

JOHN

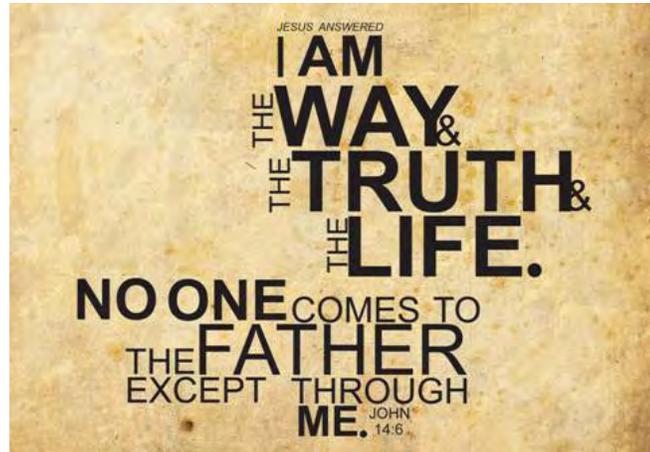
Chapter 14

Note from Kathy

Are you a good follower? That was the question posed to a novice mountain climber just prior to starting a treacherous climb. It was imperative that he follow the trained climber's instructions carefully. This was no place for independent or creative thinking. But, if he followed the leader's example and did as he was instructed he was promised a day filled with challenges and beauty that could not be seen from the valley below. Do you hear God's voice leading you to new heights? Are you a good follower? Do you carefully listen and follow his commands? If so, God has many wonderful promises and plans for you.

Jeremiah 17:7-9

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. ⁸ They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." ⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things and it is exceedingly corrupt: who can know it?"



Observation

1. Even though the Bible is separated into different chapters. Chapters 13-16 are really an ongoing conversation between Jesus and his disciples. Let's do a bit of review. Go back and read John 13:31-38. Jesus very clearly stated he is about to go away. What would be the result of his departure?

To what extend did Peter pledge his love and devotion?

Sadly, what does Jesus tell Peter will really happen?

These must have been shocking words to hear from Jesus. What reminder are we given in Jeremiah 17:7-9?

2. As you begin reading John 14 how would you describe the mood in that room?

Jesus is trying to prepare his disciples for the future events. Describe Jesus' words in verses 1-4?

John 14:2

“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?”

Isaiah 7:14

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

Matthew 1:23

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means God with us).”

3. Thomas’ question is only found in John 14. The last time Thomas spoke was in John 11:16 when he bravely said he was ready to go and die in Jerusalem with Jesus. Once again Thomas speaks up, what was his question?

Read verse 2. What facts had Thomas missed hearing?

4. Once again in this chapter we see Jesus refer to himself as “I Am.” Fill in the chart below.

Verses	“I AM”
John 6:35,41, 48, 51	
John 8:12	
John 10:7,9	
John 10:11,14	
John 11:25	
John 14:6	

5. Because the time is short Jesus no longer speaks to the crowd. Now he is only speaking to his closest disciples. Notice the trajectory change Jesus declares in John 14:7-11, “from now on.” The disciples had a decision to make—it is a decision every man, woman and child must make if they want to know true fellowship with God. Read Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23. What truth did Jesus share that called for a decision?

Who is Jesus?

What do you believe about Jesus?

6. Jesus gives his followers his promise in verses 12-14. I like to write B.P. (Bible Promise) in the margin in my Bible each time I see a promise of God. What did Jesus promise his followers?
7. John 14:15-17 holds another great and glorious promise. In the chapters to come we will read even more about this promise. What benefits did Jesus mention here?

In what way is this really good news for the disciples and for all believers?

John 14:18-21

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will realize that I am in the Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

John 10:10

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Ephesians 2:4-5

"But because of this great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."

John 14:1-3

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me. ²My 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? ³And 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."

John 14:6

"Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

8. Jesus continues to comfort those closest to him and prepare them for his impending death. What specific words of comfort did he give them?
 - a. Vs. 18
 - b. Vs. 19 (there are 2 promises in this verse)
 - c. Vs. 20 (there are 2 promises in this verse)
 - d. Vs. 21 (there are 3 promises in this verse)
9. How did Jesus say his followers will show their love for him?
10. Jesus warned his disciples that the "prince of this world" is coming. He is coming with a purpose. According to John 10:10, what is Satan's three-fold purpose?

How does that compare with Jesus' purpose?

What did Jesus specifically leave heaven to do?

Read Ephesians 2:4-5. What is the condition of men and women's hearts before Christ's finished work?

Application

1. Have you ever been troubled by the confusing events going on around you? Did you feel alone? If so, do you find comfort in the words of Jesus as you read John 14:1-3? What were your thoughts as you read these verses?
2. Jesus promised that he was going to the Father's house. He described it as having many rooms and that he was going to prepare a place for his followers. Close your eyes and picture the Father's house. What do you see? If you are a believer, how do you feel knowing Jesus is preparing a place for you to enjoy with him one day?
3. After reading verse 6, how might you answer when someone says there are many roads that lead to heaven? Is it possible for just anyone to have a relationship with God? Are there many ways to God?

John 14:13-14

“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

A friend once told me, “God can calm the storm or he can calm our heart and let the storm rage on,”

4. Some have snatched John 14:13-14 out and tried to say that Jesus has promised to give us whatever we ask, as long as we tag it “in Jesus’ name.” Is that what Jesus is saying?

We must be very careful to keep scripture in context. The term Christian means believer in Christ—one who follows his teaching. It originally came from the Greek word *Christianos*. Briefly, state the point Jesus is making in verses 9-14?

How does this apply to the prayers of a Christian today?

5. In John 14:27 Jesus promises his peace to those who are his followers. We hear the word peace talked about a lot today. It seems everyone wants peace. But what is this peace everyone is looking for? Define the word peace below.

Peace –

What do you believe Jesus is promising his followers?

How can we know if we have this peace?

6. Jesus told his followers that he does not give as the world gives. How does the world give?

How might we as followers of Christ apply this to our dealings with others?

Think of the last time you gave like Jesus and share it in your small group. This need not be something huge, but it will be sacrificial. How naturally does giving and sacrifice come to you? What is the best way to get better at doing something?

7. Over and over we have seen Jesus’ focus on glorifying the Father. Has reading this caused you to ponder why you do what you do? Look back over the past few days, what would you say has been your focus? Is it on things of eternal value or temporal things? Are there changes God might want you to make?

8. Have you ever wished you could show Jesus just how much you love him?

Did you know that the work you are doing this semester studying his word, carefully and prayerfully applying it, is exactly how Jesus says you reveal your love for him? It is imperative that we know his commands, so we can obey them and align ourselves with the will of God. In what way has your time in John 14 prepared for you for the day and weeks ahead?