

## John Ch 14:6-14

“Unveiling The Father”

Now if you were with us a couple of weeks ago you recall how we’ve come to this point in the 14<sup>th</sup> ch of the gospel of John whereby Jesus is dealing with these His *disturbed disciples*. It’s the night before the cross, and Jesus is letting them in on some amazing information. and You remember how that in this almost rapid fire of successive prophecies He spoke of how Judas would *defect*, the fact that He would *depart*, and how Peter would *deny* that he ever knew Him 3x before the sun comes up and as He’s speaking these things it’s already dark. and So naturally they’re all freaking out.

So ch 14 deals with what? Primarily with the way that Jesus seeks to diffuse their disturbed demeanor, and reestablish order for them in their hearts. and The things that He speaks to *them*, He speaks to *us*. So that if *you’re* dealing with some unsettling information, or something has sort of disturbed your demeanor, these words of Jesus should speak comfort to your heart, and teach you how to handle these tough times that come into your life. and Since it’s been a couple of weeks I’ll remind you of the 5-fold way that He diffuses the dire straits of His disciples. #1 By reminding them of the eternal perspective, #2 He speaks of the positive promise of His return, #3 He encourages them with the power of prayer, #4 The presence of the Holy Spirit who dwells with them and will be in them. and #5 His personal peace that He promises to impart to them. These are the things that He equips them with whereby they can have stability in an otherwise seemingly unstable and volatile situation, whereby confusion can be disband, and clarity can settle back in. How that the roof can be crashing down *around* us, and the walls can be caving in *on* us, “*Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*” Rom 8:37

So far He’s given them the command, “Let not your heart be troubled,” and then He equipped them with the key, “Believe in God, believe also in Me.” Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, remember that God is in control, believe in Him, trust in Jesus Christ He’s given them the *hope* of Heaven, and assured them of the *reality* of His return. Then He reminded them of the road map to get where He was going (which of course was to be with the Father.) and Thomas (no doubt along with the rest of the group) was a bit confused, Jesus had told them that where He was going they couldn’t follow, but that they would follow Him later. and So he says, “Lord we don’t even know where You’re going, so how can we know the way to get there? (Even though Jesus had told them that He was going to the Father and that He was going to prepare a place for them, and that the way that He’d get there would be by the doorway of the cross.) and So Jesus breaks it down for them even more (which I for one am glad that He did) and He says, “Look guys,” (notice vs 6.)

Vs6

and This is that which we labeled the, “All inclusive exclusivity,” because here Jesus makes it very clear, and there’s just no room for confusion on the issue. If you want to be with the Father (that is, go to Heaven) there’s only 1 way, and it’s through Jesus Christ *exclusively*. However the door is open to, and can *include* everyone. “For *‘whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.’*” Rom 10:13 But it’s the controversial comments like this that makes people think that you Christians are so narrow-minded. “Hey,” they say, “Jesus is fine for you, and Christianity may work for you, but I have my way, the Muslim has his way, the Hindu has his way, and so on and so forth. and As long as we’re sincere in seeking him, then all roads lead to God.” and If you object to that then you’re condemned as narrow minded and, “You don’t have the right to send me to hell just because I don’t believe in Jesus the way that you believe in Jesus.”

But you’ve got to reason this thing through, I’m not the one who said this, Jesus is. and It’s these type of statements that put Him in a class of His own, statements like, “*I* am the bread of life.” Or “*I* am the light of the world.” “*I* am the good shepherd,” “*I* am the door,” and everyone else are liars and thieves. and When He makes those statements the intent is clear “I and I *alone* am these things to you and emphatically no one else is or can be.” and So we have a premise that we need to establish, is Jesus an honest man or is He a liar, now if He’s a liar then we may as well throw this book in the trash because there’s no way of telling which part is true and which part’s a lie.

When I try to discern that then I’m playing God, determining what’s legit and what’s not based upon the way I feel about the passage. But if He’s honest and upright, then no matter what He says, we have to believe it. Because I’m not going to roll the dice and place my eternal soul on the line on the basis of guy who spoke the truth *most of the time*. Call me crazy but I just can’t bank on that, you see Jesus is either the *only* way to God with *no* exceptions, or He’s not a way to God period. Because He said He was the only way, now if there’s 10 or 20 ways that makes Jesus a liar, and definitely not a true prophet, so He’s either a lunatic, or He’s liar, or He’s the Lord. There’s just no middle ground with Jesus, He forces us to make a decision about Him be it for Him or against Him, but you can’t claim neutrality. You either believe Him or you don’t.

*No one* comes to the Father except through Jesus Christ You see this idea of sincerity is really all that’s important and that all religious beliefs are equally valid is so absurd that I’m not sure you could apply it to any arena outside of a religious context and get away with it. You’ve heard me say many times that you can sincerely eat a candy bar laced with poison thinking that it’s just a candy bar but it’s going to kill you just the same no matter how sincerely you thought there was nothing wrong with it. You might sincerely think that you’re a mule to, and that you need to graze out in the pasture with the rest of the farm animals, but there’s going to be some men in white jackets show up to carry you away, why? Why won’t they just let you be sincere in your beliefs? Because they objectively know that you’re wrong no matter how sincere you may be. But yet we’ll apply this same messed up/mixed up reasoning to religious beliefs.

But Jesus says loud and clear, I *alone* am the way the truth and the life, and *no one* comes to the Father except through Me. and It was wisdom on God's behalf to make it this way, because there's only one way, but yet look how confused the issue has become for people who are in the world and how many counterfeits there are. Can you imagine if there were 10 legitimate ways that God had ordained, how many stinking counterfeit options would be out there? But because God loves us, wants to make it simple for us, Jesus says very candidly, quite concisely, and real clearly, that *He* is the way to the Father and there are *no* exceptions. and We read in the book of Acts, "*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*" Acts 4:12

#### Vs7-11

Look at vs 7 (read). Now think about this, Jesus is saying that to *know Him* is to *know God*, and to *see Him* is to *see God*, He has (as it were) taken the veil off of God that we might see Him in truth, this is radical stuff. When we hear the words of Jesus we're hearing the very words of God. Of course in the beginning was the word, the word was with God and the word was God, and as the 1<sup>st</sup> ch of this gospel unfolds we glean the fact that the word became flesh and dwelt among us in the person of Jesus Christ The writer of Heb says, "*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son,*" Heb 1:1-2 and As he goes on to say that Jesus is, "*...the brightness of His glory and the (listen) express image of His person,*" Heb 1:3 "He who has seen Me has seen the Father." Colossians tells us regarding the person of Christ that, "*in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;*" Col 2:9 So as He's speaking about seeing the Father, now Philip interrupts, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter did, then Thomas, and now Philip, and He says,

#### Vs8

You know, here Jesus is, talking about "seeing" the Father, and perhaps Philip thought they were in for a vision, that perhaps Jesus would give them an esoteric insight, or some type of revelation as to who the Father is. and He wants to see the Father, and you can't help but be taken back to that scene there on the mountain where Moses was talking with God and the communion was so sweet and Moses says, "*Please, show me Your glory.*" Ex 33:18 and Then God caused His goodness to pass before Him and Moses got to see the afterglow of God, and maybe Philip was in that mode, he was just being drawn into that moment whereby his fears were being subsided, the confusion was beginning to calm and as Jesus begins to talk *about* the Father, Philip asks if they can *see* the Father. Question, what do you want to see, what's your goal in life, what will it take to suffice you; wealth, power, a name for yourself, to make your dent in this world, raise your kids right and have a good and steady job? and It's not that it's wrong to have a good goal, but Philip said, "*Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.*"

Vs9

Now let's not be confused here Jesus is not saying that He *is* the Father, and the Father *is* Him, that they're the same person. But that they're the same *in* person, in personality, in character, in deity, in purpose and the persuasion of the heart. and The reason that Jesus can be so emphatic regarding His claim that to see Him is to see the Father is because He said, "*Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.*" John 5:19 In other words He's not about Himself, but He's about reflecting the heart of the Father in any given circumstance at any given moment. and Again He said, "*I always do those things that please Him.*" John 8:29 and So if you want to know God, if you want to understand God's heart in a given situation, then get to know Jesus Christ because to know Jesus Christ is to know the Father. You see this mentality of people not being able to relate to the Father based upon the fact that their dad treated them badly or they were never loved of their Father is non-justifiable.

(and I'm not trying to belittle someone's unfortunate upbringing believe me). But what I'm saying is that we don't get to know the heart of our *Heavenly* Father based upon the demeanor of our *earthly* Father, but based upon the demeanor of Jesus Christ and who He is, the way He responds and reacts, what is *His temperament*. You see, through creation we can know that there's a God, we can know of His might, His miracles, His majesty, the fact that He's wise and infinitely more than what we are. But it's Jesus Christ who reveals to us that the heart of God is the heart of a Father; it's Jesus Christ who shows us not only the *powerful* nature of the Father, but also the *personal* nature of the Father. Be it in words or in works Jesus was the perfect representation of the Father, and so if you truly want to know what God is like, then give your life to Jesus Christ Get know Jesus more and more intimately because it's He who reveals the heart of the Father to us. and As you survey the life of Jesus Christ you realize that the type of God He reveals to us is one who is a loving God, one who is compassionate towards man, is concerned for the needs of man, is broken over the failure of mankind, and desires to redeem mankind. He shows us a God who is able to satisfy man's deepest hunger, and quench man's deepest thirst, a God who is Holy and righteous and cannot and will not justify sin, but is just and the justifier of all who believe in Jesus Christ who loved us and gave Himself for us. A God who has come to seek and to save that which was lost. This is the God that you serve and you worship with all your heart and with all your soul, this is who Jesus has revealed to you.

So if you've seen Him, that is, if you've perceived who He is and have become acquainted with Him by means of personal experience, then you've seen the Father as well. The Pulpit Commentary says this, "A dazzling phenomenon, outside of Christ, might have given to the disciples a new impression of awe and fear like that which fell on Moses and the elders of Israel, on Isaiah and Elijah; yet a far more comprehensive revelation of Divine perfection, inspiring the spirit of obedience, reverence, trust, and love, devotion, and self-sacrifice, had already been made to them," They had something far greater than a *vision* of God to glean from in order to discover who He is, they had God Himself in the person of Jesus Christ right before their eyes.

Later on as he reflected on that John would write, “*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life -- the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us,*” 1 John 1:1-2 As in a mirror the perfect image is reflected back, John was saying we seen the perfect reflection of the Father in the person of Jesus Christ and we handled God come in the flesh with our bare hands.

Now we can't go beyond this with out mentioning the fact that even as *Jesus* was an ambassador of the Father, so *we're* called to be ambassadors of Jesus. and Would to God that we could all say, “He who has seen me, has seen Jesus Christ” Oh not in divinity, but again in personality, that our heart would reflect His heart, that our decisions, and our demeanor would reflect His decisions and His demeanor. The way He would handle something is the way that we would handle something, Paul said, “*Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*” 1 Cor 11:1 and Again he said, “*Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.*” Eph 5:1 and So the question that confronts us all is, when people see me, do they see Christ? Sometimes perhaps, but I can't say, “How can you say, show me Jesus, if you've seen me you've seen Jesus.” Because I don't handle every situation, or say everything in a given conversation like Jesus would, but the Lord wants to take us to that point. Whereby when people see the conduct, and conversation of your life they see Jesus Christ How can He do that? Well that's what He leads into next, and it's through the power of prayer and the presence of the Holy Spirit of our lives.

God help us to reflect Him accurately, God doesn't appreciate being misrepresented. Remember when Moses misrepresented Him by smiting the rock rather than speaking to the rock that water might flow and lives would be saved, and God chastised and penalized him because of it. I wonder what God thinks of those people who represent Him as being broke? That God needs *your* money and if you don't bail God out, His work is going to go bankrupt, what a pathetic representation of God.

Now here in vs 10 Jesus goes on to speak of His wholehearted submission to the Father, and how both His words *and* His works are that of the Father.

Vs10-11

Now back in vs 6 Jesus said that He was the truth, and here in vs 11 He calls on us to *believe* Him now if Jesus is the truth, then we do well to believe Him, because if not you're believing a lie. and He's saying here that if you can't take His word for it, then take His works for it. You remember when J.B. was in prison and about to be martyred, and he sent his disciples to Jesus saying, “Look, are you the One, or do we seek another?” In other words, Are you the Christ or not, and if so why am I here in prison? Bust me out and lets get this kingdom business on the road.

*“Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”* Luke 7:22-23 and In essence He was sending back a cryptic message to John, because John knew the scriptures!

He knew that messianic fulfillment would be found in the opening of the eyes of the blind, the lame leaping for joy, the unclean being made clean, the preaching of good tidings to the poor and giving life to the otherwise dead. and He said, I know that this isn't going like you'd envisioned John, but if you're having trouble believing because of My words, then take a look at My works and let them confirm My words. You see things don't always go like we thought that they would, or even think that they should as believers, and sometimes people want to throw in the towel because times are tough on them, or things are working out for them like they think they should. As if being in Christ gives me general amnesty from any type of hardship, but Jesus is saying, “Hey, things aren't always going to go like you might hope, but blessed is the one who's not offended, or made to stumble because I'm not running things the way they think I should.” But the point here is that if you're struggling with His words, then be strengthened by His works, and the way He's opened your blind eyes, has given you life though you were dead in sin, and has opened your ears that you might hear what the Spirit is saying.

You were lame, I was lame, but Jesus stood me up and has caused me to walk in forgiveness, and grace, restoration and a renewing of my soul, and as to where before I just flowed down the stream of whatever way the world was going, now I can stand against the grain and walk down the path that accords with godliness, and Jesus has done that work. and If He can do that work, then I can believe His words.

Vs12

Now time will forbid us to talk about these vs too much and so we'll hit them again next time. But we need to say here about these works, that Jesus isn't speaking about works in the sense of quality. How can one do a work that's of greater quality than the raising of the dead, and all the various miraculous works that He did? You say, well the salvation of one soul is greater than any physical miraculous work, and you would be right, but Jesus did that to. and So He's not speaking about quality, but about quantity, the magnitude of the works that He's been doing will continue in an ever expanding manner.

When Jesus had resurrected the bible tells us that He had about 500 (a little over) true disciples that were really all about Him, and those are the one's to whom He appeared (1<sup>st</sup> Cor15). But on the Day of Pentecost Peter stood up and delivered the message of Jesus Christ and Him crucified and the Holy Spirit reaped a harvest of 3,000 in about 3 ½ minutes. Which is what, nearly 6x as many converts then is recorded in the 3 ½ yrs in the ministry of Jesus. Now I don't know that there wasn't more, but as far as the record states, the works of Jesus would be carried on in a much greater after His physical departure.

Why, again 2 reasons, the power of prayer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit in the believers life whereby the physical limitations of the Lord would be laid aside and now He could be at work in more than one place at a time, but anywhere a believer was, Jesus Christ Himself would be at work in and through them by the power of the Holy Spirit. As for the power of prayer, look at vs13.

#### Vs13-14

Now as for the presence of the Holy Spirit we'll see that next time, but in these vs we see the scope, the condition, the grounds the certainty, and the objective of prayer. So I'll leave that for you to find, and we'll point them out next time. But the basic premise here is Jesus saying, if you call *on* Me, in a manner that is reflective *of* Me, I'll hear *from* you, and respond *to* you. So trust in the Lord with all your heart, *believe* in God, *trust* in Jesus Christ He wants to use your life, call on Him and He'll hear your cry.

Perhaps you're in a place where you've never really called on Jesus Christ, you don't know Him, then let me encourage you to call upon the Lord today for whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved, and you can leave here forgiven today, with God's precious gift of everlasting life accredited to your account. Just open your heart and let Jesus in, and He'll wipe clean your slate and you'll never be the same. You can't get to God on your own, Jesus is the only way, and there are no exceptions, and so if you'll humble yourself and invite Jesus into your life, He'll lift you up and wash you clean in His sight, make you righteous by the blood of Christ, that's the heart of the Father, but you have to believe Him for it, and simply ask Him to do it, and whoever comes to Jesus Christ He'll by no means cast out, it doesn't matter who you are where you've been or what you've done, God will give you a new life in Christ.