

Sunday, November 01, 2026
John 14:13-17

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 today we find ourselves at a brand new chapter so if you have your Bibles with you this morning I'd like to invite you to turn with me to John 14 where we will be reading verses 13-17. If you are able to, I'd also like to invite you to stand for the reading of the Word of the Lord.

John 14:13-17
'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.

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. 17 He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you.'

OK, so as we step into our text this morning, again, allow me to paint the picture for you once again. It is Thursday evening. And historically, Jesus is crucified the following day - on Friday. At this point in time, Judas Iscariat has already left and is making the deal to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver and Jesus knows that His time is limited. He has literally just hours before His arrest and crucifixion and He intends to make the most of it. And so, what we see in chapters 13-17 is literally Jesus last words and teachings to His disciples.

And what we've seen so far in chapter 14 is quite unique. Jesus is clearly indicating to them that he has to go, but that they cannot come with him right yet. He tells them that they know the way, but they don't understand. But then Jesus makes it clear that he is the way. Because he is the source of all truth, and he is the creator of all life, he alone is the way and that as long as they follow him, and his ways, they will see Him again in glory.

And then we ended last week with one of the most controversial verses in the church where Jesus says that those who believe in him will not only do the works that he does, but even greater works. But then he follows up by saying that they will do greater work than these because he goes to the father. And so, it's important to understand that when Jesus uses the term 'greater works' here, He's not necessarily talking about greater feats of power, but rather the greater scope and reach of His ministry. Because while Jesus, in His humanity, could only be physically present in one place at one time, His return to the Father would make way for the sending of the Holy Spirit, who would now dwell within every believer upon salvation. And through the power of the Holy Spirit, the work of Jesus would continue through His followers, reaching people and places all around the world like never before. So the greater works aren't about us doing greater things than Jesus. They're about the work of Jesus having greater impact throughout the world through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit now within each and every one of us.

And so that's where we ended off last week. And you will remember that we did not have time to tackle the next verse, which is almost equally as misunderstood as the previous verse.

Verse 13 says:
'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.'

Now, in western society, some have taken a very literal approach to this text often developing this idea that praying in Jesus' name is somehow the key to getting what we want. As though attaching the words 'in Jesus name' to the end of our prayers somehow convinces God to give us whatever we've asked for. That somehow that little phrase gives us the power and authority to even control the hand of God.

But that's not what Jesus is saying here.

You see, praying in Jesus' name isn't about getting God to align with our desires. It's about aligning

ourselves with His. It's about coming before the Father through the authority of Jesus Christ, seeking His will, His purposes, and ultimately His glory.

A few weeks ago Pastor Jordan spoke on this concept as she was walking through the Lords prayer, emphasizing the importance of the line that reads: 'Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.'

That's the whole point. The purpose of praying in Jesus name isn't ultimately to get what we want - it's to make sure that what we want is in alignment with His Kingdom - His plans and purposes.

And what's fascinating to me is that not only does Jesus instruct His disciples to pray this way, but in just a few short hours, while at the garden of Gethsemane Jesus would model this kind of prayer as well. Moments from facing the horrors of the cross, Jesus would find Himself praying to the Father, saying, 'Not my will, but yours, be done.'

Think about that - Jesus Himself, facing the greatest suffering imaginable, expresses His will and desire to the Father to let this cup pass from Him, but ultimately surrenders that desire to the will of the Father.

This is ultimately what it means to pray in Jesus' name - to align yourself with His Kingdom - to position our hearts, wills and desires effectively with the Kingdom of God so that God gets the glory. Not that we can't bring our own desires before God, but that we ultimately surrender those desires to His will.

So when we say, '...in Jesus' name, Amen.' we're not creating a formula to control God's hand through prayer. We're simply acknowledging that we've brought our requests before God through the authority of Jesus Christ, and that we're ultimately trusting Him with the outcome. Because it's all for His glory.

But don't misunderstand what I'm saying here. Just because the name of Jesus isn't some kind of magical formula to get what I want, it doesn't mean there isn't incredible power and authority in His name.

Because there is!

Scripture teaches us that at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow - in Heaven and on earth and

even under the earth. Even the demons recognize His authority and tremble.

And there are moments in our lives where all we can do is simply speak His name. And yet especially in those moments, there is great power in His name.

Share lemon-squeeze story.
Share story of NDE: Talk about story of man on operating table with a heart attack dying and screaming and being pulled to the depths of hell. The surgeon tells the story that he simply tells him to call on the name of Jesus and as he does, the presence of God fills the room to the point where even the nurses started to cry. The guy makes a remarkable recovery and as far as I know is still following him today.

Because even in our deepest moments of despair, calling upon His name is a way of surrendering ourselves to His will and His ways. It's an acknowledgment that we are weak, but He is strong.

It's kind of like the thief on the cross. A man who literally had nothing left. And hanging there beside Jesus, he recognized who Jesus was, and simply said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'

And that was enough.

Not because there was something magical about the words he spoke, but because he recognized and submitted to the authority of the One to whom he was speaking.

Jesus Christ of Nazareth. The only One with the power to save.

Which brings us to verse 15 where Jesus now says:

John 14:15
'If you love me, you will keep my commands.'

Now, at first glance, this verse can seem out of place - almost as if Jesus is changing the subject. One moment He's talking about prayer, and the next He's talking about obedience.

But I actually think there's a beautiful connection between the two.

Prayer aligns our hearts with His will but obedience is necessary to put that alignment now into action. Right?? It's one thing to pray, 'thy will be done.' But it's an entirely different thing to actually surrender our wills to His will through the way that we live.

But ultimately it's our obedience that Jesus says reveals just how deeply we love Him.

Because love is expressed through obedience.

Again - it's what Jesus modelled at the Garden of Gethsemane where He prayed for another way but ultimately submitted to the will of His Father. Why??

Because of His love for the Father.

In fact, later in this very chapter, Jesus will say in verse 31:

John 14:31
'...so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do as the Father commanded me.'

Jesus doesn't simply teach us that love expresses itself through obedience. He demonstrates it through His own obedience to the Father.

And so, if the Father is the model for Jesus, and Jesus is the model for us, then when He calls us to express our love through obedience, He's simply inviting us to follow the very example He's already set.

Because obedience isn't something we offer to earn His love. It's something we offer because we love Him.

So when we pray in Jesus' name, we're aligning our hearts and desires with His will. And obedience is what puts that alignment into action.

But listen, Jesus doesn't expect us to do any of this on our own strength.

Because now, in verses 16–17, He promises the very presence of the Holy Spirit to help us live the life He's called us to live.

John 14:16–17
‘And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn’t see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you.’

Now, this is important. Remember, this entire conversation is taking place because Jesus is preparing His disciples for His departure. He’s going away. But even though His physical presence will no longer be with them, they will not be left without His presence. Because Jesus is promising that the Holy Spirit will come and dwell within them.

The One who helps us surrender our desires to the will of God. Who strengthens us to walk in obedience to His Word, even when the world around us is pulling us in an entirely different direction.

And so Jesus isn’t simply calling His disciples to pray, to surrender, and to obey.

He’s promising them the very presence of God to help them do it.

We’ll get to that next week, but for today, I find it fitting that we move right into communion. Because everything Jesus has been talking about in this passage is about to be made possible through what He will accomplish on the cross.

Remember, Jesus is only hours away from His crucifixion. And as we’ve already seen, He will soon find Himself in the Garden of Gethsemane, praying those remarkable words, ‘Not my will, but yours, be done.’

And because of His love for the Father, and His love for you and me, He would willingly surrender Himself to the cross. His obedience would make possible our reconciliation with God.

And that’s what we remember as we come to the Lord’s Table this morning. Not simply that Jesus died, but that through His death, He has made a way for us to be forgiven, restored, and brought into relationship with the Father.

And so as we prepare to receive these elements, I’d like to invite you to take a moment to be quiet before the Lord and reflect on how He’s speaking to your heart this morning. If there is sin that needs to be repented of, simply confess that before Him and He will be faithful and just to forgive you of your sin.

1 Corinthians 11:23-29
‘For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

27 So, then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sin against the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself; in this way let him eat the bread and drink from the cup. 29 For whoever eats and drinks without recognizing the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself.

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.

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