

The Gospel of John Pt. 22

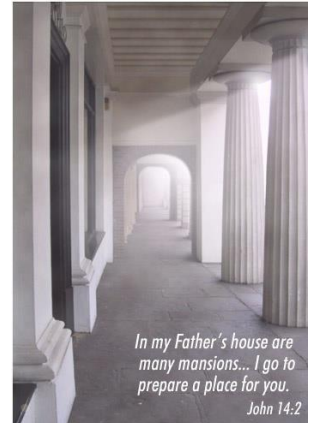
John 14:1-15

Big Idea

Jesus prepares His disciples for His departure while comforting them with His union with the Father and promises of the Spirit and the Kingdom to come.

Exposition – John 14:1-15

The Upper Room discourse continues with one of the most beautiful and comforting passages in the Bible. Seeing that His disciples will be overwhelmed with anxiety, discouragement, and questions, Jesus gives them promises that will encourage and strengthen them for the mission ahead.



1. The Way to the Kingdom (V1-6)

- A. (V1) – Jesus subtly reveals one of the most life-giving principles of the Christian faith. He proposes that the answer to “trouble” (horror, anxiety, agitation (12:27;13:21)), is to have faith. He speaks with assumption that they believe in God and in the same way they should believe in Him.
- B. (V2-3) – There has been some debate about whether it should read “mansions”, “dwelling places”, or something else. We prefer “mansions” because of their grandeur. However, since they are units in the Father’s House some modular term is likely more accurate.
- C. (V6) – This is the sixth of seven metaphorical “I AM” statements in the book of John. There are two other places in the Book of John where “I am” statements are made, but they are declarations of God’s name rather than metaphors (8:58; 18:4-5)
 - 1. Bread of Life (6:35, 41, 48, 51)
 - 2. Light of the World (8:12; 9:5)
 - 3. The Door (10:7, 9)
 - 4. The Good Shepherd (10:11, 14)
 - 5. The Resurrection and the Life (11:25)
 - 6. The Way and the Truth and the Life (14:6)
 - 7. The True Vine (15:6)

In this verse Jesus speaks emphatically, He is the only way to the Father. He is THE way because He is THE Truth of God (1:14) and He is the THE Life of God (1:4; 3:15; 11:25)

2. Tri-Unity (V7-15)

- A. (V7-9) -- A central part of orthodox Christian theology is that God has primarily revealed Himself to man in two ways: the Scriptures and through Christ Jesus, Himself (2 Cor 4:4; Col 1:15). Here Jesus speaks to that unique relationship that He has with the Father. Think of the particular dynamics of that relationship:
 - 1. The members of the Trinity are unique, but essential to each other.
 - 2. Each of the members are God.
 - 3. Each member has a unique part in the action and execution of the divine will.
 - 4. Each member is perfectly and fully unified with the whole of the Trinity.
- B. (V10) – Remember that Jesus came to earth to do the will of the Father (6:38)
- C. (V11) – “believe because of the works themselves” – Jesus said essentially this same thing to the Jews in John 10:38. As said about the Jews, this is a great example of Jesus striving with man. Jesus extends an olive branch of thought to Thomas by saying, “If you don’t believe in me by faith then you must at least acknowledge the works I’ve done are compelling.”

- D. (V12) – By “greater works” Jesus is referring to the impact or reach of the works rather than the power of the works. We have now seen 2000 years of works by Jesus’ followers that have reached to the ends of the Earth and many millions of people. Jesus also adds that it would be by the power of the “Comforter” that these works would be done.
- E. (V13-15) – Whatever His followers ask that are consistent with His Kingdom purposes, He would grant.

3. The Blessings of the Spirit (V16-31)

- A. Supernatural Helper (V16-17) -- Helper, Comforter, Counselor all used here to refer to the Holy Spirit. There are some logical conclusions that can be derived from the text: The Father is the giver of the Spirit; the Spirit is truth; the world cannot have Him; the world does not see Him or know Him; the Spirit abides with the believer. Paul writes, *“The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, **does not dwell in temples made with hands**”* (Acts 17:24)
- B. Supernatural Life (V18-19) – Jesus loosely refers to His death. But, He promises to not leave His followers alone. Jesus uses this kind of language a couple other places in John (16:16, 22). He looks beyond the crucifixion and death, to life and eternity. One cannot help but remember John 10:10 here, *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life and have it abundantly”*.
- C. Supernatural Union (V20-25) – Three different times in these verses Jesus uses if/then/then logic:
 1. V21 – If one has my commands and keeps them **then** he loves Me **then** I will disclose Myself to him
 2. V23 – If anyone loves Me **then** he will keep My word **then** We will make Our abode with him
 3. V24 – If anyone does not love Me then he will not keep my words
Jesus’ emphasis here is that true union with Him always produces a life that produces obedience and fruit. And, when fruit is absent, so must be the union with Him. Faith without works is dead (James 2:14-26)
- D. Supernatural Teacher (V26) – It has been said that the Holy Spirit has three basic roles: Comfort, Counsel, and Convict. We can see all three present in the larger passage here. The Spirit is referred to by Jesus as the “Counselor” depending on Bible translation in light of His impending death. The Holy Spirit Convicts when a believer has not kept His commands and thereby draws us back to obedience. Finally, the Holy Spirit counsels believers by “teaching all things and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”
- E. Supernatural Peace (V27-31) – Jesus is the Prince of Peace. But, in our time, we know the Peace of Jesus by the ministry of the Holy Spirit whom He sent upon His ascension to the Father. This peace is a distinguishing mark of the believer. The peace of Jesus: gives composure in times of difficulty (V1); erases fear (Phil 4:7); and maintains harmony (Col 3:15).



Verse 28 presents some difficulty in understanding. MacArthur explains it this way,

“Jesus was not admitting inferiority to the Father, but was saying that if the disciples loved Him, they would not be reluctant to let Him go to the Father because He was returning to the realm where He belonged and to the full glory He gave up. He was going back to share equal glory with the Father that would be greater than what He had experienced in His incarnation. He will in no way be inferior in that glory, because His humiliation was over.”

(V29) -- Jesus intends that His words here, once fulfilled, will bolster the faith of all believers.

(V30) – Jesus refers to His Satanic ploy being worked out in the life of Judas Iscariot. The Bible is full of different names and allusions for Satan: Lucifer, Angel of Light, Prince of the Power of the Air, Ruler of the World, Evil One, Father of Lies, Enemy, Evil One, Deceiver, Antichrist, and others

(V31) – Chapter 14 closes with Jesus again expressing the particular role that He has played in His incarnation over and against the role of the Father. This closes the Upper Room discourse.