

## ***Jesus: “The Way to the Father” Promises “The Holy Spirit”***

*John 14:1-31*

*In chapter thirteen just after having washed the disciples' feet, Jesus explained that His life must serve as an example for them (13:15). As they gathered for their “Last Supper” Jesus announced that [Judas] would lift up his heel against the Son of God (13:18). Judas then arose from his seat and went out into the night. Jesus also declared that before the rooster crows, Peter will disown Jesus three times (13:38). Now in an upper room, on the last night before His crucifixion, Jesus gives His final instructions to the disciples.*

### **Read & Discuss John 14:1-14**

*“Jesus is the Way to the Father”*

v.1-4 – These verses answer Peter’s question from 13:36-37. What four-fold cure does Jesus present for troubled hearts?

Over what were the disciples troubled (John 13:33)? What two promises are made in verse 3?

v.5 –The disciples were still expecting Jesus to establish an earthly kingdom and overthrow Rome. Not quite understanding, Thomas says: “*if we don't know the address, how are we supposed to know the route*”? Look up: John 12:16

v.6 - Throughout this Gospel we hear of Jesus' coming *from* the Father, revealing the nature of God, bringing new life and then returning to the Father. But now the focus is on Jesus' role as the one who leads people *to* the Father.

*Truth and life* describe Jesus' role in this Gospel as revealer and life-giver. When Adam’s rebellion separated us from God, we plunged into ignorance and death. Now the way to the Father requires both revelation, because of man’s ignorance, and life, due to man’s death.

v.8- Philip’s focus on the Father is correct but he does not yet fully understand that he has already seen the Father in Jesus. He says “*even though we trust you, if you could show us your Father that will take care of our troubled hearts*”.

v.9-11 – Jesus says they should trust His claim or, if need be, go to the evidence of the deeds he has done. These deeds have shown “*[Jesus'] glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth*” (1:14). The faith at issue is if man really encounters God in his encounter with Jesus, that Jesus and the Father are one. Until they grasp this aspect of Jesus' identity they cannot really understand anything else about him.

v.12 - What are the “greater things”? Look up: John 15:16, Acts 1:8

v.13-14 – Carefully breakdown – to what extent / in whose name / and for what end will prayer be answered?

### **Read & Discuss John 14:15-31**

*“Jesus Promise the Holy Spirit”*

v.15- “*Saving faith is a faith that produces obedience. It is a faith that brings about a way of life.*” – Billy Graham

v.16-17 – Aside from 1:32, here is the first of several references to the Counselor, the Holy Spirit (*parakletos* = an adjective meaning “called alongside”). Other references in John - 14:16-17, 14:26, 15:26, 16:7-11, 16:13-15

v.17 – The Spirit is not absent before the glorification. In fact, he is present, living with the disciples, in Jesus (John 1:32), and is unrecognized by the world. But the Spirit has not yet been sent to, and received by them in the new way.

v.18-20 - Jesus is the only way to the Father (v. 6), and apart from Him we are literally orphaned. Not only will they not be abandoned, they will enter into the new kind of life Jesus has been talking about throughout His ministry. They will *live* because they will be united with Jesus through the Spirit and come to share in the life of He who is “*The Resurrection and the Life*” (John 11:25). All of this is made possible by Jesus' death and resurrection. The indwelling of verse 20 is what will enable the disciples to accomplish the task of doing “greater things” (v. 12).

v.21-24 – What prompts obedience to Christ, and what is the result of that obedience? Who do not obey His teaching?

v.27 - Here is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophets' promise of peace. Look up: Isaiah 9:6-7; 52:7; Ezekiel 37:26 The peace that Jesus gives is grounded in God and not in circumstances. Soon Jesus will speak of the continued trouble His disciples will experience in the world (15:18 - 16:4). They will share His troubles, but they will also have His peace.

v. 29 - Jesus says: “*The very fact that I am telling you all of this ahead of time is itself a part of my message of assurance and peace.*” Jesus knows what is about to occur. He knows these events as devastating as they will seem, rather than undermine the disciples’ faith in Jesus, should strengthen it because it will serve as a fulfillment of prophecy.

v.31 – Despite the words: “*come now; let us leave*”, it appears that Jesus and the disciples do not actually leave this upper room location (during their “Last Supper”) for the Garden of Gethsemane until John 18:1. Some commentators suggest that they stood to leave but lingered to talk further. Others however suggest the next three chapters were spoken on route to the garden.