

Journey of Faith

The Spitting Image of His Father

(John 14:1-31)

Read John 14:1-31

Aren't you glad that God always offers us a way?

Common Advice in Scotland

When you worry, which do you worry about, what might happen or what might not happen? Whichever, turn it around, to relieve anxiety. That's common advice in Scotland. For worriers, the Scots' have a proverb: "What may be, may not be."

God wants us to trust in Him no matter what we're faced with...

Never give in--never, never, never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy.

Sir Winston Churchill, Speech, 1941, Harrow School

Introduction: (do not let your hearts be troubled)

A. John 14 is packed with so much to consider for our lives.

1. Where do we begin?

a. His departure (vv. 2-3).

b. The disciples response to Jesus' distressing news

c. The promise Jesus gives to send the Holy Spirit

2. However, as you read and reread, John moves in a particular direction that captures these sub-themes.

B. We're still in the upper room with Jesus

1. In 13:33 He begins His farewell speech.

...I will be with you only a little longer...

...Where I am going, you cannot come."

2. Peter responds in v. 36 *"Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied,*

"Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."

3. As much as I appreciate the love Peter expresses, there's no way Peter is prepared to do what Jesus is about to do.

C. Notice the words of reassurance Jesus gives...

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." **John 14:1-3***

1. Jesus is preparing us for something big! His language is rich! But what's he trying to show? Is He simply talking about His death, or is there some deeper meaning?

2. I would suggest that there is some deeper meaning at stake here and it has something to do with image.

The Image

A. Jesus is the Spitting image of His Father.

1. This becomes apparent in Thomas' response...

"You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." **John 14:4-7**

2. Again look at what Jesus says to Philip...

"Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" **John 14:8,9**

B. Who do you Know?

1. We can't make it alone

2. It comes down to who you know-- We are dependent upon Jesus coming to us, and to take us to the place he knows.

This is God's plan for us

God's has a plan

A. God wants to live in a loving relationship with us.

1. Predetermined

2. We have a problem

3. God has been reaching for us

Why? Because God thrives on love. God is love

B. Genesis speaks of the loving relationship between God and mankind

1. It shows the result of sin

2. Since then, God has been revealing Himself

3. It is now in Jesus, that the one God is fully revealed.

a. Is God three deities who are unified in purpose?

b. Serving in three different roles?

c. Ah... God is one deity in three personalities!!

4. God has taken the initiative to reveal himself in order to bring us back home.

5. God has acted by grace to make himself known to us.

"Jesus does not show us the way to the Father; rather, Jesus is the way to the Father."

C. Can you see why this claim makes Christianity offensive to some people?

1. Live and let live?

2. Christianity as another option that might work?

Listen to what Paul wrote: "For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live." 1 Corinthians 8:5,6

Tony Campolo tells about a conversation he had on an airplane years ago.

It was a 1 a.m. redeye from California to Philadelphia, and he was planning to sleep on the flight. But the fellow in the seat next to his wanted to talk.

He asked, "What do you do?"

Now when I want to talk, I say I'm a sociologist, and they say, "That's interesting." But if I really want to shut someone up, I say I'm a Baptist evangelist. Generally, that does it.

"I'm a Baptist evangelist," I said.

"Do you know what I believe?" he asked. I could hardly wait. "I believe that going to heaven is like going to Philadelphia."

"I certainly hope not," I thought.

"There are many ways to get to Philadelphia," he continued. "Some go by airplane.

Some go by train. Some go by bus. Some drive by automobile. It doesn't make any difference how we go there. We all end up in the same place."

"Profound," I said and went to sleep.

As we started descending into Philadelphia, the place was fogged in. The wind was blowing, the rain was beating on the plane, and everyone looked nervous and tight. As we were circling in the fog, I turned to the theological expert on my right. "I'm certainly glad the pilot doesn't agree with your theology," I said.

"What do you mean?" he asked.

The people in the control tower are giving instructions to the pilot: "Coming north by northwest, three degrees, you're on beam, you're on beam, don't deviate from the beam." I'm glad the pilot's not saying, "There are many ways into the airport. There are many approaches we can take." I'm glad he's saying, "There's only one way we can land this plane, and I'm going to stay with it."

There is no other name whereby we can be saved except the name of Jesus.

We don't confess Jesus because he offers a better life in family, ethics or peace.

Rather, we confess His name because Jesus has revealed the Father in His own life and death. God has revealed Himself to us in Jesus, in order to draw us to Himself... giving us eternal life in Him.

Father and the Son (let's go back to Philip)

*"Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father." **John 14:8-13***

A. Do you see what Jesus is doing in His farewell speech? (The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit)

1. He reveals God
2. The Father is in the Son, and the Son is in the Father.
3. When Jesus returns to the Father, he will not leave his disciples "orphaned" (14:18)
4. "All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (vv. 25-26)

Song- Father and the Son

B. Look at the encouragement and direction Jesus gives us...

1. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me." **Jo. 14:1**
2. "If you love me, you will obey what I command." **John 14:15**
3. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." **John 14:27**

Conclusion:

In the middle of this farewell speech, Jesus made this promise to his apostles – and therefore to the rest of us, his disciples.

1. Jesus has gone to be with the Father, and He has given us the promised Holy Spirit...
2. ...and Jesus will someday come back to take us to the Father.
3. It will be then that God's relationship between Himself and His children will be complete.

Let us continue to proceed on our journey of faith. As Christians, we can smile at the future, knowing that Jesus has prepared us, as He did the apostles, for whatever is to come.

What a day this will be... The Father, Son and the Holy will smile...

***Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."* John 14:27b**