

John 14:1-14 ESV

Encouragement

In the Face of Discouragement

Services: Sunday, 5/14 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, 5/15 at 7 PM

Church Year: Fifth Sunday of Easter – 2017

Join us on Ascension Day: Free Meal at 6 PM; Divine Service at 7 PM

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today's sermon text takes us back to very early on Good Friday (*after 6 PM on Thursday*) in the upper room; Jesus has ✦washed the feet, ✦spoken of His betrayal, and ✦foretold Peter's denial. Now, in *John 14*, Jesus brings some words of encouragement to His disciples.

1. **Jesus said: Don't Be Discouraged, I Will Take Care of Everything:** When we were children, *our mothers filled that role*; for example, my mother ✦took me to be baptized into Christ, ✦prepared my meals, ✦gave me advice, ✦drove me where I needed to go, and even ✦scrubbed the dirt out of the cut on my knee with a toothbrush. *But JESUS does so much more!*
 - a. Your eternal home: ¹“**Let not your hearts be troubled.** [*What is the remedy?*] **Believe in God; believe also in me.** [*In other words, I have made many promises to you; I want you to be certain that they are all true; for example:*] ² **In my Father's house are many rooms** [*or dwelling places*]. **If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?** 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.” // Jesus just declared: ✦ I came from my Father’s house, ✦ I am aware of the many rooms, ✦ I will go there and prepare a place for you, **and** ✦ I will return to take you there! It’s sounds impossible; furthermore, when Jesus died, *every thread of hope was gone*. But let us be certain that Jesus ✦ is God’s Son **and** ✦ will keep His Word, *so let us be encouraged!*

- b. The way to your eternal home: 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?”** ⁶ **Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.** ⁷ **If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”** // Earlier, *in the sermon on the mount*, Jesus had taught His disciples the Lord’s Prayer, which identifies the location of the Father. Then Jesus said He was going to the Father, *thus to heaven*. // We have heard many times that Jesus is the way to heaven, but how is He the way? Since our sins have earned us eternal punishment, God sent His Son to *live without sin* **and** *take the punishment we deserve*; now, *through faith in Jesus*, we have the benefits of His work! // Sin is worse than discouraging, *so let us be encouraged through our Lord Jesus Christ – He has made the Way!!!*

2. **Jesus said: Don't Be Discouraged, I and the Father Are**

One: Our mothers may have said something similar to us children; for example, *your father and I are a team*, if I say “no,” then he will say “no.” We kept hoping for a different answer, *but Jesus and the Father are truly one!* The writer of Hebrews wrote that “[the Son] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature...” (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’? 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. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.”**

- a. Jesus said it: “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.” Earlier in John 10 Jesus said, “I and the Father are one” (v. 30 ESV). Even the words spoken by Jesus were not His own, but He spoke only the words of the Father, *thus the Father spoke through His Son*. Dr. Kretzmann put it this way: “He that sees, hears, [and] takes hold of, the man Jesus Christ incidentally sees, hears, and takes hold of God the Father” (NT 1:489).
- b. Jesus’ works showed it: With every miracle, *the Father was working through Jesus*. As recorded in John 10, Jesus said, “If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me,

believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father” (John 10:37-38 ESV). If Jesus was on His own, *we should be discouraged*; since He and the Father are together, *we are encouraged!*

3. **Jesus said: Don't Be Discouraged, I Will Do Whatever Agrees with My Will:** That statement could also remind us about our mothers; for example, “Mom, can you help me tie my shoes so I don't trip?” “Mom, can you make YOUR favorite food for supper today?” “Mom, is it okay for me to go outside to wash your car?” Jesus, like mom, won't do whatever we ask, *but He will do whatever is best for us!* // ¹² **“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”** // Jesus did great works like casting out demons, healing the sick, and raising the dead; the apostles did the same **“to testify to the truth of their teaching”** (Kretzmann, NT 1:490) (e.g. Acts 5:14-16). But what are the greater works? **“To convert sinners, to rescue lost and condemned men from damnation, that is... greater...”** (Ibid.). Finally, when we pray in Jesus' name, *we are praying in agreement with the Bible!*

Conclusion: Let us pray: Father, help us to know Your Word; then, help us to be encouraged and pray in Jesus' name!

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