

The Father's Home in Us

John 14:18-31

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.'

John 14:18-21

Introduction

- Jesus has been speaking of his return to the Father (John 14:1-17)
- He continues this theme but encourages the disciples with "I will not leave you as orphans ..." (v18)

I. We Are Not Orphaned

- We are not orphaned because the Father and Son will come and live within us (v20)
- We receive the Father and Son through obedience to Christ and living in love
- The whole picture is centred on agape love

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.'

Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, 'Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?'

Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'

Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

John 14:22-24

II. Jesus' Specific Teaching to the Disciples

'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, 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.

Judas' Question

- A third question from the disciples – through Judas (not Iscariot) – “how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?”
- Once again the question represents confusion and lack of understanding

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.

John 14:25-27

Jesus' Answer

- The revelation is through an interior dwelling of God in you - not an exterior appearance
- The Father & Son will come to indwell you – “make our home with them” (v23)
- Our true home is centred in God and Christ living in us; a relationship of abiding

1. The Holy Spirit will teach us (v26)

- The Holy Spirit named as Paraclete and Holy breath will teach you everything
- We as disciples are always learners in our spiritual journey – never stop learning, reading, studying, thinking about your faith

2. The Spirit will remind us of Jesus' teachings (v26)

- "remind you of all that I have said to you" – the New Testament is evidence of this truth
- We are not to go beyond Jesus but understand and go deeper in what he said

I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; 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.

John 14:28-31

3. Jesus will give us peace (v27)

- The peace speaks of the Hebrew word – shalom – fullness of peace not simply absence of conflict
- Rather an abundance of life which is known even amidst turmoil

4. Jesus returns to the Father (v28)

- Speaks of rejoicing and ultimately of our hope & rejoicing
- Our destiny is one of rejoicing; overcoming the human overcast
- Rejoice for our loved ones who have already returned to the Father

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. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

5. Jesus recognizes his confrontation with evil (v30)

- Speaks of the ruler of this world (v30) – but the evil one has no power over Jesus (v30b)

Satan's work of:

1. Hatred (John 15:18-19)
 - » God's response of love
2. Deceit - Satan a liar (John 8:44-45)
 - » God's work of truth
3. Death - a murderer (John 8:44)
 - » Jesus' work of life and resurrection

7. Jesus gives us an ongoing work to represent him (v12-14)

- To work for the kingdom of God
- To represent the face of Jesus to those we meet
- To do the greater things of service and mission (v12)

- Ultimately the confrontation speaks of the cross
 - Jesus' life for us

This is what Jesus is leading up to: his disciples will continue his mission and his works. But what is this mission? It is to give life, eternal life, and to reveal the face and heart of God to people. It is to be a presence of God in the world where there is an absence of God.

Jean Vanier

6. Jesus recognizes his vindication (v28)

- The cross will lead to glory and exaltation
- People see shame
- Jesus knows the path leads to life (v31; 14:3)
- Good Friday leads to Easter Sunday morning

God's works are not big miracles, which some heroic disciples may be called to do, but all those works of simple kindness and goodness which give people life and lead them to trust in themselves and in God

Jean Vanier