

G/ I am the Way, the Truth and the Life – John 13-14

- **John 13v1-17 – Jesus washes the disciples feet & commands, “Wash each others’ feet”**
 - While Jesus’ declaration that he is the way the truth and the life is not until 14v6, we find that the content of these two chapters is showing what that means.
 - What three truths about himself does Jesus know in verses 1 & 3?
 - What does this enable him to do (v4)?
 - Having a clear knowledge in both our head and our heart of our relationship with our Heavenly Father releases us to serve. We do not need to seek our own interest because He is seeking our good anyway!
 - What is Jesus going to demonstrate in what follows (v1)?
 - In first century Palestine, a servant would wash people’s feet as they would be hot and dusty from being outside with only open sandals. Jesus takes that role of a servant and says he has set the example for his disciples. This is the way of Jesus. In what ways can you “wash someone’s feet” today?
 - Peter initially struggles with Jesus serving him. Do we struggle to allow others to serve us? It is a sign of pride and self-sufficiency. Do we even struggle to allow Jesus to serve us today in the way he desires? Maybe he wants to heal you of a hurt, or enable you to break through in some way.
- **John 13v18-30 – Jesus predicts his betrayal & commands, “Accept anyone I send”**
 - Jesus tells the disciples that he is to be betrayed by one of them and this narrows down to Judas. Why does Jesus say he is telling them this in advance?
 - Note that the “disciples whom Jesus loved” in v23 is almost certainly John the author of this gospel.
 - How would you have felt if you were one of the disciples at the table? Would you have been with John and Peter in seeking clarification of who it was?
 - The matter of Judas raises a number of questions. Did Jesus know from the outset he would betray him? Was Judas ever really on board with what Jesus was doing? Had he been always seeking his own project or did he just lose the way? Notice how Judas has gone down a path of his own desires and now “Satan enters him”. This is a word of caution – if we go far enough down our own paths, Satan takes control and it becomes very hard to go back. Let us be careful.
- **John 13v31-38 – Jesus predicts Peter’s denial & commands, “Love one another”**
 - The word “glorified” means to display honour, majesty, glory; that is the display of what is special, precious and good. It is in Christ’s death and resurrection that the extreme grace, love and justice of God are fully shown, and these attributes are his glory.
 - Jesus’ quizzical statement in v33 “Where I am going you cannot come” is followed up with Peter’s question in v36 and his expression of commitment in v37. However, Peter does not appreciate the situation he is about to encounter and Jesus foretells him disowning Jesus. Jesus knows that you are going to let him down before you do: but he has loved us just the same. He has no reason to love you less after than before! This is his glory – “grace and love like mighty rivers”.
 - In the middle of this discussion is Jesus’ new command which seems to be missed by the disciples at this point! “Love one another”. This is the way of Jesus and is expressed as Jesus’

big strategy for how the world will be reached. The Greek word is “agape” which is not a sexual or even brotherly love, but a love which works in the interest of the other. How am I doing at loving my fellow believers? Is my love obvious to those around me? What new loving thing can I do today?

- **John 14v1-14 – Jesus says he is returning to the Father & he is the Way to follow.**

- There are three key elements in this section: knowing the Father, doing God’s work and asking in Jesus’ name.
- Firstly, Jesus continues the theme of “going somewhere”, and then defines the destination more as “the Father” – and Jesus is the way to Him. Do you know the Father? How do you understand Jesus to be the way to the Father? (think about what we have read so far in John). Have you entered? Are you continuing to pursue the Father?
- Secondly, Jesus says that those who have faith in Jesus will do greater works than he has been doing. (Note that some translations sometimes translate “works” as “miracles”, which it may mean, but I think the scope is wider.) What does this mean? What has God done through you in the past? Are you ready for God to do yet greater things through you?
- Thirdly, what is your experience of answers to prayer? “In his name” means asking what Jesus would ask. Jesus always operated out of compassion and in line with the Father’s will. This calls for listening to what God is wanting us to do and then asking. What would Jesus want you to pray for today? Get on and do it!

- **John 14v15-31 – Jesus promises the Holy Spirit & commands, “loving obedience”**

- In our Western culture we do not tend to associate the terms love and obedience. We tend to think “obedience” is out of fear and “love” is choice. True love is to want the good of the other, and that depends on the nature of the relationship. A Mother’s love for her child is quite different to a child’s love for her mother: they both love strongly, but the way in which that is shown is quite different. The mother provides for her child, the child is obedient to her mother and follows her guidance.
- Jesus has constantly said in this gospel that he loves his Father and this shows itself in what he does – doing as the Father says in obedience. It can be tempting to obey only when it is convenient for us, but this is not true obedience. Jesus applies this same loving obedience to us (v15,v21-24,v31). How can you show your love for the Father today?
- Jesus is going. We might be confused as to whether this “going” is the period between his death and resurrection (temporary) or his ascension (until he returns). In Biblical terms, Christ’s death, resurrection and ascension are often considered one event: they all occurred within 43 days of each other and they are very much linked. In hindsight, the promise of the Holy Spirit is clearly a reference to his ascension “going”.
- What do we learn about the Holy Spirit from this section? (there are several things – note them down). Jesus talks as if the Holy Spirit is effectively Jesus himself – and indeed elsewhere in the New Testament he is referred to as the “Spirit of Christ”. Why should this give us peace (v1, v27)? In what way do you need to know the peace that Jesus brings today?