

John 14:1-4 (NIV)

Pastor Spencer Kim

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going."

Intro:

In the previous chapter 13, Jesus shared with His disciples that he would be betrayed by one of them and that He would have to leave them. At this point, the disciples did not know what exactly Jesus was talking about (John 16:18). Regardless, the thought of their Master being betrayed (by one of them no less), and leaving them behind had left the disciples "troubled" (v.1). They believed Jesus was the promised Messiah who would restore the Kingdom of Israel to God (Luke 24:21; Acts 1:6). Furthermore, they had followed Jesus Christ faithfully for three years and hoped that they were going to witness (maybe even take part) in this great redemption. But all of a sudden, Jesus delivers this shocking news, and their hopes and dreams were crushed. They found themselves in utter disarray and were overwhelmed with anxiety, fear, and confusion. However, in today's passage (John 14:1-4), Jesus shows compassion towards their troubled hearts. Even though the time of His own suffering and death was nearing, He offers the disciples comfort of hope in the future Heavenly home.

Jesus comforts the disciples by first, reaffirming His deity. By placing Himself on the same level with the Father, He shows that He is worthy of their faith and trust (v. 1). We can see this faith and trust exemplified in David during his own time of fear, uncertainty, and anxiety. During his deepest hours, David cries, "O my God, in You I trust" (Ps 25:1-2) and "When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You" (Ps 56:3). In their time of disarray and struggles, Jesus wants the disciples not to lose heart and have faith and trust in Him because He would never "leave them and forsake them" (Heb. 13:5). Jesus has prepared a permanent home for His disciples that is far greater and more beautiful than any human mind could possibly imagine (vv. 2-4). Not only that, He's returning to take us to our permanent home Himself (v. 3). Even in times of anxiety, fear, and confusion, we place our hopes in Jesus Christ and what He has done (cross) and what He has prepared for us (our place in Heaven).

I guess you can say that I'm a goal-oriented person. I usually come up with some kind of a plan, and then, I just execute! Years ago, I thought I had the perfect plan. Make a lot of money, have a stable life for my family, and then when my life was perfect, start seminary, and become a pastor. I'm sorry, but I wasn't going to be one of those "poor" pastors. Believe it or not, my plan was working and I was at a point in my life where I was ready to apply for seminary and begin my pastoral career. But suddenly, I lost the biggest account at my work, and my life was turned upside-down. I was at the brink of losing everything I had worked so hard for. I lost all hope for

life itself. This period was the worst and darkest moments of my life. I even thought about ending it all. Long story short, I eventually learned that I had lost all hope for life because all my hopes were *in* my life, in this world, and what I can do. Thankfully, through the help of my community, I was able to let go of all the hopes I had placed on myself and the world. Now, I'm able to place all my hopes in Jesus Christ and what He has done and what He has prepared for me.

Today, I have become a pastor and I love what I do. But honestly, I don't always have it all together. I still have a difficult time when things don't go my way. But by His grace, I never lose hope. How can I? Jesus *is* my hope!

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some things that really “drain” you (lose hope)?
2. What are some ways the world “recharge” their drained batteries? How about you?
3. How does belief/faith in Jesus give one hope in the impossible?
4. Read 1 Peter 3:15. Why would anyone come and ask you for the reason for the hope that you have?
5. Have you ever felt fear, anxious, and hopeless? What/who gave you hope? How did you come out of it?

Faith in Action:

1. Memorize 1 Peter 3:15. When you are the light of the world, salt of the earth, people will come to you and ask you for the reason for the hope that you have. Be prepared to answer them and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. You might have people around you who are not doing well (depressed, hopeless, anxious, angry, etc.). Pray for them. If possible, approach them share the hope that is in you.
3. If you are not doing well (depressed, hopeless, anxious, angry, etc.) share it with your D-Group and receive prayer from them and together, “recharge.”
4. Bonus: Read Hebrews Chapter 11 and study the connection between faith and hope.

John 14:5-14 (NIV)

Pastor Melanie Rischer Bernard

5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" **6** Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7** If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." **8** Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." **9** Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? **10** Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. **11** Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. **12** Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Intro:

Have you ever spent a lot of time with someone and after a few years, thought you really knew him or her, only to find out there was way more to the person than realized? I met my husband at APU when I was a sophomore. After a few years of dating, we got married. Living with someone is so different than just dating. Those first few years of marriage were crazy! Crazy good, crazy amazing and also a crazy time of learning his daily behaviors, what he loved, what he didn't, who he was 24/7 and on and on! I remember making Paul dinner one night and being so proud of my home-cooked meal. We sat down at our little table, in our tiny apartment in Glendora and prayed for our meal. Chicken, potatoes, and peas. I was so proud. I looked up. He just starred. I started eating. He just starred. I looked at him. He just starred. He finally told me that he really didn't like the food on his plate. In fact, he couldn't stand chicken on bones and he hated peas. WHAT? Wait a minute! I didn't understand. How did I not know this about him? I remember sitting on the couch, realizing that there were things about him that I just did not know. And guess what? After 25 years of marriage, I am still learning new things about him!

I think the disciples felt this way. They spent three years with Jesus. The disciples watched intently how he interacted with others, they witnessed countless miracles, they listened to his teachings and saw lives racially transformed, they followed him everywhere, and they hung out with him and everything in-between. They were with Jesus 24/7! They probably thought they knew him pretty well and yet we see that they were really confused and didn't understand the things Jesus was saying about himself. Looking back to verse 5, Thomas is bold and tells Jesus that they don't know where he is going, so how could they know 'the way' (basically telling Jesus that they didn't understand). Jesus explains, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (verse 6). Jesus. The way. Truth. Life. Jesus is saying that he is not just a way to get to the Father, but the only way to the Father. Philip then jumps into the conversation in verse 8 and tells Jesus to show them the Father. After being with Jesus 24/7, did they really not know that Jesus and the Father were one? Did the disciples really not know who Jesus was this entire time? The New Living Translation says it this way in verse 9, "Jesus replied, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am?'"

Then Jesus, the visible image of the invisible God, answers their questions and explains.

Discussion Questions:

- In reading verses 5 and 8 again, how would you describe what the disciples were struggling with?
- Do you feel that what Jesus said in verse 6 is narrow and limited, or do you feel it is freeing? Share why.
- How would you respond to someone who says, "There are many ways to God"?
- Describe how Jesus is each of these three things: "way", "truth" and "life"?
- What kind of tone do you think Jesus spoke with as he answered Philip's question in verses 9-14? Why?
- What is Jesus' response in verses 9-14?
- How do you think Jesus responds to you when you ask him questions?
- How long have you known Jesus? What are some of the new things you are learning about him?

Faith in Action:

- Read verses 6 and 7. Now write these verses in your own words.
- Read and write out 1 John 5:20. How does this verse relate to the passage in John 14?
- Spend some time praying this week and ask God to reveal more of himself to you. There is so more of Him that He wants you to know! Write down your revelations.
- Share with someone how you found true life in Jesus. What was their response?

John 14:15-21

Pastor Treena Meyers

“¹⁵ If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Intro:

In John 14 Jesus prepares his disciples for his upcoming departure and promises comfort and help after his upcoming betrayal, crucifixion and death. We read in John 14:1-14 of Jesus' compassion and love towards his trouble disciples. In those verses Jesus encourages them to not lose heart. The disciples are most likely confused and do not understand the breadth, depth or significance of the things events that will shortly take place. Jesus knows they are confused and are fearful of what they do not understand. He begins to address those fears in John 14; “do not let your hearts be troubled”(v. 1), he is preparing a place for them (v. 2), and he is coming back (v. 3).

Needless to say, the disciples did not fully comprehend what Jesus was saying, as evidenced by Thomas' and Philip's reactions and questions. Jesus responded to their concerns by lovingly reminding them that he is the way the truth and the life (v. 6), to know him is to know the Father (v. 7), and he is in the Father and the Father is in him (v. 11). Verses 12 through 14 set the stage for the promise of the coming comforter and advocate, the Holy Spirit. He expresses that if the disciples believe in him and the work that he has been doing that they will go on to do greater things because he is going to the Father.

I can only imagine how the disciples might be feeling in these moments. They had just spent three years with Jesus; they ministered with him and were eyewitnesses to the miracles he performed. They had observed demon possessed people set free, lepers healed, the blind see, dead people rise from the dead and so much more and now they are being told that he is going away.

I don't know about you, but that would be a lot for me to grasp. My heart would be in utter turmoil. I do not believe that I would have been able to understand that he was sending someone to not only comfort me, but that this person would also be my advocate and work through me to perform greater things than Jesus did. I believe I would have felt abandoned. I am only speculating, but I believe the disciples felt like they were going to be abandoned, otherwise Jesus would not have said, “I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you.” (v. 18)

A little over 27 years ago my husband went on his first six-month deployment. He was in the Navy and we had been married for just two years. This was the first time that I was ever completely alone. I was twenty years old and had never lived alone.

We had just moved from Hawaii to San Diego and the only friend I had moved away just a few days before he deployed. I was afraid and fearful that I would not make it while he was gone. I

felt hopeless and anxious. To make matters worse, the women in my office were not very nice to me; I felt like I was being beaten up and I came home every day crying.

I was a complete mess. It was a difficult season and I realized that something needed to shift. I began to re-engage with the church and women's bible studies. I drew closer to the Lord and began to sense the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life. Now, when I find myself feeling anxious, alone and afraid, I recall that season of my life and draw strength from my experience; knowing that the Holy Spirit is always with me.

Discussion Questions:

1. When have you felt alone/abandoned and helpless?
2. What are some activities that help you when you feel alone and helpless?
3. Do you think you are/were able to maintain a faithful and spiritually centered perspective during those times, much like the apostles?
4. What are some things you would recommend to others to stay faithfully focused and strengthened (encouraged) during those times?

Faith In Action:

1. Memorize Philippians 4:6. When we are able to be calm and at peace we are able to sense the presence and see the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It is from this state of peace that we are able to witness to others going through hard times that may need to see what being at peace looks like when we rely on the Lord.
2. If you have someone in your life that is anxious, fearful or feels alone, reach out to him or her. Schedule a lunch, dinner or coffee date and listen to their concerns and pray for and with them.
3. If you are currently struggling with feeling alone, anxiousness or fear, share those things with your D-Group and ask for them to pray for you. You might also want to find one person in the group that you can regularly meet with to continue receiving encouragement.
4. Bonus: Read Psalm 23 and journal your thoughts as you read through the passage. Pay particular attention to the Lord being your shepherd and the connection to how as a shepherd take great care of his sheep how he will care for you.

John 14:22-24 (NIV)

Pastor Kevin Cobb

22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" **23** Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him and we will come to him and make our home with him. **24** He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."

Intro:

We see in this passage that Judas - son of James and one of the disciples but not Judas Iscariot) asks a question about why only a select group would be loved by the Lord and get to see him. A good question that allowed Jesus an opportunity to talk about the difference between "his own" or those who believe and "the world" or those who have yet to believe. He explains that we "see" the Lord through the Holy Spirit within us, and the method we view Christ is through obedience. In that obedience we have Jesus come to us and he actually resides with us! Jesus unites many things here. Obedience, love, Jesus' words, and Christ living with us. This is made possible for us through the Spirit.

First, we see that obedience is the way we are grateful to God for what he has done for us. James (1:22) says to be a doer of the Word, not just a listener of the Word. We show our love for Jesus when we are obeying. Warren Wiersbe says "salvation means we are going to heaven, but submission means heaven comes to us." He goes on to say, "we are called to deepen our experience with God as we obey - and yield to the Spirit to guide us and teach us." This is the way God's love comes more and more alive in us!

Second, it says that if you love Jesus and obey his teaching, God the Father and Jesus will come to you and make their home with you. Have you ever been homeless? Jesus was committed to community and made time to be with people even though it meant travel and lack of a steady place to lie his head each night. The text says that Jesus has already come and made his home with you through his Spirit – do you believe this?

Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean for you to obey? In the 21st century and information age we can get to do almost anything we determine, often without consequences. Do you have anyone you know who demonstrates listening and doing what Jesus says?
- What do you think about Jesus wanting to share a home with you? Does it change the way you see what happens there? Would it change anything believing this passage?

- What do you think about the Wiersbe quote regarding how heaven comes to us? Are there things you have yet to submit to the Lord? Would you go wherever God wanted you to go?

Faith in Action:

- Take a few quiet moments and ask God to speak to you about your being a listener – and a doer. See if there would be something specific you revealed to act on.
- Jesus traveled to care for others. Think about some ways you might travel to be helpful to those in your dorm, neighborhood or in a class. Go for it, and see what happens!
- Judas asked a good question that ended up helping Jesus clarify things to the disciples. Consider if there are any questions you would ask this week that could help your close friends deepen their love for God.

John 14:25-31

Pastor Kelly Roth

²⁵ "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate,^[a] the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; ³¹ but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.

Intro:

What a gift, that Jesus would explain what was about to happen, even though he knew the message would likely be confusing for the disciples. They had followed Jesus and little by little began to understand that Jesus was the Messiah they had been waiting for. But what a heartbreaking message to learn that Jesus would leave them soon. They had expectations and hopes and dreams that the Messiah would make everything in their world better, but that was not their experience. Instead I would imagine they may have felt abandoned and betrayed because what Jesus was offering was not what they expected or hoped for.

What the disciples didn't know at the time, was the amazing gift of the Holy Spirit. They wanted Jesus to be a literal King and to set up a physical government/Kingdom where they would be the people in power. But that was never God's plan and Jesus modeled for them what it meant to do only what the Father told him to do. Jesus gave us a flesh and blood example of the Father so that we would see what a truly loving Father looks like.

The promise in this passage is that God would send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit to continue to teach them and remind them of all they had learned from Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

- Talk about a time in your life when you had an expectation about how God would answer your prayers and that expectation was not met. How did you handle it? What did you learn about yourself and about God in that experience?
- This passage tells us that the Holy Spirit is an advocate and a guide. Has there been a time when you have experienced the ministry of the Holy Spirit guiding you? Has there been a time when you have experienced unexplainable peace?

Faith in Action:

- Share with the group an area of your life where you desire the guidance and advocacy of the Holy Spirit.
- Take some time to pray together for a deeper awareness of the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.