

John Chapter 14 (DDC) – July 12, 2008

- In Chapter 14 Jesus gives us really (as I see it) 3 crucial concepts that every Christian **Needs** to know and understand.
- 3 fundamental things – now obviously there’s a lot more in Ch. 14...
- but I think what’s being taught... groups into 3 themes.
- We will move through the chapter... and then I will summarize the 3 things that stood out to me at the end.

(pause)

- But before we dive in I want to take a second and focus on the context
- Because the context really highlights the importance of what is being conveyed in Ch 14
- This is not just another day... and another teaching from Jesus
- Ch 14 takes place literally hours before Jesus is crucified.
- And during Chapter 13 (as we talked about a couple weeks ago) the disciples world was kind of crashing in on them...

Story regarding switching Jobs...

- The disciples in Chapter 13 were in a similar situation
- Everything was crashing down on them

(pause)

- On their trip to Jerusalem they no doubt felt that this was the beginning
- They felt that they were moving with Jesus closer and closer to his glorious reign here on earth (as was prophesied about.)

(pause)

- But in reality (and as Jesus knew) Jesus was to be glorified in a different way.
- Jesus had come as a sacrificial lamb... to die for atonement of the sins of the world (as our sins as crimson would become white as Isaiah prophesied about)

(pause)

- So as they were expecting this glorious reign on earth to begin...
- What was about to happen was unthinkable to them

(pause)

- And so his crucifixion now... is only hours away.

(pause)

- When we read the gospels... it is easy to point fingers at the disciples and say “you doe doe... how could you say or do something so stupid.”

- But in doing that I think we fail to really understand the uncertainty of being in their specific situations.
- And I think a lot of that comes from our lack of empathy on our part
- Our lack of really putting our selves in their shoes.

Movie example (Indiana Jones)

- And so as consider the disciples perspective here... and I mean really empathize with them... the idea that the disciples are dim wits kind of goes away.
- The disciples were humans... and are as limited and as frail as we are.
- And as you identify with with their situation in my opinion you can't help but feel their pain... and their uncertainty

(pause)

- They had given up everything to follow Jesus.
- Their homes, their jobs... their families
- The tangible things that we take for granted.
- Their hopes their dreams.
- Everything...

(pause)

- Can you imagine giving up everything to follow someone??
- Can you imagine how vested you would be in the success or failure of that person.

(pause)

- But they did.
- And they gave everything up because they believed He was the promised messiah (which he was)
- But they believed... that He was the one that would establish his kingdom and they in following him would rule with him
 - Well as we know (hind sight is 20/20) God had a different plan.
 - Which ironically enough is spelled out quite clearly in the prophets, and which Jesus spoke of quite clearly of
 - ...but people hear what they want to hear.

- Well the important thing here is... the disciples had given up everything to followed Jesus... and they had certain expectations of what the outcome would be

(pause)

- And so in following Jesus they saw miracles... they saw things that would have just blown your mind.
- And then over three years... Jesus... God in the flesh... mentored them and taught them.

- I'm sure they thought... it was just a matter of time before Jesus shows the whole world who He is.
- (pause)
- But... despite the warnings that Jesus had given the disciples...
 - I believe their expectations were growing and growing with each day
 - They couldn't see what was about to happen without Jesus telling them.
- (pause)
- And then in Chapter 13.... Jesus really drops some pretty big bombs as He begins to pour out his heart...
 - And he leaves his disciples at the end of Chapter 13 really in a state of complete shock.
- (pause)
- He says
 - One of you will betray me
 - I'm leaving you guys
 - And where I'm going you cannot come
- (pause)
- Can you imagine the confusion in their minds.
 - I would imagine I would be feeling a mixture of sadness and anger.
 - With perhaps a hint of "I wonder what I'm going to do next."
- (pause)
- Well in the midst of this tense situation Peter... steps up.... and says NO
 - Lord I will follow
 - I will die for you.
- (pause)
- And Jesus reply's to him is... No
 - You will deny me 3 times before tomorrow morning
 - You will fail me too.
- (pause)
- I can just imagine that room was silent.
 - As the disciples eyes... looked around
 - No doubt discouragement in their eyes... Completely crushed...
 - Questioning everything.
 - Why... why have I followed you.
 - Was it all a sham Jesus???
 - Are you rejecting us Jesus... is that the reason you are leaving??
- (pause)

- We know the story and we know the outcome.
 - But image what it would be like to be in that room.
- (pause)

- It must have been a moment of incredible intensity
- (pause)

- Now that is one perspective.
- At the same time... let's consider what Jesus was going through
- The disciples were in a complete state of disarray.
- But consider Jesus' perspective.

(pause)

- Hours later... he will be brutally beaten (and he knows this)
- Someone will take a nail and drive it through his hands and his feet.
- And he will be hung on a cross. (and he knows this)

(pause)

- I spent some time thinking about this.
- The penalty a single man's sin is this... that he spend eternity in hell
- An eternity apart from God.. in continual torment.
- That is the penalty for one mans sins.

(pause)

- So what does it mean to bear the sins of the whole world?
- What does that entail?
- Is that something we can even understand?

(pause)

- Now I get nervous before a big event... especially if that event involves something potentially painful.

Meetings at work... etc.

- So the Bible says Jesus (being God – all things were created through him) came to us as 100% man.

- And so the pain and anxiety that we would feel humans... He felt as a man!!

(pause)

- And Jesus was not only going to endure something excruciatingly painful...
 - In fact experts say by all estimations crucifixion is one of the most painful ways to die.

- So not only does he get to look forward to that...

- But hours later... he was going to bear the punishment for not just my sin

- (of which the punishment was eternal damnation in Hell)
- But He was going to bear the punishment for all sin
- I'm convinced that we can't even begin to understand even a fraction of what He went through

(long pause)

- Moments after this section of scripture He and His disciples go to the garden of Gethsemane to pray....
- And Jesus in anticipation of the events that are about to come... is so intently praying.... that he actually begins sweating drops of blood.
- The medical term is called Hematohidrosis
- That condition is so taxing on the body that that condition alone could have killed Jesus

(pause)

- So we have the disciples...
 - their world is shattering.
- And we have Jesus...
 - his time is near...
 - and He is weighed down by the events that are about to transpire.

(pause)

- But Jesus looks up... and He sees his disciples.
- He sees the uncertainty in their eyes.
- He sees really... that their hearts are VERY VERY troubled.

(pause)

- And so Jesus... in light of all the things he could have said:
 - He would have been justified in rebuking them at this point.
 - "Hey I've told you everything you need to know"
 - "Now get out of here... can't you see what I'm about to go through..."

(pause)

- But instead... out of love... he teaches what many people consider one of the most important teachings in the bible.
- He lays out what every Christian needs to know... and have imprinted on their hearts.
- So he looks up... and as a loving father would reassure his family in the midst of turmoil....

I have to do this with my wife sometimes...

- Jesus says to them ... starting in verse 1

Joh 14:1a "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God^[1] ; trust also in me.

(pause)

- I believe Jesus (despite his present agony) looked up at the disciples with a reassuring smile... and he says here Trust Me!!
- Guys.... Don't worry.
- Trust me.
- Don't **let** your heart be troubled... you have control over the trouble in your heart
Don't let your heart be troubled.... Trust in God of course... and that means... trust in me.
- If you trust in God you trust in me.
- Don't let your heart be troubled.

(pause)

- Then Jesus goes on to tell us why we should not be troubled...
- Why we as believers in Christ... should not be troubled.
- He says in verse 2

Joh 14:2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

- The Greek word for “many rooms” translates literally as “abiding places.”
- "In my Father's house are many abiding places. And I'm going to prepare a place for you."
- So where is he going? He is going to prepare a place us.

Joh 14:3 And 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.

Joh 14:4 You know the way to the place where I am going."

- Now there are different interpretation of this section of scripture.
- Some more literal some less literal.
- The King James translates verse 2 as “In my Fathers house there are many mansions...”
- And this is commonly interpreted literally that in heaven we will have a glorious place in which we will live... and Jesus is going to prepare it for us.
- A glorious mansion.... Sounds good to me.

(pause)

- Now as you begin to peel this apart some obvious questions begin to come to mind...
- How big is this mansion?
- What does it look like?
- How many bathrooms does it have?
- Does the kitchen have granite counter tops or corian?
- And for that matter... would you need a bathroom or kitchen?

(pause)

- The Bible teaches that we will be given new bodies when we reach heaven?

- Which is good because these bodies are clearly deteriorating.
 - So will our new bodies require food? Will they require sleep?
- (pause)

- When we describe our earthy homes... really what we are talking about is a place intended to take care of our earthly bodies.
 - A place to eat and sleep... that our bodies might be rested and energized
- (pause)

- Now as I mentioned before the literal translation is “abiding places”
 - In my fathers house there are many “abiding places”
- (pause)

- The interpretation of this verse that I find most adequate is that this speaks of the new body that we will receive when we get to heaven.
- In many places in the bible our temporary earthly body is described as a tent.
 - As in a temporary place to stay
- But our heavenly body is described as something far grander.
 - Much like a mansion which is permanent and far greater than a tent.

It says in:

2Co 5:1 Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

2Co 5:2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling,

2Co 5:3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.

2Co 5:4 For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

- Our sprit occupies our body which is described as a tent.
- And as it says in 2 Corinthians we groan and are burdened because we do not wish to be unclothed. But to be clothed with that permanent body... that mortal may be swallowed up by life. That what heaven will be like.
- The mortal will be swallowed up by life.
- So one day this tent will be gone and our sprit will need a new body to occupy.
- And I believe Jesus is speaking here of the incredible glorious bodies that we will be given ...

(pause)

- Well regardless of how you interpret what Jesus is saying here...
 - What we need to keep in mind is that Jesus is giving us one of the fundamental things that all Christians need to keep in the fore front of their minds.
 - We have a hope beyond that is beyond this world.
 - We have a hope of something far greater than this world.
- (pause)

- So Jesus says “Trust me... don’t let your heart be troubled... you have a hope beyond what you can feel or see or touch.”
- We have a hope beyond this world.
- That’s the cure for a troubled heart.

So Jesus says... starting in verse 3:

Joh 14:3 And 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.

Joh 14:4 You know the way to the place where I am going."

- “Guys you know the way to the place I’m going”
- But...

Joh 14:5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Joh 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- “I am the way... I am the truth...I am the life... is what He says.
- So amidst this discourse Thomas asks... how do we know the way.
- And Jesus says I am the way. You know me... thus you know the way.
- No one comes to the Father except through me... I am the way

(pause)

- In Chapter 3 Jesus explains “For God so loved the world He sent his only begotten son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
- **In Chapter 11** Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;
- And Jesus continually said “I and the father are one.” in other words... “I am God!!”
- And Jesus says here "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- All such radical statements.

Story about me being driven to Christianity because of this verse... forced me to decision... every thing else pointed.... Jesus pointed at himself.

- People commonly say now days, "All roads lead to God. All religions lead man to God. “
- Well the fact is there is a logical inconsistency if you believe this and you believe what Jesus said.
- You cannot believe in Jesus... and believe this. He claimed to be the only way to God.

(pause)

- So Jesus says “I am the way... I am the truth... I am the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Then he goes on to say:

Joh 14:7 If you really knew me, you would know^[2] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Joh 14:8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

Joh 14:9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

- Jesus is getting down to the end of the road, and He's making one radical statement after another.
- He says if you have seen me... you have literally seen the father.
- This was one of the pivotal concepts for me as a Christian.
- I think it is easy to basically think of Jesus as fairly one dimensional... like a normal human.

(pause)

- But Jesus is literally God wrapped in flesh... his glory shed... incarnated into human form.
- And in human form He is the perfect representation of the father.
- God knowing that we had no capacity to understand Him outside of the things we already know...
- God became a man that we might understand.... God
- Jesus is the perfect representation of God... as a man.
- And so he says.... “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father”
- So:
 - Do we want to understand God?
 - Do we want to know what God would do?
 - DO we want to see how God would act as a man??

- Then we look at Jesus.

Heb 1:1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,

Heb 1:2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son

- If you have seen Jesus, you have seen the Father.
- And I get excited about this...what kind of a God has He revealed to us?
 - A loving God,
 - a compassionate God,
 - a God who is concerned for the needs of man,
 - a God who is weeping over the failure of man,

- a God who desires to redeem man who is lost through sin.
- In Luke 19 He says, "I have come to seek and to save that which was lost."
(pause)
- Now this completely blew my mind when I began to understand that...
- If I read the Bible and watch what Jesus is doing... I am looking at what God would do.
- He is the perfect representation of the Father.
(pause)
- And it is also interesting and challenging that we as Christ's body...
- ideally people can see God through us.
- Through our hope... through our love... through our kindness
(pause)
- It really is an awesome responsibility isn't it??
- We as Christians represent God!!
(pause)
- And I would argue that God is concerned that we represent Him in truth.

Moses Example

Joh 14:10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

Joh 14:11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

- Jesus continually said, "The works that I do, bear witness of Me.
- Jesus never said blindly believe.
- Rather he said I give you evidences upon which to believe.
(pause)
- I get kind of annoyed when Christians say... well you just have to make a blind step of faith... then you will see.
- I don't buy that.
(pause)
- In Isaiah as God begins to spell out the indictment against man... he begins by saying "come... let us reason together"
- And likewise God gave us a rational basis for our faith.
- Jesus came and gave us signs which are there as a basis for our faith.
- And it emphasizes the fact that those who don't believe... are choosing not to believe.
(pause)

- So Jesus says... At least believe on the evidences of the miracles themselves and then goes on to say...

Joh 14:12a I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. ..

- Some of the greatest things Jesus did was show love and compassion to people that were cast aside.
- Jesus loved the unlovable.
- And through faith we can do what he has done

But He goes on to say:

Joh 14:12b ... He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Joh 14:13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.

Joh 14:14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

- What a staggering promise.
- That whatever we ask in his name he will do.
- What does that mean?

(pause)

- A couple of things to consider.
- Jesus is addressing the disciples... people that believed in him and followed him.
- So this is a promise addressed to people who follow Jesus.
 - (not just someone who picks up the Bible and stumbles upon it)
- And Jesus clearly laid out what it looks like to follow him.
- He said... if you deny yourself and take up your cross... that is what it takes to follow him.
- This is a promise to people who deny themselves and have taken up their cross.
- So, a person who has denied himself isn't going to ask for something for his own glory, for his own wealth, for his own enrichment.
- In other words Jesus isn't saying here, "ask for a new house or a new boat and you will get it"

(pause)

- But rather once you've denied your self... ask for anything in my name... and you will have it.
- You see the promise there.

(pause)

- It is really meant to be a comfort to those how follow Jesus.
- Remember He is talking to His disciples who are disheartened.
- He saying "Hey... if you follow me... I won't leave you hanging."

Jesus goes on:

Joh 14:15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command.

- And what does He command?
- Remember just shortly before this... in Chapter 13 he gave a new commandment that we love one another as He has loved us.

(pause)

- If we are to love Jesus... how do we show it?
 - Not by saying it over and over....
 - Not by conjuring up some emotion....
 - Not by isolating ourselves from the world...
- But rather by loving each others.
- Through action... through obedience
- As we learned in Chapter 13 by serving each other.
- That's the way we show God that we love Him

When we leave....

- So Jesus says...
 - If you follow me... I won't leave you hanging...
 - If you love me... then obey me.
- And then he says:

Joh 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor...

- The Greek word here is "Parakletos,"
- And means - one to come alongside of you and help you.
- So Jesus says... I will ask the Father, and he will give you one to come alongside you and help you
- And goes on...

Joh 14:16 ...to be with you forever--

Joh 14:17a the Spirit of truth.

- Within those few sentences we see the whole of the Trinity.
- **Jesus** says, "I'm going to pray to the **Father**. And He's going to give you a comforter, the **Spirit of truth**, to be with you forever."

(pause)

- We will see shortly that the spirit of truth is the holy spirit... which the bible talks extensively about.

- And so, we have the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- In regards to the Holy Spirit... Jesus goes on to say:

Joh 14:17b ...The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be^[3] in you.

- So there really is a two fold relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- First... Jesus says the Holy Spirit is dwelling with the disciples
- And second... He says Holy Spirit is going to be dwelling in the disciples.
- So what does that mean?
- Christians say these things a lot... but what does that mean?

(pause)

- Well, prior to your receiving Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit is dwelling with us
- And it was the Holy Spirit that causes us to realize that we are apart from God

(pause)

- Remember back in Chapter 9 when Jesus heals the man blind from birth.
- Since the man never knew what it would be like to see... He could have never known what he was missing out on.
- In fact he could have remained a tolerably happy beggar as long as people kept giving him food.

(pause)

- Well as we talked about... we are like that Blind Man.
- But it is the Holy Spirit that tells us something is not right.
- And that eventually shows us that Jesus is the way... Jesus is the truth... and Jesus is the life.

(pause)

- So all the while the Holy Spirit is with us....
- Once we accept Jesus.... Once our spiritual eyes are opened.... It says the Spirit (which was with us) come into us... and indwells us.

(pause)

- Paul says in 1 Corinthians Chapter 6:

1Co 6:19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

1Co 6:20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

- As a Christian, the Holy Spirit indwells us and our body becomes a temple for God... and Temple for the Holy Spirit.
- And thus the things we do as we live in the Spirit are the very works of God

- Think about that... when we allow the Spirit to work through us... we are allowing God to work through us.

(pause)

- So in this battle between the flesh and the Spirit... the choice is staggering
- Allow God to work through you... or put yourself above God.
- And the battle can be so difficult... but really that is what it boils down to.

(pause)

- Jesus goes on to say in Verse 18:

Joh 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Joh 14:19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

Joh 14:20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

- It's really kind of an incredible relationship that we have in Christ.
- Christ continually said... I and the father are one.

(pause)

- When we say we are in Christ... it is a way of saying when we believe... when we trust in Jesus... then we are in Christ.

(pause)

- When we believe God (the Father the son and the Holy Spirit all) indwell us...
- So what does that mean?... what does that look like?

(pause)

- Now I would note that what we picture here... of Christ and Father and Holy Spirit being in us... I'm sure our picture... is inadequate.
- Because it's easy to picture this as something small... like Jesus is condensed.... and small... and goes into the center of my chest... or something.
- Which is inadequate.

(pause)

- In becoming a Christian, God comes and breaths life into us.
- And after he gives us life (spiritual life) God is wanting to form us and guide us into the kind of people that He will spend eternity with.
- Have you thought about eternity with God?
- Have you thought about the fact that if we are to spend eternity with God... that God wants to form in us the Character that he wants to spend eternity with.
- Such that... God uses the works and the trials and the good times and the bad times all to form us... to sanctify us as the Bible says

(pause)

- Well I believe when it talks about Jesus coming into us... it is really a way of envisioning the fact that we have submitted to God.
- That God has breathed life into us... and from the inside.... he is forming us through trials and joys and pains... into what we are to be eternally.

(pause)

- I used to think (actually not that long ago) that ministry and church was just about other people... about helping people.
- I don't think that any more.
- In fact I think that's the reason a lot of people get burnt out in churches. They are trying to help people.

(pause)

- It's about me as an individual.
- It's about you as an individual.
- God doesn't need your help.
- Think about that. God doesn't need any of our help.
- So why would he ask us to do be obedient and to do the things he asks?

(pause)

- God wants to use me (God wants to use you)... in order to form us into what he wants to spend eternity with.

(pause)

- Jesus goes on:

Joh 14:21 Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

Joh 14:22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?"

Joh 14:23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

- Man's relationship with God must be through obedience to the Word, the commandment of Jesus Christ... not through coercion
- And our obedience is demonstrated or rather manifested in our love...
- So, if we love Him, we'll keep His words... we'll be obedient.

(pause)

- Jesus goes on:

Joh 14:24 He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

Joh 14:25 "All this I have spoken while still with you.

Joh 14:26b But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

- And so here is a promise that the Holy Spirit will bring to our remembrance the things that Jesus has said and done and taught.

(pause)

- Well I know this has happened to me many times.

What my dad told me growing up...

- Sure enough when I am obedient and diligent in seeking God... when the enemy attacks...
- The Holy Spirit does bring to mind what Jesus has taught.

(pause)

- Now also remember Jesus is talking to the disciples shortly before his death.
- And He is teaching them as well as promising them a super natural comforter that will teach them.

(pause)

- I can imagine if I were a disciple, had I known Jesus was going to die... I would wonder how I could remember all the things he taught.
- Well Jesus tells us how... the Holy Spirit brought to their remembrance the events and the teachings just as Jesus had said.
- Many times in Acts and the epistles we read that suddenly they remembered something that Jesus said or done.
- That was the Holy Spirit....
- And likewise as the Apostles... began to pen the books of the New Testament.... It was the Holy Spirit that guided their pen.

(pause)

- So... Now Jesus gives us something special.
- He tells us what a Christ follower looks like.

- He says

Joh 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

- And so, to a frightened bunch of troubled disciples, Jesus says, "Look, My peace I give to you."
- What peace is he talking about??

(pause)

- Surely they knew what peace he was talking about.

- It must have been that same kind of peace that He had when the boat was sinking and He was sleeping.
- The peace that comes through perfect confidence that the Father is in control of everything and that my hope is in the eternal not in the temporal.

(pause)

- God's in control.
- "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."
- They had seen it in him... and now he offers it to them... and to us.

Joh 14:28 "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

- I love this because it is so true.
- It's interesting... when a Christian dies... we often are sad.
- Why is that?

(pause)

- Because we miss them. We want them back.
- But the fact is... if we love them we are to be rejoicing as well... because they are in a far better place.
- And Jesus acknowledges that.
- If you loved me you would be glad that I am going to the Father...

(pause)

- Well Jesus goes on to tell them:

Joh 14:29 I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

- One of the purposes for prophecy in the Bible is that we may have rational reasons upon which to believe.

(pause)

- And Jesus says to his discouraged disciples "remember what I've said and you'll believe that I am in control.
- In other words "This is all happening according to plan. Things are not out of hand."
- And if you remember what I'm telling you... your faith will be strengthened.

Joh 14:30a I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming...

- I mentioned it at the beginning... Jesus will soon go to the garden of Gethsemane to face the prince of this world (Satan).
- And in the Garden of Gethsemane He will fight against every force and every temptation and every power of hell.

- But Jesus goes on to say:

Joh 14:30b ... He has no hold on me,

- So Satan had no hold on Jesus.
- How does Satan gain a foothold?
- Through sin. And Jesus was sinless thus Satan had no Hold on Jesus.

(pause)

- So Jesus was able to bare every temptation possible... every attack possible... everything that we cannot bear... he bore...
- And as Satan attacked Jesus... and as his disciples kept falling asleep... Jesus was in so much physical anguish from this spiritual battle that he began to sweat beads of blood.

(pause)

- But in light of all temptation... Jesus triumphed.

(pause)

- Well He goes on to say:

Joh 14:31a ...the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. ...

- As he begins to bring this teaching to a close... he reiterates one of his main points (possibly the most important point) that He is the perfect representation of the Father.

- Then he says:

Joh 14:31b ..."Come now; let us leave.

- And so, He and his disciples arises and make their way towards the Garden of Gethsemane.
- Chapter 15 is a discourse on the way to the Garden to Gethsemane, probably as they were passing by some vineyards.
- And in Ch. 15 He teaches them (as we will talk about next week) of that relationship we have with Jesus, using the example of a vine and the branches.

(pause)

Chapter Summary

Now I just want to take a couple seconds at the end and summarize the three themes that really stood out to me in this Chapter.

The three things that I would argue are fundamental in any Christians understanding of the faith.

1. We have a hope beyond this world.
2. Jesus is the only way to the Father... By looking at Jesus we are looking at the Father.
3. We have been given a comforter... the Holy Spirit which indwells us and teaches us and guide us.

Closing Prayer