

HE WHO KNOWS ME KNOWS MY FATHER

SCRIPTURE: John 14:1-14 (6-11)

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I. CONTEXT

Jesus is still in dialogue with his disciples since Judas has betrayed him. Jesus foresaw that he would not be true to him and delivered him into the hands of the enemy. So today we continue our lesson with Jesus sharing and affirming to the disciples to not be troubled of the future of uncertainty. “Do not let your hearts be troubled” is affirmative! Is your heart at ease about knowing Jesus? Are you able to maintain your trust in God despite what you face in these troubling times we are experiencing? In today’s lesson, the explicit demand is for you to trust in God and in Jesus to make the situation stable. Jesus is still in dialogue with his disciples as Jesus is speaking plainly endeavoring to encourage us as disciples to persist in faith. There are times when uncertainty and discouragement can weaken us, but Jesus wants to strengthen us against any complete collapse in any imminent tragedy.

II. The Lesson: “He Who Knows Me Knows My Father”

1. v. 1.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. Often, we as disciples forget and move our eyes off Jesus and place them on the surrounding environment. This is not a statement as a question, it one of certainty; not uncertainty and discouragement as Jesus wanted to strengthen them the more. Trust in God, the Father and me. Believe in me as you believe the Father. Don’t be troubled, but to trust Him. This John 14 chapter is the most quoted for funeral services, but death is not the only imminent danger that we need to trust God for. Yet, this is also affirming us that we have a place to rest for eternal life.

2. v. 2.

“In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you.” Despite the threatening circumstances, Jesus spoke with calm assurance of the divine provision for them and took for granted that they would have a place in the eternal world. He goes on giving a vivid description of telling them of a dwelling place, which is the Father’s place in heaven. This place has mansions, many of them; places set aside for all God’s children! (Heb. 11:10-16; Rev. 21:2.; 9-27). This ‘place’ is heaven prepared for us. He speaks of this place literally like it is his hometown. The purpose of his departure was to make ready the place where he would welcome them permanently. Certainly, he wouldn’t go to a place where friends aren’t expected that they would finally arrive. Although he was aware of their weakness and impending failure, he took the responsibility of bringing them to the Father’s house.

3. V. 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.” This is a bold and certain statement “I will come back” ...OMG, what a concern and personal at that; for his disciples. Though he did not elaborate, the guarantee is unmistakable. It’s as sure as his departure! Since Christ is in heaven, that is where we who are in Christ will go to be with him. Peter may have failed, but He will not fail to return for Peter and for everyone else who has believed in Him. What a wonderful promise for us as believers!

4. V. 4.

“You know the way to the place where I am going” This statement alludes to ‘the way’ of an obedient life. Jesus has been pointing to eternal life since the disciples began walking with him. He always tries to return to the theme of his dialogue since he first begun this ministerial journey. He assumed that they knew the way to their destination; all they would need to do would be to follow the road. His sheep would find him and follow him to the house of the Lord at the end of their journey.

5. vv. 5-11.

These verses center around the dialogue between Thomas and Jesus. He was trying to get Thomas to understand that Jesus is the Way to the Father with the other disciples astutely listening. In verse 5, Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”. This is life’s great question.... how can we know the way? Thomas’ question was like Peter’s question. It was abrupt. Philip’s character was utterly honest; pessimistic; and uninhibited. He did not suppress his feelings but voiced his despair. He too had already declared his willingness to follow Jesus and to die for Him if necessary as he did in John 11:16. His question revealed a man who was confused by life and felt that all Jesus was talking about was like riddles, despite the journey experience he has had with Jesus for 3 years. It’s like saying, Jesus, we have no idea where you are going! How do you expect us to know the way?

6. vv. 6-7.

“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.” Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, Jesus is the way to the Father. He is also the truth and the life....as truth, He is the revelation of God. As life, He is the communication of God to us. This word, truth, is used by John 24 times and only 5 times in the gospels. He is the truth of God that sets the believer free. He is the teacher and source of truth. Jesus claims to be the answer to all human problems, and He is. He is the solution to perplexity, to confusion, he is the answer, it is a relationship to him. Jesus answered like the Master that he is.... with authority...he has the intimate knowledge. He speaks truth to power because he has the power regardless of life’s ups and downs. Jesus was not saying all this with

arrogance, He is just saying I am the Son of Man and Philip, I am the authority in human form for God whom He represents. You see sometimes we hear what we want to hear and appear to be listening, but we are not. Let's look closer at the words 'knew', and 'know' (emphasizing the title of our lesson). To 'know' is having the concept, to apprehend as truth or fact, to be familiar with, to have a certainty of something in a previous encounter. Haven't all the disciples encountered and been exposed to all that Jesus has done for 14 chapters – so, "from now on, you do know him and have seen him" meant clearly that Philip, I am who My Father sent!

7. **V. 8.**

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus had just said that to see Him is to see the Father. Yet, Philip asked to see the Father. Like Peter, Philip seems to have been slow to understand. We happen to be like Philip and Peter, are slow learners at times and miss the mark. So, help me, God!! How much more we need in seeing and hearing Jesus for real. If Peter was a skeptic, Philip was a realist...so the demand is that all might see him. Therefore, we must be patient with other believers. He just really wanted to experience Jesus and be satisfied. Maybe he wanted to see an angel or experience a deep thing like Moses on Mount Sinai.

8. **vv. 9-14.**

(KJV-has red letters) and these verses demonstrates that 'knowing' factor. Jesus was saddening and pleased at this request, I am sure. I assume he was astonished that Philip had not observed this all the time. In verse 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?" Only a person can give knowledge of him since personality cannot be represented by an impersonal object as objects can't speak! It's like, Philip, I am real – 'I am in the Father, and ...the Father is in me (vs.10). No wonder the Lord is so patient with us. He is trying in explaining that He was revealing God the Father to them. Know me by my works if nothing else! You have been with me all this time and you still don't understand! Verses 10-11: "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. Verse. 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."

Wow, believe me or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles!! For three years you have experienced all these things. The way Jesus made known the character and reality of the Father was by his words and works. The truth of God filled Jesus' words; the power of God produced his works! Jesus has accomplished the greatest works possible, including raising the dead. How could He say that believers would do greater works? The answer is seen in the extent of what the apostles did. Jesus' work on earth was confined in Palestine; the apostles would preach everywhere and see the conversion of thousands. The disciples were able to do this work because Christ would go to the Father and send the Holy Spirit to empower them. You, beloved, have seen so much in

your lifetime, and so have I, it is astonishing how he just answered this week some things we are a witness to. OMG! Have I got a witness?

9. **v. 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. This is surely speaking truth to power! Jesus has empowered us all with Belief! Faith! Being a Witness! By the witness of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit these things are done! Again, Jesus takes his time in his teaching, impressing upon us as disciples that he was not disbanding them in anticipation of his departure but rather, he was expecting them to continue his work and do even greater things that he had accomplished. There were after Jesus’ ascension even more converts after the initial sermon of Peter at Pentecost that are recorded in Jesus’ entire career. This influence has been spread the more since then! Through his disciples he multiplied his ministry after his departure! Look at the Book of Acts and its continuous record of deeds. Jesus begun the ministry and he expects the church to be a continuous instrument by which he could manifest his salvation to all people!!

10. **vv. 13-14.**

“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. This is so true...’if your motivation is right! The power of us as disciples originate in prayer. “In my name” is not the thing for the command of a supernatural energy!! There is no magical charm, but both a guarantee, like the endorsement on a check, and a limitation on the petition; for he would only grant it with the consistent character and purpose of the request. In prayer we call on him to work out his purpose, not simply to gratify our whims!! The answer is promised so that the Son may be glorified to the Father. Being obedient to him will be the test...there is always that ‘if’!!! Believe Him for what He is in the Father. Believe that, believe what you see-these works. You can count on it. If your request is along the lines of who He is and what he has done, ask in my name, and I will do it. That’s how the Father will be seen for who he is, he is the Son, I mean it. Do you? Whatsoever you request in that way, HE will do!

III. **Conclusion.**

Believe in Jesus or at least believe on the evidence of what miracles he has already done in our life! Amen!