



Sunday, October 25, 2026

John 14:1-14

Message

Good morning and welcome to Kingsview. If you are new here, we're just a community of people who believe in the power of His Word, the Presence of His Spirit and the beauty of belonging. And my hope and prayer is that you would experience all that and more over the coming weeks and months.

Now, as a church, we've been walking through the book of John and we find ourselves at a brand new chapter so I'd like to invite you to turn with me to John 14 where we will be reading from verses 1-11. And if you are able to, I'd also like to invite you to stand for the reading of the word of God.

John 14:1-11

"Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? 3 If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also. 4 You know the way to where I am going."

5 "Lord," Thomas said, "we don't know where you're going. How can we know the way?"

6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

8 "Lord," said Philip, "show us the Father, and that's enough for us."

9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been among you all this time and you do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Don't you believe

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who lives in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves.

12 “Truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.’

So let me paint the context picture for you. It’s Thursday night. Judas has just left to start the betrayal process and Jesus is back in the room with the remaining eleven disciples. And whether they realize it or not, these next instructions from Jesus are basically some of his last words to them.

In typical Jesus – fashion, Jesus goes on to tell them that He is going away and that even though they can’t come with him, at some point, they will be reunited.

Now, you and I, on the other side of history, know that Jesus is referencing his death and resurrection, but the disciples have no idea what Jesus is talking about. And so their response that follows is really interesting. What we see is three different disciples sharing three different responses and each response is representative of how people today typically respond to Jesus.

We talked a little bit about Peter a few weeks ago, and his response is first. He confidently tells Jesus that He will go with Him - even to the death. Peter believes in Jesus, loves Jesus, and genuinely wants to follow Jesus. His problem isn’t unwillingness; it is over-confidence in his own ability to follow. His confidence in himself overshadows Jesus instructions.

Jesus responds in the first verse of our chapter today by saying,

‘Believe in God; believe also in me.’ Thus reminding Peter that the answer to His self-confidence is not himself at all, but confidence in Christ.

Next comes Thomas - whose response is completely different from Peter’s. Thomas responds by saying, ‘I don’t know how.’ His under-confidence being the complete opposite of Peter’s over-confidence.

To which Jesus responds by saying, ‘You don’t have to know the way when you know Me. ‘I am the

Way, the Truth and the Life.'

And then Philip gives a response that is distinct from both Peter and Thomas by saying, 'Lord show us the Father, and that will be enough...'

Almost as if to say - I don't trust the revelation of God standing right in front of me, so prove it by giving me something more.

To which Jesus reminds him of His previous words that...'if you have seen Me, you have seen the Father - for He and I are one.'

Three different disciples. Three different responses. But if you look closely, I think these responses are representative of the mindsets, hearts, and attitudes that followers of Jesus can still exhibit today.

Because sometimes we're like Peter. We love Jesus. We want to follow Jesus. But if we're not careful, our confidence in ourselves can overshadow our dependence upon Him. We start thinking, I've got this. I'm strong enough. I'm mature enough. I know what I'm doing. And without even realizing it, our confidence can very easily shift from Christ to ourselves.

But we were never meant to follow Jesus in our own strength. Jesus invites us to take His yoke upon us because His yoke is easy and His burden is light. Scripture continually calls us to cast our burdens upon Him and depend upon His strength rather than our own. But when our confidence is in our own ability, we stop depending upon Christ. And eventually, we discover that we're simply not strong enough to carry everything we've been trying to carry.

Other times we're like Thomas. We want to follow Jesus, but we don't understand where He's leading us or how we're supposed to get there. Lord, I don't know the way. I don't know what I'm supposed to do. I don't know where You're taking me. And our lack of understanding begins to undermine our confidence in following Him.

And then sometimes we're like Philip. We believe in Jesus, we've walked with Jesus, we've seen what He's done - and yet somehow we still find ourselves saying, Lord, just give me something more. Show me something. Prove Yourself to me. Give me something that will finally be enough.

But Jesus' answer to all three is essentially the same:

You're looking at the wrong things. Look at Me.

Which Jesus then makes very clear:

John 14:6b

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

You do know the way Thomas, it's me. Peter, you need to take your eyes off yourself and place them on me. And Philip, I'm right here. What more do you need to see.

Which is a really interesting verse, especially in the context of our world today. Because often times, this verse is quoted to unbelievers or people of other faiths and religions to clearly articulate that Jesus Christ is the only way to eternal life. And this is absolutely true. However, we have to understand that in the context in which Jesus is saying this, He's not speaking to unbelievers - He's speaking to His disciples. Those that were closest to Him. And Jesus was telling them that He was leaving and they could not go with Him right yet, but there would be a time when they could.

And so Jesus' response to Thomas, at its most basic level, is simply an answer to his question. Remember, Jesus has just told them that He's going away to prepare a place for them and that they know the way. And Thomas basically looks at Jesus and says, 'I have no clue what You're talking about! I don't know where You're going, so how in the world am I supposed to know how to get there?'

To which Jesus responds: 'Thomas, I am the way.'

Jesus is the way.

And many scholars suggest that this is really the emphasis of Jesus' statement. He's not necessarily giving Thomas three separate directional ideas - the way, the truth, and the life - as much as He's explaining why He is the way. Jesus is the way because He is the truth and He is the Life - He alone is the Standard for all that is true and He alone is the Source for all life so of course, He is the way!

Which is why Jesus can now make this incredibly exclusive statement:

John 14:6b

'No one comes to the Father except through me.'

And interestingly, this isn't even the first time in John's Gospel that Jesus has used this kind of exclusive language. Back in John 10, Jesus said:

John 10:9

'I am the gate. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture.'

In other words, there aren't multiple doors into eternal life. There aren't multiple paths or religions that eventually arrive at the same destination.

There is one entry point. And His name is Jesus.

And this is such a radical idea in our world today because we still have this tendency to believe that somehow we can earn our way in. If I do enough good things. If I show up to church every Sunday - maybe even twice! If I give my money, my time and my talent. If I'm generous. If I'm kind. If ultimately, at the end of the day, the good in my life somehow outweighs the bad, then surely God will let me in.

And listen - those can all be very good things. And I'm not saying don't do them.

But none of them are the door.

You don't get into eternal life because you went to church. You don't get in because you gave enough money. You don't get in because you were a good person.

You get in through Jesus Christ.

Why?

Because Jesus is the only One who can deal with the thing that separates us from God in the first place:

Our sin.

And it doesn't matter whether we consider that sin small or great. Sin separates us from a perfectly Holy God, and there is nothing you or I can do in our own strength to remove it.

And as difficult as this might be for some people to hear, the reality is that a person can spend their entire life doing incredible things. They can give away everything they own. They can feed the hungry, care for the poor, love their neighbour and devote their entire life to helping others. And those are beautiful things.

But good works cannot deal with the problem of sin.

Because the problem isn't that some of us are good enough and others aren't. The problem is that - as Scripture says:

Romans 3:23b

'... For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.'

All of us have sinned. We've all fallen short of the glory of God - and we are all powerless to do anything about it. Every one of us needs forgiveness from our sins. Every one of us needs a Saviour. And no amount of good that we do can account for or erase the sin we've already committed.

Only Jesus can do that.

He is the way, the truth and the life. Full stop.

Now, after saying this, Jesus goes on to make a pretty bold claim to His disciples about the works that He has done and the works that they will do.

But before going deep into that, remember, Philip's question was about wanting Jesus to show him the Father. And Jesus responds by reminding Philip that if he's seen Jesus, then he's already seen the Father. Because Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in Him.

But Jesus also recognizes that this is a difficult truth for Philip to wrap his mind around. And so He essentially says, Philip, if you're having a hard time believing what I'm telling you, then at least believe because of the works you've seen Me do.

Because the works of Jesus are themselves evidence that the Father is at work in Him.

Now, if Jesus had left it there, that would have been fine. We would have understood His point. But

Jesus doesn't leave it there. Instead, He goes on to make another extraordinary statement.

John 14:12

'Truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.'

Now, that's quite a statement!

And I think for generations, Christians have read this verse and struggled with a sense of insufficiency. Because if we're being honest, when we look at the extraordinary works of Jesus, how in the world are we supposed to do anything greater than that?

I mean, let's put this into perspective for a moment.

I think one of the greatest miracles I've ever heard of is someone being raised from the dead. And although it doesn't happen very often, every once in a while, we'll hear reports from somewhere in the world about someone who was believed to be dead, was prayed for, and came back to life.

Now, that's extraordinary!

But is that greater than what Jesus did when He raised Lazarus from the dead after four days in the tomb? I wouldn't say so. I'd say that's certainly comparable.

And then think about some of the other things Jesus did.

He calmed a ferocious storm in the middle of the sea. He walked on water. He cast out demons. He healed people who had been blind since birth. He multiplied bread and fish to feed thousands of people.

And if we really want to get technical about it, John has already told us in the opening chapter of his Gospel that everything that was created was created through Jesus Christ.

So who's going to top that?

As Job says, who among us can place the stars in the skies?

And I could go on and on. So I think it's fair to say that when it comes to performing these great feats - doing these great works, nobody has ever surpassed Jesus Christ.

Which of course then, raises the obvious question:

What in the world does Jesus mean when He says that we will do even greater works than He did?

Well, perhaps the problem isn't necessarily with what was said, but with how we've understood the term, 'greater works.'

You see, the original Greek term as it is used here doesn't necessarily mean greater as in feats of power, but based on the context would be better translated as greater in size, greater in scope and greater in reach. We know this because of what Jesus says immediately afterwards.

Notice Jesus' words:

'he will do even greater works than these...because I am going to the Father.'

Jesus simply says that the reason that we will do greater works than these is because He is going to the Father.

This distinction is so important to understanding this section - because by saying this, Jesus is actually referencing the coming of the Holy Spirit as was prophesied all the way back in John 1:33 where Jesus would literally baptize the world with His Holy Spirit.

Why did Jesus need to go? So that He could send the Holy Spirit. Why did He need to send the Holy Spirit? Because while Jesus was on earth - even though He was still fully God, He was also fully human at the same time. This is what is referred to as the hypostatic union. One Person, two natures: fully divine and fully human at the very same time. And in His humanity Jesus could only be physically present in one place at one time. So in this way, He was concentrated to a particular place, among a particular group of people that were primarily within a relatively small geographical region.

His Holy Spirit however, could operate differently and as Jesus says in verse 17 would literally dwell within them instead of just among them. In fact, in just a few chapters in John 16:7 Jesus will also say that, '...it is to your advantage that I go, SO THAT I can send the Holy Spirit.' The same Spirit

that Jesus has just told them would dwell within them. And so, when we see the Holy Spirit come in Acts 2, we have to understand that the ministry of Jesus doesn't come to an end.

It actually multiplies. It becomes greater. Greater in scope. Greater in reach. Greater in its impact throughout the world.

Because now, through the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the work of Jesus continues through His people. Not just through the twelve...eleven disciples sitting in that room. Not just in Jerusalem or Galilee. But through all believers like you and me scattered throughout the entire world.

As Paul would later say to the church in Corinth:

1 Corinthians 6:19

'...your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God...'

So as you can see, the greater works aren't about us doing better things than Jesus. They're about the work of Jesus reaching further into the world than ever before because of the Holy Spirit residing within believers upon salvation. We carry his presence with us wherever we go now, empowered to do what Jesus did.

And, here's why I think this distinction is so important. Because if we think Jesus is expecting us to perform even greater miracles than He did, then we're always going to feel like we're falling short. Like we're not doing enough. Like somehow we're failing to measure up.

Because for some of us, we're just trying to keep our heads above water. We're trying to follow Jesus. We're trying to do well at work. We're trying to love our spouse and kids, find time to pray and read our Bibles instead of doom-scrolling on our phones, and make it to church on Sunday mornings when there are a hundred other things competing for our attention.

And sometimes, even those things feel like a struggle. And I think part of the problem is that we're trying to do so much of this in our own strength.

I came across this little video the other day, and I couldn't help but think about how much it reminds me of us sometimes.

Isn't that just like us? We try harder, and harder, and harder. And when things don't work out, we just get more and more frustrated.

But what if there's so much more available to us than we even realize?

When we take a closer look at the scripture, Jesus opens up by saying those who believe in Him will actually do the things that He did. This means that through the power of the Holy Spirit, we don't have to do these things in our own strength. This is a real problem for many of us. Sometimes we just find ourselves doing everything in our own strength that we leave God on our night-stand when we wake up in the morning and get on with our day. But the beauty of the Holy Spirit is that He is within us leading us and guiding us and empowering us every single minute of every single day. So He can empower you through the mundane, through the ordinary day to day, yes! But don't just leave it at that. Look at what Jesus did - look at what He is saying is available to us.

There is more. There is so much more.

And I'm not just talking about the miraculous gifts of the Spirit, although I absolutely believe those gifts are still available today. I'm also talking about the fruit of the Spirit. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, self-control.

Think about what Jesus just told His disciples in the previous chapter. To love one another just as He had loved them. Do you realize how extraordinary that kind of love actually is? It's not a love that you can do in your own strength - it has to be Spirit-empowered. Even something like long-suffering can be as much of a supernatural, Spirit-empowered ability as the gift of healing.

And sometimes the miracle isn't that God immediately removes the difficult circumstance. Sometimes it's that He gives you the strength to remain faithful right in the middle of it. Sometimes the miracle is to forgive when you don't want to forgive. To love when it's difficult to love. To respond with gentleness when everything inside you wants to rage.

That's the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

And it's the same Spirit who still heals, still delivers, still sets people free, and is still empowering His Church today.

So we don't have to settle for trying to follow Jesus in our own strength, like Peter.

We don't have to allow our uncertainty about the way forward to hold us back, like Thomas. And like Philip, we don't have to keep waiting for God to show us something more before we can trust what He's already revealed to us.

Instead, put your confidence in Jesus. He is the Way.

Because He hasn't called you to follow Him in your own strength. He's given you His Holy Spirit to lead you, guide you, strengthen you, and empower you to do the very things He's called you to do.

And there is so much more that He wants to do in you and through you.

And as we walk through the next few chapters, this is a recurring theme that we will begin to see, play out in the relationship between Jesus and his disciples, just days away from the cross.

But as we bring our time together to a close this morning, I want to bring us back full circle to something Jesus said earlier in our passage.

John 14:6

'Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Because before we can talk about what it means to be empowered by the Holy Spirit, we first need to recognize that Jesus is the way.

This is everything. And this is where the very specific nature of Christianity stands out.

Christianity is exclusively inclusive.

Now, in our world today, those two words seem like complete opposites. But when it comes to the Gospel, they actually work beautifully together.

Because Jesus is the only way to the Father. That's exclusive.

But the invitation to come to Him is available to absolutely everyone. That's inclusive.

It doesn't matter who you are, where you've been, or what you've done.

You could have someone sitting on death row who has committed the most horrific crimes imaginable. And if that person genuinely turns to Jesus in repentance and faith, they can receive the same forgiveness and eternal life that Jesus offers to any of us sitting here.

We see that very thing in the thief on the cross.

But the opposite is also true.

You could spend your entire life doing wonderful things. Feeding the hungry, caring for the poor, giving away everything you own, and loving your neighbour.

But if you do not accept the gift of salvation from sin that Jesus Christ offers, you simply cannot get to the Father in heaven for good works cannot deal with the problem of sin. Only Jesus is the way.

Let me illustrate what I mean.

One of the most dangerous snakes in the world is the black mamba. Hypothetically, if you got bitten by one of these snakes, then you need immediate intervention otherwise death is imminent. The good news though is that there is a solution and that solution called antivenom. But if you choose to reject the antivenom in favour of taking some Tylenol or drinking a lot of water, or jogging around the block, or chewing on some magnesium or vitamin C tablets - all of which are good and healthy things to do, the reality is that you are still going to die, because as good as those things are, they cannot account for the venom that is coursing through your body right now! The only thing that will save you is the antivenom. And if you reject it you will die.

And that's what I want you to understand about sin. It is like a venom coursing through your spiritual veins that is threatening spiritual death.

Every one of us has been affected by it. And no amount of good works can remove it.

Only Jesus can do that. Jesus is the only way. Not Mohammed, not Gandhi, not Buddha, not good works. Only Jesus.

Through His death on the cross and His resurrection, Jesus has made a way for us to be forgiven, reconciled to the Father, and given eternal life.

And that invitation is available to everyone.

But we have to receive it.

Because Jesus doesn't say, I am one of the ways.

He says, 'I am the way.'

And so as we close this morning, I want you to think about something.

Think about two or three people in your life right now. Maybe they're friends. Maybe they're family members. Maybe they're people you work with.

People who don't yet know Jesus.

And I want you to remember that the very same Jesus who is the only way to the Father has also given us His Holy Spirit so that we can carry this message of hope into the world.

The way is exclusive. But the invitation is for everyone.

And you and I have been called to share it.

BLESSING

May the Lord Bless you and Keep you

May He cause His face to Shine upon you

May He be gracious towards you

Lifting up His countenance before you

And may He give you peace

In Jesus name, Amen.

Josh Hageman

Lead Pastor

Kingsview Community Church

www.kingsviewchurch.com