

John 13:33-14:11

³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.'

33 Jesus has one wish that He is about to share with them. They will follow Him in death later, but this was their time to go into the world with the message of what they have seen and heard (Mark 16:15).

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

34,35 He has already told them that all the Law is fulfilled in loving God and our neighbor as ourselves, but this goes a step further (Matthew 22:37-40). They were to love "Just as I have loved you." How has Jesus loved us? He humbled Himself to leave the halls of heaven and become one of us. He put His own will aside and did only the will of the Father to redeem us. He took our sins and gave us His righteousness. He faced that torturous death and the grave and brought us the victory. But that is not all. He ever lives to intercede for us (Hebrews 7:25). How can we love like that? He said we must! It is only in the power of the Holy Spirit, the very life of Jesus in us that we can possibly love anything remotely like "as I have loved you".

³⁶ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward." ³⁷ Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." ³⁸ Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times."

36-38 Jesus may have been referring to the sounding of the fourth watch, the 3A.M. trumpet. It was called the cock's crow because it was around the time roosters would begin crowing. He may have been saying before 3A.M. you will disown me three times.

^{14:1} "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me."

14:1 "Wait a minute, Jesus said His soul was troubled when He thought about what He would go through on the cross, bearing our sins" (John 12:27). At first it appeared that He was telling the disciples to do something He did not do. That could not be right. The major issue is that we do not need to be troubled about our eternity or about judgment, because Jesus took care of it (Romans 5:1).

He was troubled (stirred in spirit, agitated) so that we never need be troubled over our eternal destiny. As long as we place our trust in God and Christ Jesus, our future is secure (Psalm 37:3). To trust (*pistewo*) in a person is to entrust yourself to someone. We are not to trouble our hearts but to entrust ourselves to God and His Son Christ Jesus. Now that is the formula to live in a state of real peace (Romans 15:13). We live in times of uncertainty, and fear seems to permeate the world, but the child of God who has

entrusted himself to the care of the Father need not be troubled. There are 365 commands in the Bible to not fear. When we fear we are not trusting our Almighty God.

² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

2 Jewish families in Galilee lived around a common courtyard. When a young man was ready to take a wife, he would go with his father to the father of the prospective bride and arrange the bride-price (Exodus 22:16). The better off the family and the more value placed in the bride, the higher the price. It was insurance money to be held for the bride in case the husband died. Once the price was set, the groom would give the bride a cup of wine and ask her to drink all of it. If she did, it meant she received his life and gave him her life. That had just taken place with Jesus and the disciples at the Last Supper (Matthew 26:27).

Then the groom would tell the bride verses two and three of our text. He would go back to the family insula and add a room. As soon as the father of the groom approved of the finished room, the groom would call his friends and they would go to the bride's home to retrieve her. She would be waiting to hear the shofar announce the coming of the groom to get her. Then the friends of the groom would carry her on a liter to the groom's family compound. They referred to it as flying. A week-long party would ensue.

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

3 This is marriage covenant language. I imagine that the disciples' jaws dropped when Jesus said these things. They probably looked at each other in disbelief. John may not have understood it at the time, but he certainly understood later when he wrote Revelation 19:7-9 (Read it -Sword drill). The Lamb of God not only took care of your sins, He wants to marry you! The Apostle Paul told us that marriage was a picture of Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:32). Let me assure you, being married to Jesus is something so much greater, more wonderful, than anything you can imagine. The very best marriage on earth is just a shadow of what our relationship with Jesus will be like in that day.

⁴ And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

4,5 They knew Jesus. They knew the way. Jesus is the way to heaven. He is the gate (John 10:9). He is the only entrance. They obviously did not know what He was getting at when He said, "You know the way to the place where I am going." It seems to me Jesus said this so that He could make it crystal clear to them and to us how to get to heaven, how to have a future as the bride of Christ.

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

6 Jesus is the way to God, the way to a relationship with God that guarantees eternity in fellowship with Him. Before followers of Jesus were called Christians they were called people of The Way. He is the truth. Truth is not relative or subjective. It is God, the eternal being. He never changes. He is the same in every age and in every culture. We do have objective, unquestionable truth. His name is Jesus, the Word of God in a human body (John 1:14). If you want to know truth, then know Jesus. He is the life. Without Him there is no life. He is the life giver and the life sustainer (John 1:4). Like the sun is the energy behind all life as we know it, so the Son is the life source of all that is temporal and eternal. He gives spiritual life to those who seek Him, which is His very presence in us when we ask Him to forgive us and be our Lord.

7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

7 He said this in the end of chapter 12 as well. See Jesus; see God. Know Jesus and you know God! He could not make it any clearer. I think that even with all they had seen and heard it was still such a stretch for them. Though the Jewish writings mention YHWH appearing to man, the rabbi explain these appearances by saying that one called the Prince of the Countenance appeared for the invisible God. He was a being that came and went like an angel. Even though Jesus clearly declared it, they just could not make the connection that this Jesus is the living, breathing, Prince of the Countenance, and more. Later they would understand He is the exact representation of God (Hebrews 1:3).

8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

8,9 Jesus just said to see Him was to see the Father. Then Philip asks Jesus to show them the Father. That must have been frustrating. So, Jesus made it even plainer in verse 9. It is as if they did not hear or accept the truth, but they will not say that because that position is indefensible. That must have been how Jesus felt, only remember, this is His last night before the cross. If they do not get it now, would they ever get it? Jesus needed them to believe that He was not speaking an opinion of man, or in allegories, but the very words of God.

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

10 Jesus is saying God is doing His work. The miracles and the words are all the work of God. They cannot deny the miracles. The words are God's work as well. You cannot accept one and reject the other. Jesus' words are the Father's work even when He said, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."

¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

11 If you struggle believing my words, at least accept them because of the evidence of the miracles. God is in me and I am in God. This is that mystical union that we are invited to enter into by being in Jesus (John 14:20). This is true marriage, the ultimate sharing of life.

Questions:

To what extent does Jesus want us to love one another?

Why can Jesus ask us not to be troubled when He was troubled?

What does it mean to trust/believe in Jesus?

Review some Old Testament examples of God's care for His people.

Where had the disciples heard verse 2 and 3 before? Implication?

What do we know about heaven?

Verse 6 is definitive! Discuss.

What are we seeing when we look at Jesus?