

Replacing Fear With Hope (John 14:1-14)

I. Faith Must Replace Fear (14:1)

A. Jesus Exhorts the Disciples not to be Troubled

1. "Do not let your hearts be troubled"
2. Jesus has just told them that one would betray Him
3. Jesus has just told Peter that he would deny Him
4. To the Disciples, it seemed like everything was falling apart
 - a. They believed God's Kingdom was coming to earth
 - b. They believed Jesus would reign over all things
 - c. Now their hopes are being destroyed
 - d. Jesus has told them He is leaving and they can't follow Him
 - e. God has a perfect plan – Jesus submitted to it, but the disciples are having trouble trusting everything will be OK.
 - f. This applies whenever we don't understand what God is doing and we don't understand why we go through things.

B. Jesus Exhorts the Disciples to Believe Instead of Be Afraid

1. He tells them to believe in God the Father and the Son
 - a. This could be taken as either a command or a statement of fact – "believe in God...." Or "you believe in God"
 - b. Fear (i.e. troubled hearts) cannot be just willed away – it must be replaced with something – Faith in Christ
 - c. We fight with our hearts and minds to focus ourselves on God and his power rather than our fears.
2. He is going to give them Reasons to trust rather than be afraid
3. The rest of this section is Jesus teaching them truths which are reasons they should not fear but hold to their faith in Christ even in the face of all the evil things which are about to happen.

REASONS TO TRUST RATHER THAN BE AFRAID

II. Jesus is Going to Prepare Their Place with the Father (2-3)

A. Jesus Goes to Prepare our place in Heaven (2)

1. Jesus says there are many mansions ("dwelling places") in the Father's house
 - a. Jesus is telling them that He is going to the Father's house
 - b. Jesus is going to be with the Father
2. Jesus says they can be sure that it is so
 - a. He is calling them to believe in His word
 - b. He is telling them that if it wasn't so He would have definitely told them
 - c. He never makes promises that He doesn't keep

- d. He never plays games with the truth like we do
- 3. Jesus is leaving to prepare Our place with the Father
 - a. He is not just leaving them
 - b. He is leaving so that they may join Him
 - c. "Prepare" their place doesn't mean he is going to finish building heaven – it means He must go to the cross to open the way for them to be able to come in – How does the cross open the way?

B. Jesus will Return to Take Us to Himself (3)

1. Jesus Promises to Return

- a. He is not simply leaving them – He is leaving them for a time
- b. Later He will tell them that He isn't leaving them alone – He leaves the Comforter with them
- c. He promises that He will return to take us unto Himself

2. Jesus Promises to Take us Where He is

- a. Most commentators and scholars think Jesus is referring to the second coming here. From the grammar of the passage, and other clues, they see Jesus telling them about the end when He returns to consummate the new creation
- b. From the context, I have a hard time accepting this view (although it is possible, and most of those scholars are way smarter than me)
- c. Remember Jesus is looking eleven men in the face and telling them, I will come again to receive "You" – The promise is for us as well as them but if we relegate the promise to the second coming, it leaves out those disciples that sat right in front of Him.
- d. Jesus says that He is returning to take them where He is going – But those eleven men are long dead and Scripture tells us that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord
- e. If they are present with the Lord right now (because they are in heaven) – Jesus' promise to return and take them with Him is irrelevant if it refers to the second coming because they are already with Him
- f. I think Jesus is speaking of the believers death – At that time He will return and receive you unto Himself. He did it for those 11 men and He will do it for all believers (Like I said, that's how I am leaning – but remaining open to correction)

III. Jesus is Giving Himself to Provide a Way to the Father (4-7)

A. Jesus Is the Only Way to the Father (4-6)

1. Jesus Claims they Know the Way (4)

- a. Jesus has been telling them about the crucifixion/resurrection throughout his ministry
 - b. In the last verse, He told them plainly, "I am going to my Father's house"
 - 2. They Still Doubt Jesus' Word (5)
 - a. Thomas denies that they know the way
 - b. It's as if He didn't even hear what Jesus just said.
 - c. Rather than take His word and trust it, it's like it went in one ear and out the other
 - d. We are the same way about so many things
 - 3. Jesus Tells them Plainly – He is the way (6)
 - a. He is the way, the truth, and the life
 - b. Everything we need for eternity is found in Him
 - c. There is nothing else we need – He perfectly completes us in the Father's eyes
 - d. He is not just one who points the way – he is the way
 - e. No one will ever come to God the Father except through Him
 - B. Jesus Perfectly Displays the Father For Us (7)
 - 1. To Know Jesus is to Know the Father –
 - a. John 1:18 - No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him
 - b. Jesus is not claiming to be the Father – He is the perfect display and reflection of the Father
 - c. Jesus speaks as if they have not fully understood Him or the Father yet
 - 2. They will Know the Father Through Christ's Work
 - a. "From now on" – you do know the Father
 - b. Jesus will perfectly express the love and the justice of the Father by going to the cross
 - c. In the coming hours, they will see and know everything about God the Father and the Son
- IV. Jesus is in Perfect Unity with the Father (8-10)
- A. Jesus' Word is Doubted and Misunderstood Again (8)
 - 1. Philip asks to see the Father
 - 2. Jesus has just told them that they have seen the Father
 - 3. Jesus has just told them that they will see the perfection of the Father and the son
 - 4. Philip, like so many of us needs to "see" before He can believe
 - 5. He wants to know how it is all going to work before He trusts in it
 - B. Jesus Himself Has Revealed the Father (9-10)
 - 1. To See Jesus is to See the Father (9)
 - a. Jesus asks Philip why He still doesn't know Jesus after all the time he has been with him

- b. Jesus tells him, whoever has seen me has seen the Father
 - c. Jesus is not claiming to be the Father but explains what He means in the next verse
 - 2. The Father and the Son are United (10a)
 - a. Jesus says he is “in” the Father and the Father “in” Him
 - b. They are perfectly united in purpose, will, power, and nature
 - c. Jesus perfectly reveals the attributes of the Father
 - d. So to see and know Jesus is to see and know the Father
 - 3. The Father Speaks and Works through the Son (10b)
 - a. Jesus speaks the Words the Father gave him
 - b. Jesus’ works are the works of the Father who dwells in Him
- V. Jesus Endows His Power and Authority to Believers (11-14)
 - A. Believe the Truth You have experienced in Jesus (11)
 - 1. Jesus commands them to believe in Him
 - 2. Believe what He has said about His unity with the Father
 - 3. Believe what He has said because of the works
 - a. What are these works?
 - b. Are they just miraculous things? (healing, raising the dead? Etc.)
 - c. What does God consider to be miracles?
 - d. Mark 6:5 – “And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them”
 - e. In John, miracles are most often called “signs” because they point to truth of what Jesus preaches
 - 4. Believe because you yourself have experienced his works
 - B. Believers Will Do Greater Works than Jesus (12)
 - 1. All believers are included here – “Whoever believes” – This isn’t just talking about super Christians
 - 2. All believers will do greater works – notice that Jesus tells us both “why” and “how” believers will do these greater works – “because I am going to the Father”
 - 3. We see these greater works throughout the book of Acts – there are a few instances of miracles but the greatness of their work was preaching a finished gospel
 - a. Jesus preached about the coming Kingdom before the gospel itself had been consummated
 - b. Believers now preach a fulfilled gospel, completed and perfect
 - c. In Acts 2, Peter preached this gospel and 3000 people got saved. Nothing like that happened before
 - d. The greatness of the believer’s works is not in greater in power but greater in extent.

C. Believers Will have Jesus' Own Authority (13-14)

1. Notice that Jesus isn't saying that believers will be greater workers than Him – He is saying that he will be doing greater works through the believers
 - a. Jesus is going away but whatever the believers ask in his name, He will do
 - b. Jesus is not leaving them under their own power
 - c. Jesus is glorifying the Father through them
2. If you ask anything in my name...
 - a. Asking in his name doesn't just mean saying the words "in the name of Jesus."
 - b. Asking in his name means coming to the Father through the authority of the Son
 - c. Asking in his name means being covered by His righteousness as we come to the Father
 - d. Asking in his name means being in accord with His will (so don't bother asking for a billion dollars)
 - e. In Acts 4:7 "7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this" - they weren't just walking around saying "in the name of Jesus, they were walking and teaching in his power and under his authority
3. His authority and power comes through the gospel
 - a. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation