

# John 46 - Way, Truth and Life in Jesus via the Father

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John 14:1-14

## The Setting

- Christ and Apostles at Mount of Olives
- Christ begins His great dialogue with the eleven Apostles; as usual, they struggle to understand...
- They will illustrate why the Holy Spirit is needed



## Metaphor or Concrete

- Christ used metaphors to teach His truths
  - Christ taught about spiritual matters: His message
  - People, trapped in their fleshly worldview, struggled to grasp the new spiritual truths Christ taught
  - Apostles were no different as they struggle to understand His last dialogue
  - They are the last of the Old Covenant saints; they illustrate why the Spirit is necessary for New Covenant

## Troubled Heart: Believe

- Right after telling Peter that Satan will winnow him before the night is completed, Christ tells the Apostles
  - Do not let your hearts be troubled - Something is amiss
  - Imperative Command: Believe in:
    - Father
    - Me
  - In the coming trial only belief in Christ can control the Fear of Death that threatens to overwhelm them

Only Christ exhibits belief in the Father while He faces Death

## Metaphor of the House

- "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?" (Jn 14:2)
  - Father's *house*, is not a physical dwelling
  - Metaphor (Idiom) for all believers saved by the Father
    - *House of Israel*: True Jews brought into Kingdom (Jn 8:17)
    - *House of God*: Christ, High Priest over all God's believers (Jn 10:10)

## Many Rooms in His House

- The Father's House (family) includes all believers (Jn 11)
  - Antediluvian (First and Second Dispensations)
  - Postdiluvian Ante Mosaic Law (Third and Fourth Dispensation) Old Covenant  
Without  
Indwelling  
Holy Spirit
  - Mosaic Law (Fifth Dispensation)

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  - First Fruits Era (Present Age) (Sixth Dispensation) New Covenant  
With  
Indwelling  
Holy Spirit
  - Millennial Kingdom Era (Seventh Dispensation)

## Paul Continues This Thought

- All the various subgroups saved, rooms, will be unified into one house (Father's House) with one faith (Co 1:23-29, Ep 4:4-7)
  - Jews and Greeks (Gentiles)
  - Slave and Free
  - Male and Female
- Christ preparing our place with the Father by offering Himself on heavenly altar and intercession for saints (Jo 20:16-18, Ep 4:8-10, He 7:23-26, 10:12-18, Re 5)

Paul illustrated this  
Using the Body  
All are unique yet  
All are one  
(1Co 12:12-31)

## If He Goes; He Will Return

- Christ gives the promise of His return for His own as a logic statement (*Modus tollens*): P → Q
  - If I go - He ascended into Heaven (Ac 1:9)
  - Then I will return - We wait for His return (Ac 1:10-11)
- When He returns He will bring us completely into the Father's House exchanging our bodies of sin for new spiritual, imperishable bodies (Rapture) (1Co 15:42-49, 1Th 4:13-17)

## “Where I Go You Know the Way”

- Where I go: Present Active Indicative meaning Jesus is in the process of going (Via stauros in faith (belief))
- You know the Way: Perfect Active Indicative meaning their knowledge of the Way is already been known via Christ's teachings: Believe in God and Christ (Ep 1:3-14)
  - Salvation is the door
  - Walking the Way (Living the Gospel in love) (Jo 13:33-35)

## Thomas Voices Apostles' Confusion

- Apostles thinking in concrete terms
    - Christ physically going someplace beyond this world and they do not know the place; ergo, they do not know how to get there - Directions
    - Christ summaries His teachings; He is:
      - The Way (Ac 26:34-15)      Jesus is the only Way to the Father
      - The Truth                      He alone is the Truth of Salvation
      - The Life                      Life eternal comes only through Christ
- All else is dead works leading to eternal search for righteousness, and finding none

## Another *Modus Tollens* Statement

- Another logic statement: concrete to spiritual (P→Q)
  - If you know Me (And they did, somewhat) (Mr 16:16)
  - Then you will know (Future) the Father based on the indwelling Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Ac 2:1-4)
  - Henceforth, you do know (Present) Him; you perceive (Perfect) Him: He chose you (Completed action) (Ep 1:3-14)
  - Truth is not innate (works); it is given as determined from before Creation; thus, you know: Faith & Belief (Ro 1:18-25; He 11:1)

## Asking for a Sign - Father

- Philip listens then asks Christ simply to show them the Father and they will believe
  - Faith is the *proof* of things not seen (He 11:1)
  - Father is Spirit: worshiped in Truth and Spirit (Jo 4:23-26)
  - Father is infinite, outside this Creation
  - Christ, the Son, is the essence of the Father in bodily form; seeing holiness of Christ is seeing the Father

## Opening Hymn: No One Sees

- John's Opening Hymn declared *no one* has ever seen the Father (No one will ever see the Father either)
  - Since Christ is sinless He is the essence of the Father
  - Seeing and hearing Christ is seeing and hearing Father
  - Philip is basically asking for a *sign* which will not insure faith but only reveals his lack of understanding
  - Christ chastens them for their lack of understanding

## Two Avenues for Belief

- Christ says the Apostles, indeed all of us, can either believe His words or believe His works
  - The concrete works Christ performed confirmed His Spiritual truths
  - Physical healing illustrated ability to forgive sins (Jk 9:1-7)
- Comes down to faith that Christ is the *only* Way, Truth and Life with the Father: Seeing Christ is seeing Father

## Works and Greater Works

- Christ gives this Promise to the Apostles *if they believe*
  - They will do the works He did (Jc 14-16)
  - Indeed, they will do greater works (Jc 14-16)
  - He goes to the Father so they can do these works (Jc 16-17)
  - These *charismas* of the Spirit authenticated the Gospel
- Today, we live the message without visible charismas – a much harder task (1Co 13:8-10)



## Whatever is Not Carte Blanche

- "Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." (Jn 14:13)
  - Ask: Aorist, Active, Subjunctive - Asking in accordance to criteria laid down in time past consistent to His will
  - Then Christ will answer the prayers in order to
  - Glorify: Aorist, Passive, Subjunctive - The Father based on His unchangeable nature of Light as Jesus is Light

*Therefore, the whatever does not mean asking for anything that comes to mind  
That would promote covetousness and therefore sin defiling believer and God  
(Jn 1:13-18; 4:14)*

## Anything is Not Carte Blanche

- "If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it." (Jn 14:14)
  - Ask: Aorist, Active, Subjunctive - Asking in accordance to criteria laid down in time past consistent to His will
  - Do: Future, Active, Indicative - Christ will do what is asked consistent with His nature and will
- Again, Christ is not giving believers a blank check to ask for anything; importance of grammar

## Asking in His Name

- This is not a magic incantation designed to give every believer complete access to whatever they desire
  - Whatever and anything are limited by that which is consistent with God's:
    - Grace - Will it promote sin: covetousness
    - Will - Is it consistent with God's will for you (Jn 14:23, Jn 4:17)
    - Plan - Is it consistent with God's plan Micro/Macro scale and Dispensation, eschatology, etc.

## Summary

- Christ His dialogue
  - Tells them to believe in Him to control troubled hearts
  - Gives them future promise of being with Him in the Father's family which includes all who believed
  - Apostles respond
    - Show us the Way You are going - Looking for destination
    - Show us the Father - Want a sign displaying lack of faith

## Christ Gives Future Promise

- Christ promises that when He ascends to the Father they will do His works and even greater works
  - Their prayers must be consistent with His nature
  - The implication is that the prayers will not actually come from believers but from another source
  - While in the flesh we are too easily swayed to sin
  - This is the ancient view of after life: living in the body

## Christ Laying Groundwork For...

- This section of His dialogue laid the foundation for the introduction of the New Covenant indwelling Spirit
  - Old Covenant believers could only dimly perceive God's truth due to the veil of flesh that clouded their minds (ICo 13:12)
  - New Covenant is difference in relationship between believers and Holy Spirit who will more clearly reveal truths of the Father and Son: Changing the world