

I am the way and the truth and the life
John 14:1-14

We were made for relationship with God

- The 1 God in 3 persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit who for all eternity have been in a loving relationship and created us to live in relationship with them.
- Yet mankind rejected God, turning away from the light and life towards darkness and death.
- Yet Jesus, God the Son, came as the light of the world.
- For 3 years his disciples were with Jesus seeing his glory and experiencing grace and truth (John 1:14-18).
- But now Jesus is saying he is leaving them (13:33) and, even worse, that Peter will disown Jesus (13:38). In just a few hours they will see Jesus dying nailed to a cross!
- But Jesus says...14:1
- Even though it will feel like a terrible, tragic end they should not panic or give up. Why not?

1. Jesus is the way to the Father v1-6

See what Jesus says about what he is going to do – read verses 1-2

- Saying when he dies he will be going somewhere – to his father's house
- He says there are plenty of rooms in his father's house and he goes to prepare a place for them.
- So Jesus is saying – it is for your good that I go, so your place will be prepared.
- Now we need to remember again what Jesus' going involved – his death, resurrection and ascension.
- The going is the way he prepared the place.
- And see what more Jesus will do (v3)
- He will make sure they get there – to be with him in his father's house.
- When they see Jesus hanging on the cross they will fear it is all over but Jesus' death and resurrection guarantee they will be with him forever in his Father's house.

Read verses 4-5 – Thomas' confusion is understandable

- Give us the location – tell us the postcode, then we can know the way.

Jesus responds with v6

- The emphasis in the 'I am' statement is on Jesus being the way. Notice not that he shows the way or demonstrates the way, but that he is the way.
 - He is also the truth, he embodies the supreme revelation of God.
 - And the Life, he has life in himself.
- Notice that Jesus doesn't say – no one comes to the house, he says no one comes to the Father. The big deal is the person, the relationship, not the place.
- We need to emphasise both the positive and the negative of this statement
 - Positive - Jesus is the way to the Father, so any can come into the relationship they were created for.
 - Negative – no one comes to the Father except through Jesus. No other religion, charitable work or self-sacrificial act will get us to the Father.
- But talk of the Father confuses Philip (read verses 7-8)

- Who is this 'Father' and what is he like?

2. Jesus is the way to know the Father (v9-11)

What is the relationship between Jesus and the Father (between God the Son and God the Father)? Read verses 9-11

- Jesus says in response to Philip's request – don't you know me.
- If you know Jesus, you know the Father. If you see Jesus, you have seen the Father.
- The explanation is in v10 – Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in Jesus.
- So when Jesus speaks it is the Father doing his work.

So this means – the character of the Father and the Son are the same

- There is no hidden part of the Father that the Son doesn't have
- And there is no difference between the words of the Father and the Son.

So how can you and I know the Father? By getting to know Jesus.

- In your thinking is the Father different from Jesus? More harsh? More distant or hidden? How do these verses change the way you view the Father?

But with Jesus gone who will carry on his work? – the promise Jesus makes next is staggering...(read verses 11-14)

3. Jesus will continue his work...through believers! (v12-14)

What does v12 this mean?

- It can't mean more spectacular miracles than Jesus
- Nor a larger number of miracles (the word used doesn't mean greater number)
- So what does it mean? We need to piece together what it means...
 - Notice it is a promise not a challenge – those who believe in Jesus will do greater works than Jesus.
 - The end of v12 – the greater things are because Jesus goes.
 - So they aren't things that could be done before Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension.
 - The greater things depend on asking Jesus for them – i.e. prayer (v13)
 - The purpose of them is that the Father will be glorified in the Son (v13)

So what is this?

- After Jesus' death and resurrection the believers were empowered by the Holy Spirit to go and proclaim the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus and through Jesus call for repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- When they preached many responded by coming to faith (see Acts 2:41) – far more than in Jesus' ministry before the cross.
- During Jesus' earthly ministry there seemed to be a fog over the disciples' understanding but after Jesus had gone the fog lifted as the Spirit brought many to faith in Jesus.

So we have the privilege of being drawn into the work of the Trinity – glorifying the Father by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus and by that means more people coming into the relationship they were made for.