

## Jesus is the disciple's way to the Father

Exodus 33:14-23      2 Corinthians 13:1-14    John 14:1-14    John 14:1-14

14      “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 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. 3 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. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.”

## Jesus the Way to the Father

5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

9 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’? 10 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. 11 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. 12 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. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

## Jesus is the disciple's way to the Father

I think of the structure of the thinking behind this chapter as a “U”. Jesus is sent “down” by the father. On earth he does the Father’s will which ultimately involves his death and resurrection. Then he returns to the father leaving the disciples on earth. Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit come down and make their home with the Jesus’ disciples and enable them to do the work of the Father.

In John 13:36 Simon Peter asked him, “**Lord, where are you going?**” Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.” Does Jesus’ departure mean that he is deserting them?

### What Jesus’ departure actually means (14:1-3)

- 2 commands:-
- 1) “*Do not let your hearts be troubled.*” How is possible not to be troubled when Jesus is leaving? See (14:27-31 *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*)
  - 2) “*Trust in God; trust also in me*”      They do trust God. (that’s a given). They are to trust Jesus but **what for?**

A promise

*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 14:2-3).* to be where Jesus and his Father are.....

- a) When? – second coming? Day of judgement? When we die? NO!  
Being where Jesus and his Father are is possible because of Jesus’ death. It is activated by the cleansing (image of foot washing – role of Holy Spirit) made possible by Jesus’ death. Jesus comes to make his home with us.
- b) What? – A place for you – my Father’s house (see John 2:16)
  - a. Jesus is the new temple to be. *But the temple he had spoken of was his body. John 2:19-22*
  - b. Jesus has been temporarily “tabernacling” among us. (John 1:14)
  - c. He (the temple) will be delivered up to be destroyed.
  - d. And he will be the new temple – the permanent sovereign presence of God.
- c) How? - Jesus is about to bridge the gap between humanity and the transcendent God by the cross. This journey will take place in the immediate future (13:33). Jesus must go before he can come.

Jesus must prepare the place. It can only be ready when it is accessible. It is only accessible when he has died and risen. Jesus himself enters his Father’s house with the full rights of the Son. It needs no preparation for him. The access is made for all who believe. <sup>12</sup> *I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing.* 14:12. The disciples represent all believers. The disciples will ‘abide’ in the heavenly temple (14:2). They are also where God himself will dwell (14:17,20,23)

### Where is Jesus going and how do you get there – “You know the way” (14:4)

Thomas does not know. *Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going”* 14:5<sup>5</sup>

Or Peter *Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?”* (13:26)

Or Philip. *Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”* (14:8)

Or Judas. *Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”* (14:22)

Jesus said to Thomas:- a) *I am the way* ie to the Father. (John 14:6)

b) *and the truth* – ie he reveals the truth - not just facts but a person -the Father

c) *and the life*. ie life now – being one with the Father and Son – which Jesus' death achieves, and which Jesus reveals. (cf. John 17:3)

Once you know the Son, you have reached the goal – the Father. –Jesus' death completes the way. We must get to the Father through Jesus. *No one comes to the Father except through me.*

Jesus to Philip:- Philip should have known that the Father and Son are separate entities. He should also have known that what the Father is, the Son is. If they have seen the Son, they have seen the Father. The way is not a defined path but inclusion in a person ie. dwellers in Jesus' Father's home.

### **The result of being in Jesus' Father's house is**

*he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father. (14:12)*

Greater works – ie extending Jesus' ministry, there will be a greater and clearer presence of Jesus in the world in the lives of his disciples. How? By prayer. All is in the power of the Father. All works are to his glory because they are all his works. This means we ask the Father to enable us to do his works.<sup>13</sup> *And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. (14:13).*

We are talking about relationship here and the relationship is a current reality. The Counsellor (Paraclete) mediates the relationship. *And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor, to be with you for ever, (14:16).* Jesus comes to us *"I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. (14:18).* Father and the Son come to us. *and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. (14:23)*

### **BUT God does not make his home with everyone.**

*even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you. (14:17).* In John "the world" is that which is opposed to God. (14: 17). Jesus yields to the ruler of this world but is not defeated by him. *I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; <sup>31</sup>but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go hence. (14:30)*

### **Who do the Father, Son and Holy Spirit make themselves known to?**

- *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."*{ (14:15)
- *"He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me"* (14:21)
- *"If a man loves me, he will keep my word"* (14:23)

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit reveal themselves to whose characteristics are love of Jesus and obedience.

### **Why do we love Jesus and keep his commandments?**

- Are these the characteristics of a person who earns God's presence OR
- the characteristics of the person who has God's presence?  
They are the character that God has wrought in his children. He continues to do this work. Jesus has left us a teacher (14:26). He gives us his peace even in the midst of trouble. (14:27)

Jesus returned to the Father, but he returned to the disciples and he and the Father now dwell with all those who love him and keep his commandments. It is no wonder that we can have peace.