death into life.

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

I died on the cross to provide the way. I speak only the true words of My Father. I am the only One who can give spiritual life. Believe the words through faith in order that I may give life and provide the way!

Remember doubting Thomas? He said "I will not believe until I See".

John 20:24-29 (NASB)

²⁴ But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.
²⁵ So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

²⁶ After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus *came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace *be* with you."

²⁷ Then He *said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing."

²⁸ Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus *said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed *are* they who did not see, and *yet* believed."

We are the blessed who having not seen, yet believe.

Jesus is telling His disciples "You're going to have to go from sight to faith. You've heard My words. You know no one's ever spoken the way I speak. You've seen My works. You know no one can do these works except the power of God be in him. You should know who I am."

Jesus has reinforced the understanding of his person. Now He is going to reinforce their understanding of His power.

II. THE POWER OF CHRIST.

John 14:12 (NASB)

¹² Truly, truly, 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 the Father.

Every time Jesus starts a sentence with "Truly, truly" it indicates that He is about to tell them something that they do not currently know or believe. Jesus sent His apostles out to an unbelieving world with the gospel message that He had died on the cross for their salvation. This was very difficult task that would cost all but John their lives.

Before the Scripture was written, God validated what the disciples were teaching by allowing them to do miracles powered by the Holy Spirit. The miracles that they will perform will not be greater in kind, but greater in outreach.

What is greater than a healing, a resurrection, or casting out demons? Nothing. But their miracles will be greater in outreach. The miracles were needed during the time of the early church. Once the scriptures were written, the need for them went away.

III. THE PROMISE OF CHRIST.

John 14:13-14 (NASB)

¹³ Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do *it*.

¹⁵ "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

In addition to these comforting words, Jesus adds another proof for His divine identity. He will answer their prayers.

"If you ask anything in My name, I'll do it." What does that mean? Does that mean if you ask anything and say, "In Jesus' name, Amen," whamo, Jesus does it for you? NO. Our request must be consistent with His will.

1 John 5:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus knew that the disciples were confused and troubled. So he tried to comfort them by telling them that when He left He would prepare an eternal place for all believers. When He left He was going to send the Holy Spirit to reside within them and help them in their ministry. He will aid them by helping them to remember the words that Jesus had taught them and allow them to perform miracles. He also would answer their prayers.

The consistent message through the Gospels is to believe. If we believe we will serve Him.

John 14:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

This is the Day.