

Key words: John 14
Heaven, Father's house, encouragement
Holy Spirit, heart, The Way

THE COMFORT CHAPTER

JOHN 14

John 14 is medicine for heart trouble! The background to this chapter is seen in three startling statements that Jesus made in chapter 13. These statements precipitated the disciples discomfort and Jesus' comforting words in chapter 14. The setting is the Upper Room where Jesus and the disciples had observed the Passover Feast. There Jesus said that:

- **One of the disciples would betray Him** - 13:21-22
"Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke."
- **He would be leaving them** – 13:33
"My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come."
- **One of the disciples would deny Him** – 13:38
To Peter, Jesus said, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times."*

Consequently, the disciples were shocked to hear about Judas' coming betrayal; saddened to hear Jesus' announcement that He was leaving them; surprised that Peter would deny Jesus. Therefore, chapter 14 opens with these words, *"Let not your hearts be troubled...."*

What Jesus proceeds to say to the disciples is intended to encourage and comfort them and us during trying times. That the disciples were perplexed is obvious for three different disciples asked three different questions seeking clarification of what Jesus had said.

1. Thomas asked, "Where are you going?"

"Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" (v.5)

2. Philip asked, "What is the Father like?"

"Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." (v.8)

3. Judas asked, "How will you help us in the future?"

"Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" (v.22)

These three questions give us the divisions in the chapter which are:

- The Comfort of Knowing About The Father's House – vs. 1-6
- The Comfort of Knowing The Father's Heart – vs.7-14
- The Comfort of Knowing The Father's Helper – vs.15-31

I. THERE IS COMFORT IN KNOWING ABOUT THE FATHER'S HOUSE - John 14:1-6
(Thomas had asked, "Where are you going and how do we get there?") Consider:

A. The Declaration About The Father's House. vs.1-2

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you."

B. The Designer of The Father's House. vs. 2b-4

"I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know."

C. The Doorway To The Father's House. vs.5-6

"Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

There are many technological gadgets on the market. One of the most intriguing is the GPS – Global Positioning System. It can pin-point your exact geographical location and guide you to your desired location.

We are surrounded by persons who do not know the Way to the Father's House. They are biblically described as "lost." They need directions. Christians are to be living GPS's – God's Positioning Servants - pointing out The Way to the Father's House. There is comfort to be had by all who are on The Way to the Father's House!

II. THERE IS COMFORT IN KNOWING THE FATHER'S HEART - John 14:7-14
(Philip had asked, "What is the Father like?")

The word "Father" occurs 23 times in John 14, most in any New Testament chapter. Jesus wanted to focus the disciple's attention upon the Father. He reveals the Father's Heart to the disciples by:

A. The witness He gives of the Father. vs. 7-9

"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you Him and have seen Him." Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

B. The words He speaks of the Father. v.10

"Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works."

C. The works He does with the Father. vs. 11-16

“Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.” And what ever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. “If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father....”

By observing Christ’s sinless life, His compassionate ministry and hearing His gracious words, the disciples were witnessing the heart of the Father. Our purpose on earth, as children of the heavenly Father, is to display, magnify and glorify the Father as did Jesus by our words and works.

III. THERE IS COMFORT IN KNOWING THE FATHER’S HELPER. John 14:15-31
(Judas asked, “How will you help us in the future?”)

A. Who The Helper Is. v.16

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Comforter....” (KJV)

The Greek word translated “Comforter” is *“Paraclete”* and means “Comforter,” “Advocate” and “Helper.” It is translated each way in the New Testament depending upon the translation one uses:

- KJV – *“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter....”*
- NIV - *“.... and he will give you another advocate to help you.....”*
- NKJV, NASB - *“....and He will give you another Helper....”*

The verb from which it is taken signifies one who comes alongside to help, to advocate in a court and to comfort or console. The Holy Spirit is our Helper who Advocates on our behalf and Comforts us.

The word translated *“Paraclete”* is used in the New Testament five times. In four instances it is applied to the Holy Spirit as in John 14:26 – *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things....”*

The *“Helper”* is also named the *“Spirit of Truth”* – v. 17b-18 *“....the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees Him nor knows Him;”*

B. Where The Helper Is.

Within the believer – v. 17b *“.... but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”* cf. v.16b *“He will abide with you forever”*

C. What The Helper Does.

- He will comfort/help/advocate – *“I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”* v.18 nkjv.
“I will not leave you comfortless” - kjv

- He will teach – v. 26 *“He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*

- He will impart peace. v. 27 *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*

The peace of the world is an external and temporary peace; the peace of Christ is internal and permanent. The Holy Spirit would come to comfort, teach and be the Agent of Peace indwelling them and us. *"The fruit of the Spirit is Peace."* (Gal. 5:22)

Conclusion

1. Jesus spoke about the Father – the Father's House, the Father's Heart and the Father's Helper.
2. These truths bring comfort to the children of the heavenly Father in troubling times.
3. Promises! That's what we have in John 14 - promises that Jesus made to His disciples *and* to us!
4. Jesus never fails! Believe Him and trust Him. As He said:

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me."

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