

# The Gospel of John

## Chapter 14:1-12

*September 14, 1997*

- **The Gospel of John Outline:**

- Chapter 1 Our Lord is the Word, the Light and the Life
- Chapter 2 The Lord of the Wedding Feast; Zeal for the purity of the temple
- Chapter 3 Spiritual Birth, Belief and Salvation vs. Unbelief and Condemnation
- Chapter 4 The Ministry in Samaria, The Harvest, The Faith of the Nobleman
- Chapter 5 Paralytic man healed on the Sabbath, Unity of The Father and Son
- Chapter 6 The Bread of Life
- Chapter 7 The public debates about Jesus during the Feast of Tabernacles
- Chapter 8 Public debates: Woman caught in adultery; The Son makes you free; Abraham's true children
- Chapter 9 Jesus heals a man born blind.
- Chapter 10 Jesus is the Door and the True Shepherd
- Chapter 11 Our Lord is the Resurrection and the Life
- Chapter 12 Jesus Anointed and Worshipped as King, God softens some and hardens some, Public ministry ends
- Chapter 13 Jesus Loves His Disciples, Judas Betrays The Master
- Chapter 14 The Way, The Truth and The Life

- **Review and Introduction**

Everything in the five chapters from 13 through chapter 17 are a record of the instruction that Jesus gave to His disciples on the night He was betrayed. This is the final opportunity to teach the men and the instruction is profound indeed. John has been very selective in the events that he chooses to be included in his account and each one builds upon his pile of evidence of the deity of our Lord.

### Exposition of John 14:1-12

*"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.*

- What a great demonstration of mercy Christ shows when after telling Peter (presumably to the entire group) that he would betray Him three times, that they should not let their hearts be troubled. Christ knew the timidity of His disciples but also knew that He would later send them the Holy Spirit to empower them for a great work. Apparently the disciples would readily admit their faith in God and here Jesus tells them that this faith should be the same faith by which they believe in Him. Just as they would trust the words of the Father, so to they should trust the words of Christ.

*2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.<sup>3</sup> "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.<sup>4</sup> "And where I go you know, and the way you know."*

- Knowing that His absence would be a cause for despair, Jesus explains that He does not go away so that He might remain separate from them. Rather, He teaches that just as surely as He went away the first time so too will He return to bring them to the place prepared for them. Not only is there enough room for Christ but there is room for all of His disciples—including us.
- It seems incredible to consider that Christ isn't preparing a cubicle for us or some small corner where we can dwell. No, here Jesus states that He is preparing mansions for His people to dwell. We see His love and concern for those whom the Father has given to Him and He is preparing the best that heaven can offer.
- Jesus tells them that they knew where He was going and how they would eventually get there also. How could they know but not really know? They knew that He was going to be with the Father and that the way there was through Him. Because they knew Him, they knew the way. Although they had the knowledge of these things, they did not have the understanding and wisdom that would come when the Spirit came to them.

*5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

- In rebuttal to Jesus' claim that they knew the way, Thomas complains that they did not know the way and wanted further understanding from Christ.
- There is perhaps no verse in the Scriptures more profound than verse six. In His answer to Thomas, Jesus claims many things. This statement alone should have been enough for them but without the Spirit to open their minds so that they could see and understand, they were still fragile followers of Christ.
- The first claim that Christ makes here is that He alone is the exclusive means by which we come to the Father. Despite all of the other means that man can devise of attaining entrance into the Father's presence, there is but one path for a man to

follow. All of the religions of the world are not saying the same thing. Here we see that Christianity cannot be lumped together with the other folly devised by sinful men because Christ Himself claims exclusivity. He declares here that He is *the way*, the *only way* that a man can reach the Father. The only way we can stand in His presence is to be clothed with the righteousness of His Son; any other foundation will result in eternal damnation.

- What an incredible thing when Christ claims not simply to *be true* but rather teaches us that He *is Truth*. This is truly profound and the implications are far-reaching. Because Jesus *is truth*, this means that there is nothing we can fully know as true until we know Him and are known by Him. This means that there is no true thought we can have that should not be measured by Christ. Or as Paul puts it, "<sup>5</sup> *casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ*" 2 Cor. 10:5.
- The next portion of Jesus' claim is that He is the Life. This means that all life originates from Him and all life is sustained by Him. As in Deut 32:39 in the song of Moses, God declares that He gives life and that He takes it. Here in John we learn that Christ is the means by which the Father truly grants life. If we are apart from Christ, although we may be physically living we are not truly alive because true life is found in Christ. As is taught elsewhere, when we were separate from Christ, as natural man, we were dead in our sin. But the vicarious atonement of Christ cleansed us and then we were granted true life.
- Christ then teaches that our destination is the Father. We cannot come in His presence without being in Christ. Those who attempt to do so will be met with everlasting judgement with fire and mourning never to end. Those who stand before the Father cleansed by the blood of Christ will enjoy eternal bliss.

7 *"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."*<sup>8</sup>

- Christ replies to Thomas and the group that knowing Christ was the same as knowing the Father. But His concern for their despair is obvious because He explains that even if they don't understand these things now, they will know them. But for now, they can rest assured that if they know Christ truly, then they truly know the Father as well.

*Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."*<sup>9</sup> *Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*<sup>10</sup> *"Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works."*<sup>11</sup> *"Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves."* NKJV

- Philip demonstrates zeal without understanding. Jesus explains that over the long period in which the disciples were with Him, that Christ was the lively presence of the Father. We learn elsewhere that the fullness of the Father dwelt in the Son and that the Son was the exact representation of His being (Heb 1:1-3).
- Again Jesus teaches that He is not autonomous of the Father but is in complete harmony and submission to the Father. Everything Christ did, spoke or thought was done so by the express desire and purpose of the Father. As He said in a previous chapter, He and the Father are one.
- In addition, Christ again teaches that the miraculous works He has performed including His teaching should be evidence enough to know that He is sent by the Father. The Father did not send the Son empty handed but sent Him with the authority to prove beyond all doubt that this was His Son. The Father testified to this truth through these miracles but also declared it to the world and all generations with power by raising His Son from the dead. Hallelujah!