

“In My Father’s House Are Many Mansions”

John 14:1-15

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Teaching Aim: To realize each of us get discouraged at times in our Christian walk and need to remember that God has prepared a very special place for us with Him in heaven. To recognize faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation and spending eternity in heaven with Him. To see the unity between the Father and Son and to understand the special plan God has for His people. To unlock the power of praying within the will of God.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: God’s eternal plan for His people (John 14:1-7)

1. The developments in the concluding part of **John chapter 13** had been disturbing to the disciples. At the dinner they learned: 1) Jesus would soon leave them, and they would not be able to follow Him at this time; 2) One of the twelve disciples would turn on Jesus and betray Him; 3) Peter, a leader among the twelve, was rebuked in front of the other disciples for his impulsiveness and was told that he would deny Jesus. The disciples had good reason to be troubled at the discussion that night. What can we learn about the sensitivity of Jesus in **verse 1**? Are the words of Jesus a good reminder for each of us when we are struggling?

2. When Jesus referred to His Father’s house, He was speaking of heaven (**vs. 2**). The KJV and NKJV use the word “*mansions*” to describe our heavenly home. How do other Bible versions translate this same Greek word? (See NIV; ESV; NASB, etc.) Why is **verse 2** comforting to many Christians who are undergoing trials in their own lives? Do you look forward to the day when you will spend eternity in heaven with the Father and the Son? Who are some of the people that you look forward to seeing when you get to heaven?

3. What special promise does Jesus make to His disciples in **verse 3**? The analogy of a Jewish Wedding is often seen in **John 14:1-4**. The prospective groom would go to the potential bride’s father and offer the father a bride price, once accepted by the father, the young man would take a cup of wine to the young girl he was proposing to. If she picked up the cup and drank, she was accepting the proposal; if not, she was rejecting the young man. If the young maiden accepted the proposal, the groom would go to his father’s house to prepare a place for her to live. It was totally up to the father when the new room was ready. Only then would he be able to go back and get his bride. How do we see this analogy at work with Jesus and His Bride: the Church? (**See John 14:1-4; Mark 13:32**)

4. Today many people are terrified of death; born-again Christians agree that unbelievers should be. They are destined for an eternity in hell. What can we learn about the death of a Christian from **2 Cor. 5:8** and **Phil. 1:23**? How is this different from that of an unbeliever? Are you more afraid of death or of the dying process? Why?

5. **John 14:1-4** describes the rapture of the church. The rapture is a time of blessing for the believer, not judgment. What can we learn about the rapture of the Church from **1 Cor. 15:51-54**? How quickly will the rapture take place? In what way will the Christian be victorious in the rapture?

6. We get another clear picture of the rapture in **1 Thess. 4:16-17**. What can we learn from this passage? When will this event take place? Why should this be comforting to us?

7. In **Phil. 4:20-21**, Paul describes a radical transformation that will take place in our bodies at the moment of the rapture. What will happen to the believer in Jesus Christ?

8. In **verse 4**, Jesus said, *“And where I go you know, and the way you know.”* What did Jesus mean? (See Commentaries) Which disciple was honest with Jesus about his own ignorance (**vs. 5**)? How did Jesus respond to this disciple (**vs. 6**)?

9. The world would like you to believe there are many ways to heaven. Are there (**vs. 6**)? William MacDonald wrote, *“The way to God is not by the Ten Commandments, the Golden Rule, ordinances, church membership – it is through Christ and Christ alone.”* What can we learn about the topic of salvation from **Matt. 7:13-14**? (See **Acts 4:12**)

10. What did Jesus mean in **verse 7** when He said, *“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him?”* Is Jesus claiming to be the Father?

Part II: A question and answer time between Philip and Jesus (John 14:8-11)

1. What unusual request did Philip make of Jesus in **verse 8**? What was Philip really asking? Moses asked a similar question in **Exod. 33:18**. How did the LORD respond in **Exod. 33:19-20**? Was Moses allowed to see the LORD at all? If so, how? (See **Exod. 33:21-23**)
2. What can we learn about the close relationship between the Father and Son from **John 10:25-30**? What does Jesus teach us in **John 10:30**? Does this mean that the Father and Son are one in Person? What would you say if someone asked you to give a definition of the orthodox doctrine of the Trinity? What did Jesus mean in **John 10:30**?
3. In **verse 9**, Jesus makes the stunning assertion that those who have seen Him have seen the Father. What did Jesus mean by this?
4. Once again Jesus used the words, *“I Am”* in **verse 10**, this time Jesus said, *“Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?”* What did Jesus mean? According to Jesus, who was dwelling within Him and speaking through Him (**vs. 10**)? Which of the seven great *“I Am”* statements did Jesus use in **John 14:6**? What message was Jesus giving?
5. On what basis should we believe that Jesus was in the Father and the Father was in Him (**vs. 11**)? Why do you think so many people who witnessed the miracles of Jesus (including Judas) did not believe? (See **John 3:3,5; 2 Cor. 4:3-4**) Do many people still not believe today? Why?

Part III: Unlocking the power of praying within the will of God (John 14:12-15)

1. As we come to **verse 12**, Jesus begins the most thorough teaching on the ministry of the Holy Spirit found anywhere in the Bible. This topic will be thoroughly explored in **John chapters 14-16**. How is it possible for Christians today to do greater works than Jesus did during biblical days (**vs. 12**)? (See Commentaries)
2. In **Numbers chapter 11**, Moses became overwhelmed by the massive workload of being the leader and judging an entire nation by himself. Moses finally cried out in **Num. 11:14-15**: *"I am not able to bear all these people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me. If You treat me like this, please kill me here and now – if I have found favor in Your sight – and do not let me see my wretchedness!"* How did the LORD respond in **Num. 11:16-17** to this request from Moses? What is the significance of the event that took place in **verses 25-30**? (See Commentaries) What was this a foreshadow of? Note: It is not the believer who does greater things, it is the Holy Spirit of God working in and through the Church who does.
3. In **verses 13 and 14**, Jesus said, *"And whatever 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?"* What is name it and claim it theology? (Hint: Search Online) In what circles do we find this kind of teaching today? Is this teaching biblical? What was Jesus was teaching? Note: For God to consistently answer our prayers in this way, they must be in agreement with both the hidden and revealed will of God.
4. Love is the mark of the true Christian. What does Jesus ask for as proof of our love (**vs. 15**)? (See **1 John 5:2-3**) According to **Luke 6:46-48**, what will the individual's life be like who loves and obeys the Lord?
5. Do you truly love Jesus? Enough to obey His commandments? Jesus was asked, *"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"* How did Jesus respond? (See **Matt. 22:37-40**) How would you rate yourself at keeping the Great Commandment? What steps could you take to improve?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- The Lord has prepared a special place in heaven for each of His followers.
- **John 14:1-4** is a description of the rapture of the Church.
- In **John 14:6**, Jesus reveals that He is the only way for people to get to the Father in heaven.
- No one can see God and live (See **Exod. 33:20**), the closest we can get to seeing the Father in this life is to see Jesus and the example that He set.
- Jesus ministered only in the area surrounding the Promised Land; today, believers, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, have the privilege of ministering all over the world.
- **John 14:13-14** in no way promotes a "*name it and claim it*" theology in prayer.
- If we want to have our prayers consistently answered, our prayers need to be in agreement with the hidden and revealed will of God.