



The Way, the Truth & the Life

John 13:36-14:20

Weakness in Time of Trouble

- ❑ After Jesus tells his disciples he is going away, he commands them to “love one another” (*John 13:33-34*). But Peter seems more concerned with Jesus’ departure than his command. Read *John 13:36-38*.¹ Peter is not as strong as he thinks.

Way to the Father

- ❑ In the midst of his own troubles (*13:21; 12:27*), Jesus is sensitive to his disciples’ troubles. Jesus has said that he is going away, and where he is going, they cannot come. The disciples are filled with confusion and uncertainty, and things will get worse. Read *John 14:1-11*.

1. In verses 1-4,² how does Jesus encourage and comfort his disciples? What is Jesus talking about?³



- ❑ In verse 4, Jesus says, “You know the way to the place where I am going”. Thomas responds, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” (*14:5*)

2. How does Jesus answer Thomas’ question? What does Jesus say about “the way”?⁴ (*14:6*)

3. Jesus says the only way to the Father (God), and to the “Father’s house” (heaven), is through him (*14:6*). How can Jesus make such an exclusive claim?⁵ (*14:7-11*)

- ❑ Jesus claims a unique unity with the Father. To know Jesus is to know the Father. To see Jesus is to see the Father (*14:7, 9*). Jesus’ words and works are the Father’s words and works (*14:10*). Jesus tells the disciples to believe what he says⁶ (*14:11*).

📖 Jesus said, “I and the Father are one”. (*John 10:30*)

📖 John wrote, “No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.” (*John 1:18*)

¹ This dialogue is recorded in all four Gospels. We will see what happens in *John 18:15-18, 25-27*.

² “room” (*14:2*) – “dwelling place” (*monē*); “I will come back” (*14:4*) – refers primarily to his second coming.

³ The remedy for a troubled heart is “to trust” (*pisteuō* – believe) in God, and Jesus. Jesus is going away, but it is necessary for him to “prepare a place for [them]” in his “Father’s house” (i.e., “heaven”). This “preparation” requires Jesus’ death and resurrection. Jesus will come back and take them there, where they will be with him.

⁴ Jesus does not merely point to the way. He says, “I am the way”. He also says he is “the truth and the life”.

⁵ Jesus can make this claim because of who He is. He is not merely a teacher or prophet. He claims a unique unity with God the Father (*14:7, 9-11*). He is “the Son of God” (*1:34*). He is the image of the invisible God (*Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3*). He is “the truth” because God is the source of truth; he is “the life” because God is the source of life; and Jesus is God in human flesh (*John 1:1-4, 14*). To have a relationship with God is to have a relationship with the Son.

⁶ To “believe in Jesus” is to believe his words are true. If they have doubts, they should at least believe based on the evidence of the miracles (*erga* – works). These “works” are signs that point to the reality of God in Christ (*14:11b*).

Promise of Greater Works

- ❑ Read John 14:11-20. After speaking of his works⁷ in verse 11, Jesus tells his disciples, “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father” (14:12, *ESV*).
4. How can believers do “greater works” than Jesus?⁸ Has this really happened?



Prayer, Love & Obedience

- ❑ Jesus says he will do whatever his disciples ask “in his name”. We pray “in Jesus’ name” because he is “the Way”. To truly pray “in Jesus’ name” is to pray in a way consistent with his character and will. The proper motivation is to “bring glory to the Father” (14:13).
- ❑ Jesus says, “If you love me, you will obey what I command” (14:15), and “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching” (14:23).⁹ Our obedience is evidence of our love.

Promise of God's Presence & Life

- ❑ Jesus will ask the Father to give the disciples another Counselor¹⁰ to be with them forever (14:16). This “Counselor” is “the Spirit of truth” – the Holy Spirit (14:17a; 26a). The Spirit will teach them all things and remind them of everything Jesus has said to them (14:26).¹¹
- ❑ Jesus’ disciples will “know”, “see” and “realize” things the world cannot. As Jesus said...
 - 📖 “The world cannot accept the Spirit...but you know him, for he lives in you” (14:17).¹²
 - 📖 “...the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me” (14:19a).¹³
 - 📖 “...you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you” (14:20).
- ❑ Jesus says, “Because I live, you also will live” (14:19b).¹⁴ Jesus is “the life” (11:25; 14:6).

The Life & You

- Do you desire a relationship with the Creator of the universe – the Source of eternal life and blessing? Jesus is “the way and the truth and the life” (14:6). Do you need to receive him?
- If you are a believer, Jesus’ promises apply to you.¹⁵ The Holy Spirit lives in you, and you have a special relationship with God. You have life because Jesus lives. Do you think about these things in your daily life? This week, reflect on John 14:15-31; and trust and obey.

⁷ The word “miracles” (*erga*) in the NIV is more literally translated “works” (*ESV, NASB, TNIV, NKJV, NLT*).

⁸ Believers have done “greater works” *because* Jesus went to the Father. Jesus’ going to the Father involved his death and resurrection (thus defeating sin and death) followed by the sending of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit would empower Jesus’ followers to do “greater works”, not only miracles (Acts 8:6, 13; 14:8-10; 19:11-12), but many other works, resulting in millions of transformed lives, and the expansion of God’s kingdom in human hearts.

⁹ “what I command” (*entolai* - commands); “teaching” (*logos* – word). Also see John 14:21. Jesus is not saying we earn God’s love by our obedience. But loving God through obedience is evidence of a loving relationship with him.

¹⁰ “another Counselor” (*allon paraklēton*) - *Paraklētos* comes from the verb *parakaleō*, literally, “to call alongside”. *Paraklētos* could be translated “Helper” (*ESV, NASB*), or perhaps better, “Advocate” (*TNIV, NLT*). In secular Greek, the word meant “legal counsel or advocate”. Jesus will go away to the “Father’s house”, but he will send “another Paraclete” (the Holy Spirit) to be with them forever. The Holy Spirit will enable them to do “greater works” (14:12).

¹¹ This role applied specifically to the first disciples, who would be involved in the establishment of the church and the writing of the New Testament. Jesus will later mention other roles of the Holy Spirit (15:26; 16:7-15).

¹² “The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Corinthians 2:14, *NIV*).

¹³ After his resurrection, Jesus did not appear to “the world” but to his disciples and other believers (or, in Saul’s case, a believer-to-be). Today, the world does not “see” Jesus, but believers “see” him through the eyes of faith.

¹⁴ As the apostle Paul wrote, “...just as Christ was raised from the dead...we too may live a new life” (Romans 6:4).

¹⁵ Particular promises apply specifically to his disciples (e.g. 14:19, 26), but the truths extend to all his followers.