

Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled part II (John 14:7-14)
That You May Believe: The Gospel of John
Southern Hills Baptist Church
August 20, 2017

WELCOME

Welcome and happy Sunday! It is a blessing to be here with you this morning worshipping and celebrating our risen Savior together yet again. If you have your Bibles go ahead and open up to John 14 as we will be there momentarily.

INTRODUCTION

It is rare that a sequel is ever as good as the original, isn't it? It happens sometimes though, right? Star Wars. The Dark Knight. A few others perhaps. That said, usually sequels just aren't that good though, are they? I have some bad news and some good news.

The bad news first... this sermon is a sequel to last week's. You probably even saw it in the title, this is part 2 of "Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled." This means I am going to trot out the same characters and try to reinvent the plot.

Here is the good news... this sequel was written by and stars Jesus! Therefore it can't fail, right? I would sure hope you feel that way.

One Big Unit of Thought

In all seriousness though, John 14:1-14 and really for that matter, all of chapter 14 is one unit of thought. It is just too dense to tackle all at once though so we will continue breaking it up into manageable chunks.

CONTEXT

Because the big idea of our passage is found in John 14:1 it will be important to get a good feel for the context of our passage so it all makes sense.

Triumphant Entry

What you need to remember is that just 4 days earlier Jesus had entered Jerusalem and He had entered that great city in a triumphant way. People were praising Him, calling out Hosanna, which was an exclamation of praise that had come to mean, "**Salvation has come!**" So Jesus is riding into the city and people have lined up to pave His path with palm leaves, almost as if they are **laying out a red carpet** for their new found king and they are crying out excited words of salvation and even ascribing the title of "**King**" to Jesus.

Great Anticipation

The Disciples were there by Jesus' side for all of this. **They had been anticipating this day for years now.** They had been with Jesus for 3 years, so in that time...

- They had seen the **unbelievable miracles.**
- They had heard the **ground-breaking teaching.**
- They had seen a life that had **held grace, love, and truth perfectly.**

They believed Jesus to be the Messiah so they were just waiting for the day that He would usher in His kingdom and they anticipated that He would do it in Jerusalem as most Jews did, it was the city of David,

where His throne would be. They expected the Messiah to come and bring political power and peace to the nation of Israel, freeing them from the Roman rule they had lived under.

It Was All Going to Happen

So just 4 days ago, on Sunday, Jesus had entered Jerusalem, the city where this was all supposed to happen. And **He came in with the support of the people. It was going to happen, it was all finally going to happen.** The 3 years of ministry that Jesus had worked was finally going to culminate where all would recognize that He was the Messiah and He would rise to power where He could lead.

Sky High Expectations

Their expectations were sky high. Their lives had been building up to this moment and time. This was it. History would never be the same and they were going to be at the center of it with Jesus.

Turning Worlds Upside Down

Then in what probably felt like a matter of seconds Jesus turned their worlds upside down when He began preparing them for the reality of what was to come. What was to really come looked nothing like their expectations up front.

- Rather than being raised to power, Jesus would be raised on a cross.
- Rather than getting a golden crown to display His power, He would be given a crown of thorns to inflict pain and mocking ridicule.
- Rather than being embraced by the people, He would be betrayed by the people and traded for a murder as the crowds called for His death.

Difficult Days

The days to come for the Disciples were going to be painfully difficult.

- Their lives were going to feel like they were falling apart.
- It was going to feel like the world was too evil to bear.
- Their hearts were going to be broken as the One they had loved most dearly had been violently and unjustly taken from them.
- It was going to feel like they were spiritually bankrupt as the One they had placed all their hope in had been overcome.

Preparing His Followers (John 13)

Jesus knew just how hard this was going to be for them, thus we see at the end of John 13 that He begins preparing them for this. He holds off on all the details, but does share that He is leaving and where He is going they will not be able to come immediately.

Comforting His Followers

Then on the heels of telling the Disciples that what they expected so deeply and eagerly wasn't going to come to pass, Jesus says this...

John 14:1

[1] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

What He is saying here is this, "***Though you are going to find yourselves in a place of confusion, depression and dread, don't worry, don't let your hearts be troubled, trust me. You trust God, trust me just the same.***"

- Yes, it will feel like **life no longer makes sense**, don't fear, trust me.

- Yes, you will feel **disoriented** and **question everything**, don't fear, trust me.
- Yes, you will be **scared for your very life**, don't fear, trust me.

After telling the Disciples to trust Him and not allow their fear to overcome them, Jesus then begins giving trust-inspiring and peace-giving **promises meant to prop the Disciples up in the hard times that were to come**. Our focus this morning will be on verses 7-14, but I want to read verses 1-14 so we can feel the flow of the larger passage.

OUR TEXT

Let's turn our attention to our passage now... **Hear the Word of God...**

John 14:1-14

[1] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. [2] In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, **would** I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? [3] And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. [4] And you know the way to where I am going." [5] Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" [6] Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. [7] If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

[8] Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." [9] Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? [10] Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. [11] Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

[12] "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. [13] Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. [14] If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

Isaiah 40:8

[8] The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

OPENING PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,

The most repeated command in all of the Bible is to not fear. Jesus makes promises that are meant to cast out fear and build trust, may that have that effect within us this morning. May we live boldly on the promises of Jesus. Father would you also change us this morning, making us more like our blessed Savior, taking up the challenges that live in these promises? Glorify yourself in the way that we process and apply the truths in our text.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen

Context - Reasons for Trust

After making this call for trust, Jesus begins to lay out reasons why the Disciples should trust Him. The first trust-inspiring, peace-giving promise that Jesus gives the Disciples is that He is going to prepare a place for them and He will one day return for them and they will know the way to Him.

Don't Know the Way

At the mention of this promise Thomas jumps in and says, "But Jesus, we don't know the way, how will we find you?"

I Am The Way

To which Jesus replies, "Thomas, I am the way. The way to God is me. I am the truth you need. I am the life that springs eternal."

TRUST-INSPIRING PROMISE #5: TRUST ME, I DISPLAY THAT WHICH I AM, GOD (vs. 7-11)

So Jesus has just made some incredible promises to His Disciples. He has promised to go make eternal dwelling places for His followers in the presence of God. He has promised to come again for them. He has promised to be the way, the bridge, the vehicle to deliver them to this eternal joy and paradise. Now, **these are big promises and they will feel meaningless in the days to come as the One who is making the promises will be murdered.**

Giving Reason to Trust Him

Jesus understands this challenge. The next promise Jesus gives is meant to **help the Disciples trust that Jesus can deliver on these other promises in the face of what appears to be defeat.**

Trust-Inspiring Promise #5 is "Trust Me, I Display That Which I Am, God." Let's see this in our text once more in verses 7-11...

John 14:7-11

[7] If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." [8] Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." [9] Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? [10] Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. [11] Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

Big Message: Knowing Jesus = Knowing God

The big message of these verses from Jesus is that **knowing Him is knowing God because they are one.** Jesus displays that which He is, God. Jesus is God's self-revelation, God's self-disclosure.

"If You Had Known Me"

We see Jesus begin to unpack this in verse 7 when He tells His Disciples that "***If you had known me, you would have known my Father also.***" We see Jesus equate knowing God with knowing Himself, but before we get there take note of how Jesus opens up this declaration... "If you had known me..." Indicating that the Disciples didn't truly know Jesus.

What does Jesus mean here? How did they not know Jesus? They were with Him day and night for the past 3 years. They heard almost every word He said. They saw almost every thing He did. They talked to Him and sat under His teaching. How could they not have known Jesus?

Knew Jesus in Part

They knew Him in part. They knew Jesus was the Messiah. They understood that He was the anointed One of God, but what did this all mean? They knew in part, but not in full. They didn't understand the depth of Jesus. **They didn't understand that Jesus was more than an exalted servant/messenger from God and that He was and is God incarnate. Jesus is full deity.**

Fullness of God

Paul expresses this truth in Colossians 1, by saying...

Colossians 1:19

[19] For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

Thus Jesus says, if you really knew me, if you understood who I fully am you would have understood that knowing me is knowing God.

Quick Note

Can we make this quick observation? **To know Jesus as anything less than God is to not know Jesus at all.**

Philip: Display God

Getting back into the flow of this dialog, hearing Jesus' words, and still not really understanding what Jesus is saying, Philip replies by asking Jesus to show them God and that will be enough for them to believe all that Jesus has said. **The Greek word for "show" here from Philip is "δείξον" (deixon), which means "to display." Philip is asking for a visual display of God.**

Jesus: Understand God

Jesus responds with a tinge of sadness in His tone, ***"Have I been with you this long and yet you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."*** When Jesus talks about seeing the Father through Him He uses a different Greek word than Philip used, **He uses "ἐωρακὼς" (erakos), which means "to see with understanding."**

Dialog Summary

Peter has asked for a display of God, but Jesus is saying, ***"A display? What do you call this right now? Here I am before you and more than a mere display I offer you understanding, personal knowledge, a relationship."***

Concert Illustration

Maybe I could summarize the difference in this way... It is the difference between going to see your favorite band in concert and watching them from the balcony and being front row with backstage passes and being able to talk to the band and hang out with the band after the show on their bus. One is a display and another provides understanding and knowledge.

More than a Glimpse!

Jesus is saying, I have come to give you more than a glimpse of God, I have come to give you understanding and a relationship with God. You ask to see God, but...

- You have **lived** with God
- You have **shared meals** with God
- You have **walked** with God
- You have **prayed** with God
- You have **cried** with God

- You have been **hugged** by God
- You have been **encouraged** by God
- You have been **taught** by God
- You have had **questions answered** by God

“You have lived the past 3 years with the very person of God and now you ask for a display of God?!? Philip, you don’t know me. You don’t really know me. I am more than you know. I am God and I have come to give you more than a mere display, I have come to reveal myself in a new way and give new understanding, a deeper understanding, a more personal understanding to who I am, of who God is.

The Word

This truth clearly connected with John. Listen to how he describes Jesus as He opens up his Gospel account...

John 1:1

[1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

We studied this verse a little over a year ago now so you may have to really stretch back to remember its full significance, but John ascribes the title of “The Word” to Jesus, which is meant to communicate the very truth that Jesus is driving home now in the hours before His arrest.

Jesus is the Word of God.

- He communicates God.
- He is the supreme self-disclosure of God.
- He is the ultimate self-revelation of God.

He is these things because He is God.

Exact Imprint

The author of Hebrews says it this way...

Hebrews 1:3

[3] He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

APPLICATION – I DISPLAY THAT WHICH I AM, GOD

Let’s get practical and consider where the truth of Jesus’ words intersect with our lives.

1. Know God Through Jesus

Do you want to know God? Do you want to see God? Do you want to begin to understand God?

A response I have heard many times over when talking to people about God is very similar to what Philip requested. Have you ever heard someone say,

“If God would just show Himself to me in some way I would believe. If God were real, wouldn’t He do something amazing to make Himself known so we could know that we should follow Him?”

Have you ever heard someone say this before? Here is the thing, **God has shown Himself and done so in spectacular fashion, so spectacular in fact that we actually started measuring time based off of the moment that Jesus miraculously arose from the grave. God gave us more than a glimpse of**

Himself as many request, He gave us so much more. He gave us 33 years with a 3-year public ministry and 4 separate recordings of His life and teaching.

So if you want to know God, to see God, to begin to understand God, look to Jesus, God become man.

2. Do You Really Know Jesus

The next question I want you to consider from this text is whether or not you truly know Jesus. You may hear that question and think, "Of course I do. Here I am at church, right?" Ok, that is great, it is good to have you here, **but consider this... the Disciples sure thought they knew Jesus and for good reason.** They spent 3 solid years with Him wherever He went, sitting under His teaching, living with Him and yet Jesus makes it clear they didn't fully know Him. Do you?

Believing in a Version of Jesus

There are many people in our country that would hear this question and immediately answer positively. They know Jesus, but **in reality they know a version of Jesus, they know a caricature of Jesus, they know a recreation of Jesus that fits in nicely with their worldview and lifestyle.**

Don't Get to Dictate Jesus

Jesus makes it clear in our passage that **we don't get to dictate who He is. We don't get to pick and choose what elements of His character, being, and teaching we want to accessorize Him with.** Jesus is who He is and if we are not willing to embrace Him for who He is then we have not embraced Him at all.

Do You Know Jesus?

So I'll ask once more, do you know Jesus or do you know a version of Jesus you have created? If you want to know Jesus you have to go to Him in His Word and embrace Him for who He reveals Himself to be and one of the things He reveals about Himself is that He is Creator God.

3. The God Who Wants to be Known!

Something else we pick up from this passage we need to consider and rejoice over is that Jesus shows us that the God of the Universe, the God who spoke and brought matter into being, the God who created and sustains all of the natural laws that keep our universe in being, this God is a personal God who wants to be known by His creation.

Beauty: Infinite God Infinitesimal Us

I love this truth. **The author of all of time and space was penning the story of History and then entered into that story in the person of Jesus.** Jesus came as the Word, the self-revelation, the self-disclosure of God, **that we may know Him.**

Humble/Excite/Motivate

Does that do anything to you to know that God Almighty wants you to be known by you? It should. It should humble you. It should excite you. It should motivate you to pick up your Bibles and know this God who has pursued you. I pray it has that effect this morning.

4. Trust the Words of Jesus, He is God

One final point of application we need to walk away with from this text is that we should trust the words and promises of Jesus. He has promised so many wonderful things, from eternal life, joy, and pleasure, to purpose and meaning in all of life, to Heaven, to forgiveness, justification, and adoption, and a whole host

of other glorious, hope-filled promises and these words, these promises can be trusted because Jesus isn't just a well-intentioned guy, or a good teacher, He is God.

John 14:10

[10] Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

So we can trust the words and the promises of Jesus as He is God.

TRANSITION

Jesus isn't done giving Trust-Inspiring Promises yet. There is one more for us to consider in verses 12-14. Let me read those verses to you once more...

John 14:12-14

[12] "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. [13] Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. [14] If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

TRUST-INSPIRING PROMISE #6: TRUST ME, YOU WILL DO GREATER WORKS IN ME (vs. 12-14)

Trust-Inspiring Promise #6 is Trust Me, You Will Do Greater Works In Me. Now take notice of how Jesus opens up this promise. It is for **"whoever believes in me."** **This isn't a promise for missionaries or pastors, this is a promise for believers, for you.** You will do the works that Jesus does and even greater works.

Strange Promise

This promise must have sounded so strange to the Disciples. How would they do the works of Jesus when Jesus was gone? Jesus was the teacher. Jesus was the one who was doing the miraculous. Jesus was the one who was bold enough to go and love those that society had shunned and looked down upon. How would they do His works? To answer that we need to understand what Jesus' works are.

What are Jesus' Works?

So what are Jesus' works? I think we can find the answer in the context of our passage, going back just one verse to verse 11. Notice that Jesus says

John 14:11

[11] Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

Jesus is calling the Disciples to faith in Himself based off His testimony, but if that isn't enough He implores them to look at the works He has done to find faith in Him. **Jesus says, "Listen to my words and look at my life, look at how I have lived, how I have loved, the sacrifices I have made, the power of God in me to know that I am who I say I am."** Do you see how Jesus' life, His works were intended to point people to faith in Himself?

Summary of Verses 11 and 12

So the way we could summarize verses 11 and 12 might sound like this: ***Believe in me based off the works you have seen in me, let my works lead you to faith, because all who believe in me will also do***

works that encourage others towards faith in me. I have done works that led you to faith in me and now you will do works that lead others to faith in me.

Similar Connection of Works and Witness

We can see this connection in other passages as well. John 10:25 for example...

John 10:25

[25] Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me,

So what are the works of Jesus? Jesus' works bear witness about Him and thus our works should bear witness of Jesus as well. This the promise that Jesus makes. When He leaves His followers would live lives that pointed people to joy, purpose, and satisfaction in Jesus that they would believe as well.

Greater Works

This is not all of Jesus' promise however. He also promised that we would do greater works. What are these "greater works." **Well, I don't believe that we are talking about works that are greater in power. Jesus worked with the power of God.**

Scope - Ends of the Earth

I think the works that we do today are greater in scope and clarity. Jesus' ministry, though it shook the world, was confined to a very small geographical area. The mission He left His followers with was to go into all the world and herald the Gospel. The Gospel would travel to the ends of the earth after Jesus left.

Clarity - Completed Work

The Gospel as it is proclaimed today is done so with greater clarity as the work of Jesus is not just anticipated, but complete. Jesus preached a message of salvation, but the saving work of Jesus wasn't seen clearly by His followers. On the other side of the cross we now understand the perfect, substitutionary death of Jesus and how He victoriously rose back to life from the grave. We hold and preach this message we great clarity by God's grace.

Promise of Provision for Works

In the midst of making this promise that we would do greater works Jesus makes yet another trust-inspiring promise, He will provide all that we need to live out the calling placed upon us. We see this in verses 13 and 14. Let me read them just once more so they are fresh on our minds...

John 14:13-14

[13] Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. [14] If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

Qualifiers

Whatever you ask in my name! Wow, what a promise! But wait, notice the qualifiers...

- Whatever you ask in my name
- That the Father may be glorified in the Son

These two qualifiers carry the same meaning. When you ask something in Jesus' name **you are not merely tacking a holy phrase on the end of your prayer**, "In Jesus name we pray, amen." No, there is greater significance. To pray something in Jesus' name means **to pray in accordance with the will of**

God and for His glory. You can see this as the verse continues. Jesus will answer our prayers IN ORDER THAT God will be glorified through Him.

Not Just a Holy Phrase

So those of you who thought you could add a holy little phrase on the end of your prayer and finally get that new Tesla or Escalade or what have you will likely be sorely disappointed. This promise for answered prayer is for God's glory, not yours.

Glorified by Equipping for Works

And what is one of the ways that God will receive glory in your life? It will be by equipping you to go and do the works of Jesus, living in such a way that your life points people to faith in Jesus.

APPLICATION – YOU WILL DO GREATER WORKS IN ME

So what do these promises mean for us today? Much. Here are a few points of application and we will close.

1. Do the Works of Jesus!

Jesus promised that all who believe on Him will do His works. **Do you believe in Him? How do you know your faith is genuine?** How do you know your faith is real and not just something convenient you concocted to make sleeping easier?

Confirming Authentic Faith: The Works of Jesus

One way you could tell is if you do the works of Jesus or in other words if you live your life in such a way that...

- Others can **see Jesus** in you,
- Others can see the **beauty of Jesus** in you
- Others can see the **value and worth** of Jesus in you
- Others can see the **joy of knowing** Jesus in you
- Others can see the **love of Jesus** in you

Do You Display Jesus, Do His Works?

Do you live in such a way that the value and beauty of Jesus are put on display in your life? Here are a few questions that can maybe get you started on that path if you are not already there...

- How could you **spend your free time** in such a way that shows the beauty of Jesus?
- Where might you be able to **serve** that shows the kindness of Jesus?
- What might you do with your **income** that shows the generosity of Jesus?
- Who might you **go out of your way to love** that would show the grace of Jesus?
- What **words might you use in conversation** at work this week that would communicate the joy that Jesus brings you?

These are but a few questions meant to get you thinking about how you might go and do the works of Jesus. This call is upon any who would believe in Jesus and it more than a call, it is a promised work of Jesus in and through you. So go do the works of Jesus.

2. Ask God for All You Need

As believers we should desire to do the works of Jesus, but that doesn't mean they will come easy or that we won't face obstacles in doing them. Thankfully, the life we are called to, the works of Jesus we are to take up, we are not called to by our own power.

Jesus invites us into prayer, to make requests of Him, that the Father may equip us to live for Jesus. Jesus tells us that those prayers will be heard and answered. Whatever we ask in His name and for the Father's glory will be delivered unto us.

It is promises like this that should (1) shape our prayer life and (2) drive us to prayer.

Shaping Our Prayer Lives

This promise should be defining in our prayer life, right? We are being told that Jesus will answer our prayers when they seek the Father's glory, when they are offered up that we may go do the works of Jesus in our work place, in our homes, in our communities. Do you pray for God to equip you to do the works of Jesus?

- Do you ask God to help you **love the unlovely**?
- Do you ask God to help you to **be sacrificial with your time and money**?
- Do you ask God to help you to be **patient with the frustrating**?
- Do you ask God to help you to **forgive those that hurt you or sin against you**?
- Do you ask God to help you to find ways to **use your giftings for the blessing of others**?

Motivating Prayer

This promise should also motivate you to go to God in prayer consistently and often. God has promised to hear your prayer and answer them. **What kind of fool would we have to be to know this and pass this up???**

SUMMARY

So let me give you a quick summary of flow of Jesus' promises in our passage...

- You can trust all of the awe-inspiring promises Jesus has given us because He is God, not just like God, or close to God, He IS God.
- The evidence of who He is can be seen in His works, in the way He held truth, love, and grace all perfectly. His perfect life should inspire faith and trust in Him.
- Those of us who put our faith in Jesus will go and do the same works Jesus has done, they will live lives and do works that show others the beauty and truth of Jesus, leading others to faith.
- Jesus will equip us for the life He is calling us to and He promises to hear and answer our prayers asked in His name for the Father's glory.

CONCLUSION

So go live for Jesus, even in the face of uncertainty. That is what the Disciples faced at this point and time in history. Life was about to be flipped upside down for them. You may be facing the same situation. Your life may feel less certain than ever. You may be questioning where you are headed like never before.

Regardless of where you are or what the situation is, Jesus is Lord, He is Creator, He is God, and He loves you. He wants you to know Him. He also wants to give you peace in the midst of uncertainty. **Hear His Words, "Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in me." He calls you to trust Him in the midst of the unknown. Even in the midst of uncertainty He calls you to do His works, pointing others towards Himself and He promises to equip you for the task at hand.**

Brothers and Sisters, Let's go live for Jesus.

Let's Pray