

Promises for Troubling Times

John 14.1-14

The Passover isn't going well for the disciples. Jesus washing their feet felt wrong; He said one of them would betray Him, then Judas left. He said He was leaving, and they couldn't come with Him. Peter said he'd die for Jesus, and Jesus said Peter would deny Him three times that night! Into this troubling scene, Jesus offers enduring promises.

Don't be troubled – I have big plans for you! (1-4)

- You believe in God; believe in Me!
- Jesus goes to prepare a place for us in His Father's house
- He will return to take us to be with Him (Acts 1.9-11; 1 Thess. 4.13-18)

Believing in Jesus is the (only) way to the Father (5-11)

- Jesus is the way to God, because He is truth and life
- Jesus is the truth: Know Jesus, know God!
- Jesus is the life: He is in the Father, and the Father in Him

Believers in Jesus will do greater works in His name (12-14)

- Apostles performed physical miracles, like Jesus did
- Apostles, and believers today, perform spiritual miracles
- As Jesus did, we can display God to a needy world



1. Have you ever felt like your future was uncertain, your life wasn't working out the way you hoped, and you wondered what God was up to? Review John 13: Imagine you're with Jesus and the disciples in the upper room, and all those events just happened. What were you *expecting* to happen that night? How many things have gone wrong? What questions are you asking yourself? Now imagine Jesus says the words of John 14.1. How do you feel?
2. John 14.1-6 is often read at funerals. Why might this be so? Verse 2 presents an image of Jesus 'building' a place for us in heaven. When Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you," what do you think the disciples thought He was referring to? John wrote this narrative in 70 A.D. or later (possibly 95 A.D.); what do you think he thought these words referred to? What do these words make you think of?
3. In John 14.3, Jesus promises that He "will come again and receive you unto Myself." These words are interpreted many ways. What different interpretations have you heard? In biblical prophecy, when does Jesus 'come' and 'receive' us to be with Him? How does what Jesus promised here fit with Acts 1.9-11? With 1 Corinthians 15.51-52? With 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18? How is this different from the return of Christ to reign (Revelation 19.11-20.6)?
4. Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me" (14.6). These words are well-known, but enigmatic. Jesus is clearly 'the way to God' – this reminds us of John 10.9, where Jesus described Himself as 'the door,' and all who enter through Him are saved. But how does Jesus being "the truth" and "the life" add to this?
5. In v8, Philip asks Jesus to show them the Father. In v9, Jesus replies that if they've seen Him, they've seen the Father; His works display it (10-11)! Then He says that those who believe in Him will do even greater works than Him (12)! What does this refer to? His promise, "Whatever you ask in My name, I will do" (13-14), is essential to us doing these works. How do you apply this promise in your life?