

ONLY FOR HIS DISCIPLES

John 14:1-20

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Often Jesus would take His disciples away from the crowds to some private place and there He would talk to them, saying things that were for their ears only. This passage of scripture is from one of those private meetings and it was not for everyone to hear. He had finally gotten across to them that He was going to die a very horrible way and His disciples were in great sorrow. Thus Jesus took them aside and spoke these words to them.

1. *"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me..."*

- Jesus was telling the disciples that they believed in God, yet had never seen Him.
- The disciples were to continue to believe in Jesus even after He was gone.
- They were to believe that Jesus was still doing things for their own good.
- Jesus was telling them to believe in Him as they had believed in the invisible God.
- One is going to be troubled in his/her heart unless he/she has faith in God.

2. *"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you, I go to prepare a place for you..."*

- Jesus was going to leave them but going away for a specific purpose.
- Jesus was going to do something that had to do with the everlasting future of His disciples.
- Jesus was going to get things and a special place ready for them when they died.
- Jesus also has a place prepared for every believer in Him as well as for His disciples.

3. *"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also..."*

- Jesus assured His disciples that He would not be gone forever, but that it was only for a while and that He was certainly coming back.
- Jesus' return is the believer of today's greatest hope.
- It is reassuring for the believer to know that he/she will be forever with the Lord Jesus.
- All who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ have a place being prepared for them this very moment.

4. *"And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know..."*

- Believers know where Jesus has gone and that they will eventually follow for they know the way and it is by their believe in Jesus that will bring them to where Jesus has prepared a place for them.
- Sometimes people disappear, leave, travel and are not heard from and no one knows where they have gone or when they are coming back, if ever, but for believers in Jesus, it is a known fact that Jesus has a place prepared for them and when a believer dies, it is well known where that believer has gone.

5. *"Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?..."*

- There are always people who are like Thomas who also are saying, "We don't know..." They have not learned enough about Jesus.
- Jesus is the teacher, but sometimes people are poor learners.

6. *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me..."*

- There is nothing any person can do that is good enough to get them to the place Jesus has prepared.
- Not believing in Jesus Christ is not believing in God.
- No one can get to God except through Jesus Christ.
- Jesus is with God, the Father, and is the only way to God, the Heavenly Father.

7-8. ***"If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us..."***

- There are Philips as well as Thomases still today for so many still don't understand what Jesus was saying.
- The Holy Spirit is the teacher now that Jesus has ascended.
- The Holy Spirit indwells every believer and teaches the believer what he/she needs to know.

9-11. ***"Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet thou has not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself; but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me; or else believe me for the very works sake..."***

- No one should ever forget the permanent eternal union between Jesus and the heavenly Father.
- Jesus reminds believers that His words come from the heavenly Father.
- Sadly many today profess that what they say came from their own thoughts, making up their own gospels, not like Jesus whose words came directly from God, the heavenly Father.
- It would be well for everyone to do as Jesus did, speak ONLY what God, the Father says to speak.

12. ***"Verily, verily I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father..."***

- When Jesus was here, He, in humbleness, healed those who came to Him, even raising the dead now and then but never once bragged on His deity.
- Now that Jesus has ascended, He is able to do more and greater things through those who have believed in Him for He was one, but now there are many who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and enabled to do what Jesus wants them to do.
- The first followers of Jesus, empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit, spread the gospel around their world, healed the sick, and did all manner of miraculous things, starting the Church.
- Jesus has not changed, the Holy Spirit has not changed and therefore believers of today ought to measure what they do by what Jesus said, ***"...greater works than these shall ye do..."***

13. ***"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do that the Father may be glorified in the Son..."***

- Sadly believers in Jesus today don't seem to have enough power in prayer.
- Prayer is the fundamental, basic of being a Christian.
 - How can a Christian live without prayer?
 - For some they might as well look up at the moon for a half hour and sing some song rather than kneeling down and praying, talking to God for a half hour.
- God hears prayer and Jesus gave His assurance that God, the Father would hear the believer's prayer when asked in Jesus' name.

14. ***"If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it..."***

- Much prayer is never asked in Jesus' NAME.
- Praying for "Jesus' sake" is not the same as praying in Jesus' NAME.
- Praying in Jesus' NAME is using His authority, it is as if Jesus is praying that prayer, not the believer.
- There is great power in the NAME of Jesus.
- Not everything is to be asked in Jesus' NAME, however, only that which Jesus would do Himself.
- Asking in Jesus' NAME is asking what Jesus would ask for.

15-17. *"If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you..."*

- The Holy Spirit was present with the disciples, the apostles, but was never within them until after Jesus rose from the dead.
- On the Day of Pentecost, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to permanently indwell those who had believed in Him, His disciples, His followers.
- Today, the moment one believes in the Lord Jesus Christ and becomes a member of God's family, the Holy Spirit instantly indwells that believer and will remain through that believer's life on earth.
- The body of the believer is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

18. *"I will not leave you comfortless..."*

- Jesus tells His disciples that He will not leave them alone, as orphans with no family, no parents.
- Today no believer in Jesus is ever alone for he/she is indwelt instantly with the Holy Spirit, the invisible presence of Jesus, Himself.

18. *"I will come to you..."*

- Jesus comes to each believer through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
 - It is not some distant, substitution but it is JESUS, personally coming to each believer.

19-20. *"Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me; because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you..."*

- A divine, heavenly unity.
 - Jesus in the Father, believers in Jesus and Jesus in the believers.
 - Who can understand? Who is worthy?
- Only those indwelt with the presence of Jesus, the Holy Spirit is so privileged.

CONCLUSION:

1. What Jesus told His disciples in private has been made known to the whole Christian world.
2. It is the hope and dream of every believer in Jesus that he/she has a home in heaven awaiting him/her based on what Jesus told His disciples in privacy, that He was going to prepare a place for them.
3. Jesus also told His disciples that He was going to send them the Comforter, the Holy Spirit who would take His place with them, and it happened and the Holy Spirit is today living within each believer.
4. Believers are told to ask things from God, in the NAME of Jesus, asking of God that which Jesus would ask.
5. Believers in Jesus Christ are never left alone, for the presence of God is always with them.
6. One day Jesus will return in person, calling every living believer up into the heavens to be with Him in the place He has prepared for them.