

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to John 14

We are continuing our verse by verse study through the Gospel of John

And we find ourselves in the portion of scripture where Jesus is pouring into His disciples / preparing them for the days ahead.

Let's pray...

Alright – I want to start off with a question –

Why did Jesus come to tabernacle among us?

For those that are good bible students – the response would be – “Jesus came to die on Calvary and save us from our sins”

And of course that response would be absolutely true.

[1Jo 3:5 NKJV] 5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

So Jesus came to die for you and me

However, there is another reason that Jesus tabernacle with us

He came to show us what God the Father is really like.

[1Jo 1:1-2 NKJV] 1 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-- 2 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—

The word manifested in the Greek means “to cause to become visible, to make appear, to cause to be seen.”

Paul tells us in the book of Colossians – that Jesus is the image of the invisible God (1:15)

Now, when we hear the word image, we think of picture or we think of a photocopy – however, the problem with a picture or a photocopy is that they are never as good as the original.

Some of you say some of the pics from our vacation – you saw a cheaper version of what I saw when the picture was taken.

So it is important to understand that Jesus isn't a cheaper image of God the Father

The word that Paul uses for image – is referring to an image made by impression – as when Caesar's image was stamped on a coin.

Paul is telling us that God the Father “stamped” His image on human flesh in the Person of Jesus Christ—this allowed man to see what God is like.

Paul is telling us that Jesus is the perfect manifestation of the Father in human form.

Which means, if we want to know what God the Father is like—all we have to do is look at Jesus?

Now, it is very important that we keep this in context –

Remember, we saw last week Jesus giving a command to His disciples

“Let not your heart be troubled” –

Jesus had just revealed to them that He was going to go away, that He was going to be killed, that He was going to be denied and that He was going to be betrayed –

They had had heard enough to become agitated and fearful -

[Jhn 14:5-6 NKJV] 5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

And I made the point last week that verse 6 – are words of comfort that Jesus gave to His disciples and us – “we don’t focus on our circumstances, we don’t try to resolve them on our own or by our own strength – we focus on Jesus who comforts us by telling us that we have chosen the right path – He is the way, the truth and the life.

[Jhn 14:7-14 NKJV] 7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

BTW - This is one of the most powerful & clear claims to deity Jesus made.

In his gospel, John uses the word know 141 times

And it is a word that can be used in four different ways –

1. Know a fact – it's going to be hot today
2. It can be used to understand the truth behind a fact – I know it's going to be hot today because it is July and we live in Southern Arizona
3. It can be used as in knowing a person relationally
4. To have deeper, fuller, comprehension of that person's identity. This is how Jesus is using it here.

Jesus says that if the disciples had really known Who He was, & not just seen Him through the lens of Who they hoped He was as their conception of the Messiah, they would have known not only Him but the Invisible God Whom He perfectly represents.

You see church – the disciples knew who Jesus was -

[Jhn 1:49 NKJV] 49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

At the wedding feast – after Jesus turned water into wine -

[Jhn 2:11 NKJV] 11 This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

When Jesus walked on water – in Matthew’s gospel it tells us that when Jesus got in the boat, the disciples worshipped Him saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.” (Matt 14:33)

In Caesarea Philippi – Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do men say that I am?” and Peter answered, “You are the Christ.”

They argued against each other over who was going to be #2

They walked with Jesus for 3.5 years

They knew He could work miracles

They knew He could speak well

They knew He was the Messiah

They knew Jesus enough to leave their friends and family and livelihoods to follow Him.

But they did not know Him in His full significance

They did not quite grasp the deity part of it.

They really truly didn’t have the deeper comprehension that Jesus is God.

Why?

Because of their upbringing, because of their background, how could God reside in a physical body?

That was just foreign to them.

Eventually, they will know Him – they will understand more deeply who He is

That is why I had you make a note of the second part

“ . . . and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”

Jesus is saying that because of what He was about to do – after His death and Resurrection, the disciples would be brought into a new relationship with God that would give them a personal experience of Him.

And from that basis, they would come to realize who He really was & would understand that He perfectly manifests the Person of God.

In effect Jesus says – “One day soon you will realize that in Me you see the Father.”

That is why Thomas – a week after the resurrection, when Jesus tells him to reach into His hands and His side – Thomas connects the dots and said to Jesus, “My Lord and my God”

So one of the questions we must ask ourselves this morning is –

“Do we know Him?” or do we look at Jesus through a lens of what we hope He is?

We must be careful –

Who we think God is and who God really is may not necessarily be the same.

That's why it's important to understand who He is by how He is revealed to us through the Word of God.

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."

Now, keep in mind that Jesus just told them - One day soon you will realize that in Me you see the Father

And Philipp responds with – show us this Father – we've never met Him???

I want to see God

Now, personally – I think Philip is speaking here on behalf of the disciples.

I think they were thinking the same thing -

They were not willing to walk by faith

They wanted a God that they could touch, a God that they could handle –

This is a preview of Thomas saying, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

That is Philip's response here.

Jesus, don't make us do this by faith – we will fail.

Now, does Jesus respond by getting on His cell phone and calling God the Father to see if He is available to make an appearance - No

9 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'?"

Jesus is confronting Philip with kind of a mild rebuke on his lack of having a complete knowledge of who He really is.

Turn your bibles with me to John 1

[Jhn 1:43-46 NKJV] 43 The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

So, from the beginning, Philip knew Jesus was someone special –

This is great – however, look what happens later on in ch 6

[Jhn 6:5-7 NKJV] 5 Then Jesus lifted up [His] eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" 6 But this **He said to test him**, for He Himself knew what He would do. 7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little."

So, here in John 6 - Jesus presented Philip with a situation to test where he was in his relationship with Jesus.

You see, it was never an issue of what Jesus would do, only a test of how Philip would handle it.

And of course we know from reading the rest of the chapter – that Philip didn't comprehend what the Lord was capable of.

He couldn't see how anything could be done in this overwhelming situation.

It was Andrew that showed up with the kids lunch and Jesus fed the multitudes.

So Jesus is saying to Philip –

You want to see the Father – look at Me

“He who has seen Me has seen the Father.” So how can you say show me the Father?

You see church; it is possible to be in someone's presence without really knowing who they are.

But it is possible to truly know God if we have an inquisitive heart.

[Jer 29:13 NKJV] 13 And you will seek Me and find [Me], when you search for Me with all your heart.

How much time do we spend with Him in prayer, in reading and meditating in His word, in our daily devotionals?

We need to evaluate our time – not the time we spend doing things for God – but the time we spend with God.

The Church in Ephesus is a really good example of this –

[Rev 2:2-4 NKJV] 2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 "and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. 4 "Nevertheless I have [this] against you, that you have left your first love.

The Church in Ephesus was so busy with the King's business they forgot the King.

So one of the principles to help us know God and know Him better is by being in His presence.

That is what Jesus is telling Philip here -

Jesus is telling Philip that if a person wants to know about God, all they have to do is get to know Him.

Jesus is saying that we can't get any closer to God than we are in getting close to Him.

Jesus is saying that all of God that we need is found in Him, therefore, we don't need to look any further.

10 "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. 11 "Believe Me that I [am] in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

Again Jesus points to His essential unity with the Father

One of the things we have to be careful with here is that Jesus is not saying that He is the same PERSON as the Father; the language does not allow that conclusion.

He is a separate person from the Father.

But He is IN the Father, and the Father is In Him.

He's saying that what can be made visible about the Father's nature, character, and purpose are revealed in Him.

He's claiming that the very words He's been speaking have been words that God has given Him.

BTW – [Deu 18:18 NKJV] 18 'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.

And if we don't believe Him because of His words – Jesus is saying that we believe Him because of His works.

12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater [works] than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

I had you make a note of most assuredly –

This is Jesus' way of saying -

“Hey guys, listen up and don't miss this. What's coming is very, very important—You must hear and accept what I'm about to say.”

Jesus is going to make a promise –

And that promise is reserved for he or she who believes in Me – I had you make a note of that.

The word believes that Jesus uses here the tense speaks of an on-going, growing trust in Christ that sees that individual in a daily vital relationship with Him as Lord and Savior.

And Jesus promises - **the works that I do he will do also; and greater [works] than these he will do**

I know what you are thinking –

Jesus turned water into wine

Jesus raised Lazarus

He fed 5000 people

So what does it mean we will do also and greater works than these he will do?

The word “greater” here doesn’t mean bigger so much as - more.

The key statement that unlocks the true interpretation of what Jesus is saying here is—

“because I go to My Father.”

What did Jesus promise He would do when He returned to His Father in heaven?

We are going to see this next week – the Helper (The Holy Spirit)

This promise that Jesus' disciples would do greater works than He did during His earthly ministry is tied to the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world once Jesus returned back to His Father.

When Jesus was on the earth physically—He was limited by that physical body to one place at a time.

He was in Galilee or in Jerusalem or in Jericho

When Jesus returned to the Father and the Holy Spirit was sent back in His place (Pentecost—Acts 2)—the Holy Spirit inhabited every believer in Christ and together they make up one Body—the “Body of Christ.”

It's the Holy Spirit in and upon our lives that gives us the power to do the works that Jesus has for us.

13 "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 "If you ask anything in My name, I will do [it].

Unfortunately, some have taken this verse way out of context and therefore they see this portion of scripture as a divine blank check where they can ask for anything and everything they want –

And when they don't get what they want – they get mad at God.

Here is the thing church – we must read this in context.

This is promise #2

The first thing I want us to focus on is the word AND

Because verse 13-14 are tied to verse 12 where Jesus made promise #1

BTW – who did Jesus make the promise to?

To His disciples and he who believes in Him

Earlier in His ministry, Jesus had laid out the cost of being one of His disciples:

[Mat 16:24 NKJV] 24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Being a disciple of Christ is a life of self-denial and service to Jesus as our King.

This means we must abandon all selfish desires and goals that only seek to 'use' God to get material 'goodies' from Him.

In other words, a true disciple isn't going to be seeking after personal riches—his or her prayers will be for the glory of God not the glory of self.

Being His disciple also meant that we are to take up our cross

To take up one's cross not only means to die to self— it also means to be willing to pay any price for Christ's sake.

It is the willingness to endure shame, embarrassment, reproach, rejection, persecution, and even martyrdom for His sake.

The cross represents the suffering that is ours because of our relationship to Christ.

And then we also are to follow in Jesus' footsteps, living the life that He lived.

So – it is to those individuals – if we ask in His name, it will be given to us

BTW - To ask for something in Jesus' name means I'm standing in His place and asking for what He would have asked for.

In other words, if Jesus wouldn't have asked for it—we'd better not either!

We are Jesus' representatives doing His business and building His Kingdom here on earth.

Whatever we need to accomplish His work we are to ask the Father for, in His name, and He (Jesus) promised He would make sure we got whatever we needed to do the work He commissioned us to do.

One of the things we have to remember is that prayer in Jesus' name is always for the glory of God.

Jesus always prayed for things that glorified His Father—

So then what you're saying is that I can't pray for myself—for my needs?"

[Mat 6:31-33 NKJV] 31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or

'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

If you're a child of God, He loves you, you belong to Him and if you are out work and you can't pay the rent or you need food, you pray – it is not selfish – those are needs. And when God meets those needs and as we see just read in our text – He promises that He will do it – it is then that He is glorified.

This is what Jesus is trying to teach His disciples and us –

I am leaving you guys – you can't come with Me

Guess what guys, you guys are going to continue the work

If you need anything for the work of the kingdom – ask the Father, in My name and it will be given to you.

The promise is all about the work of the kingdom – it is not about Ferraris and boats

The focus in on the kingdom, the focus in on the spiritual – the focus is on the eternal.

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

God wants to use us as His instruments on the earth to show His power through by being a witness to bring others to Christ.

This is all tied in with prayer—Christ centered prayer.

Prayer for the glory of God from the heart of a disciple whose heart breaks to see a world lost and on its way to destruction

That kind of prayer will be answered

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace!

