

Readings

Scripture

¹“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If 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’? ¹⁰Do 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. ¹¹Believe 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. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

- John 14:1-14 (English Standard Version)

Sermon Outline

A Place for Us

John 14:1-14

Table Talk in an Upper Room

Stephen Baldwin

Our passage shows us that when our hearts are troubled we need to believe, to trust and understand Jesus’ promises.

What are Jesus’ promises, and how do they comfort us when we are troubled? What does God’s word show us and teach us?

We will look at three ways - because he is going, he promises us...

A place with the Father (John 14:1-4)

The way to the Father (John 14:5-7)

Great works of the Father (John 14:8-14)

Reflection Questions

First read through the passage at least twice, slowly. Now start to notice the repetition of words and the advances and returns and repetitions of those words. Take colored highlighters and mark the key words that are repeated throughout the passage using different colors. This will take some work. Go back over until you’re satisfied that you have noticed them all. Now jot down some things that are you seeing.

- What stands out to you in verses 1-4 that Jesus is saying that he will do?
- Is this a reference to the sending of the Spirit, or of his coming again to take us to himself?
- In verses 5-7, what do you think was in Thomas’ mind when he said ‘we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way’? Did Thomas want directions to a rendezvous?
- The disciples were anxious because of the disturbing things Jesus had told them about going away, about his betrayal and about Peter’s denial. How do you think the disciples felt when it seemed like they didn’t understand the conversation Jesus was having with them?
- How do you feel when the future is unknown to you and you feel clueless?
- Do you think Jesus was saddened by Philip’s request? Why?
- What was Jesus saying to the disciples when he said that they (and those who would believe through them) would do greater works than he did? Greater miracles? More miracles? More converts? Or was there something that would change dramatically after Christ’s resurrection?
- Why does his going away have something to do with this?
- What does it mean to pray “in Jesus’ name”, and why would Jesus promise to do whatever we ask “in his name”?