

Discussion and Reflection Questions

Easter 5A - 7th of May 2023

Read John 14.1-14

¹ 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.' ⁵ Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' ⁶ Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' ⁸ Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' ⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

Questions

1. When you hear words like "don't worry" or "do not let your hearts be troubled" does it make a difference who says it & their tone of voice? Does it make a difference that it's Jesus who says them & that they might be said "gently"?
2. Verse 2 isn't about a mini-mansion in the sky when you die, it's a promise of a place of relationship with God. How do you make sense of or explain to others that we have a relationship with God because of Jesus?
3. Do you think it makes a difference knowing that you can read this passage as part of Jesus' own interpretation of his death, resurrection & ascension?
4. Verse 6 can be tricky & controversial. How have you heard it used or explained in the past?
5. What difference does it make that verse 6 (& the whole passage for that matter) is said to those closest to Jesus who are already followers & not to the scribes, Pharisees or outsiders?

6. Verse 6 can be explained as calling followers to be different & distinctive. What would it mean to be different & distinctive in our world?
7. How different are you, is the Christian church to the culture of today? Do people notice that we are different?
8. Verse 12 is a tricky one too. What do you think Jesus means by “greater things”?
9. Verse 14 is also tricky. Are there limits or qualifications to what we might ask?

Prayer

Saving God,
who called your Church to witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us so to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be reconciled to you;
through him who died for us and rose again
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.