

COMFORT IN SEPARATION

John 14:1-14

After Jesus completed final comments to the crowd concerning His rejection, He turned from public ministry to give attention to His disciples.

Messages for Jesus' Followers 13-16

Message # 1:

The Master & His Servants 13

In the upper room the night before His death, He instructs them in preparation for their ministry after His departure.

Washing of Disciples' Feet 13:1-17

Jesus washes the disciples' feet to give them an example of the need to serve one another.

Those who truly follow Jesus will lay aside *their* rights & serve one another.

Prediction of His Betrayal 13:18-30

So that they not be disillusioned but might trust Him, Jesus predicts major events related to His death.

As a demonstration of His omniscience & warning to Judas, He announces His betrayal.

Preparation for His Death 13:31-38

After Judas left, Jesus announces that the time has come for Him to glorify the Father by His death.

He's going to leave them but they should continue to evidence their relationship to Him by their love for one another.

Final prediction related to Jesus' death is Peter's denial (36-38).

In spite of Peter's declaration of willingness to die for the Lord, Jesus predicts that he will deny Him.

2nd Message: Promise of His Return 14:1-14

Jesus teaches what to expect in the future.

Promise to come back to take us to be with Him.

While gone, He'll prepare a place for us

1-4 *"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms; if it weren't so, I would've told you. I'm going there to prepare a place for you. ³& if I go & prepare a place for you, I'll come back & take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I'm going."*

Trick in translation: Present statements & commands use same form: context helps us identify which is meant:

"You believe in God" => so, *"believe also in me."*

or, in the dark, frightening days ahead, "After I'm gone, don't give up! Don't throw in the towel!

"Trust God" => *"& trust also in me."*

Either way it's a challenge to trust Him, as they face the surprising circumstances about to take place.

This certainly wasn't what they signed up for;

NOT what they expected!

He wants them to understand: what's about to happen is part of the plan.

God's still in charge!

He'll accomplish His purposes *THROUGH* what's about to happen.

Though it may not FEEL like it,

it's for their good.

He's preparing to take us to a good place, prepared for us. Then He'll come back & get us, to take us there.

Another translation trick a bit further down, in vs. 2, statement or ?

"If it weren't so,...

I would have told you"

Would I have told you so (led you to believe it)?"

Either way it's a call to believe that hope for our future.

He's going to leave, but **it's for our good!**

What FEELS horrible is really good;

He's preparing a place for us! That's good!

He concludes that promise by pointing out that they already know how to get where He's taking us.

But they don't *know* that they know it.

Jesus IS the way to get there!

If we trust Him, we'll join Him there 5-7

"Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus answered, "I am the way & the truth & the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him & have seen him."

Jesus is the only way to the Father because He is one with the Father 8-11

"Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father & that will be enough for us." ⁹Jesus 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'? ¹⁰Don't you believe that I'm in the Father, & that the Father's in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it's the Father, living in me, who's doing his work. ¹¹Believe me when I say that I'm in the Father & the Father's in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves."

When someone comes to Jesus, they're coming to the Father.

In a similar way, those who trust Jesus are *in* Him.

They'll be able to do greater works than He has done because He's going to the Father

12-14 *"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I've been doing. He'll do even greater things than these, because I'm going to the Father. ¹³& I'll do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴You may ask me for anything in my name, & I'll do it."*

This promise is about Jesus leaving us here to accomplish God's purposes for His glory.

Key to understanding this passage: *"in my name."*

This isn't secret for getting that new Mercedes Benz you're wanting!

Or striking it rich!

He's talking about His representatives, acting in His name; accomplishing His purposes, for His glory.

As His representatives, seeking His will, we can count on His enablement, to accomplish His purposes, for His glory.

God will work through that person.

His church will continue to accomplish even greater works than those He has done, to bring people to God, and to bring glory to Him.

Great works done in His name bring glory to Him & to the Father.

So what does this message say to us?

1. Jesus' departure was intentional, to open the way to the Father, and to prepare a place for us.

2. We too can trust God to accomplish His purposes through us.

We're part of the plan.

He'll glorify Himself through us, as He did through Jesus & through these followers.

3. Jesus is still the way, the truth, and the life.

No matter what people think about it, God has affirmed: Jesus is the only way to come to the Father.