

Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of January 23, 2022

John 14:1-14

Sermon Series: *This is Love*

SHARE FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE

When was a difficult time for you when someone was going away?

The disciples were shocked and troubled by Jesus' announcement that He was going away. Some experiences you hear might be very heavy.

JESUS MESSAGE ABOUT HIS GOING AWAY

Note: This passage summarizes what Jesus' disciples should understand about Him from their years of being with Him. Jesus appeals to three aspects: His character (how He has lived), His words (what He has revealed), and His works (His miracles and acts of love). In this intimate time before the cross, Jesus prepares and encourages His disciples. Read John 14:1-14 and consider a few questions.

Jesus had repeatedly spoken of his upcoming betrayal and death. What did Jesus now say that alarmed the disciples? (13:33, 36)

- That Jesus' time with them was short
- That they will seek Him, but that where He is going, they cannot come/follow
- He spoke of them (34-35) as though He was not going to be around
- That they cannot follow Him now but will follow later (a repeated statement)

What would you say was Jesus aim with His disciples? (14:1-3) What was Jesus feeling at this time? (12:27; 13:21)

What Jesus was feeling:

12:27 - "Now My heart has become troubled"

13:21 – "Jesus was troubled in spirit"

The word translated as "troubled" could also be translated as "to be stirred up", "disturbed" Even while feeling this way, Jesus aim was to encourage them and call them to trust.

Why was Jesus going away? What would happen because Jesus was going to the Father?

This is an important thing to see. Jesus went away for important reasons:

- Jesus would be with his Father (as before)
- Jesus would prepare a place for His followers
- Jesus would enable disciples to do the works that He has been doing
- Jesus would give us full access to the Father in prayer
- Jesus would send the Holy Spirit to be with us (v. 16)

What was Jesus' destination? What does he want for our final destination? How did Jesus say that they could reach this destination? (14:2-3, 6 and 1 Peter 3:18; Revelation 21:3)

Jesus destination was to be with the Father. This is also our final destination. Jesus came to bring us to God. (1 Peter 3:18). John 14:6 says that we can only come to the Father through Him.

How was/is Jesus the "way" to the Father?

He is the way because of what He did on the cross and resurrection.

How was/is Jesus the "truth" that we need to reach the Father?

He is the truth, He gave us the good news.

How was/is Jesus the "life" that we need?

He is the life. It is through him that we can have eternal life.

How many times do the words, "faith, believe, trust, or ask" occur? How are these connected? What were they to believe?

Eight times. All of these point to a relationship with God that we live out by faith, trusting in His Word and works, coming to Him in prayer.

They / we are to believe that Jesus and the Father are one, that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that to know Him is to know God, to see Him is to see God.

What was Jesus appeal for the disciples to believe and trust?

They / we are to trust in Jesus for the immediate and the eternal future. Jesus can bring us to the Father.

What does Jesus want them to understand about Himself and the Father?

They / we are to believe that Jesus and the Father are one, that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus speaks the words and does the works of the Father.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

Much has been said about Jesus exclusive claim to be the only way to the Father. What would the disciples (or us) know that would back up that claim? And why did Jesus say that? (See also 1 Peter 3:18)

- First the 'why' Jesus made this exclusive claim. If it is true, that the only way to the Father is through Him, then to teach anything would be cruel, giving people false hope in anyone or anything else.
- What the disciples knew / saw / heard:
 - Only Jesus has the character of God including perfect in every way and without sin
 - Only Jesus did the works of supernatural God. This includes controlling demons and weather, healing, multiplying food, raising the dead.
 - Only Jesus taught with authority how to know God, what God is like, etc.
 - Only Jesus prophesied that He would die for the sins of others and rise from the dead.
 - Only Jesus rose from the dead

How do you see Jesus' love in this part of their conversation / evening together?

Though Jesus was troubled, His focus was on the wellbeing and instruction of others. He revealed truth that would lead people to eternal life – the ultimate act of love. He encouraged them to trust God with their lives and future. There is no better place. He kindly and patiently encouraged and retaught them things that He had covered before. He gave them great promises and assurances.

Jesus made a striking promise in verse 12. How could this possibly be true?

John 14:12 "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."

Obviously we will not do works that are greater in quality.

But, Jesus could say "greater" because it will be greater in scope (the whole world, every tribe and tongue), so greater in quantity. We are on this side of the death, burial, and resurrection; we can bring a message and works belonging to the new kingdom and share the full teachings of Jesus' every work and word around the world and for all time.