

**Find Life in the Son:
Divine Mediator
John 14:1-14**

Introduction

Our text this morning starts with reference to troubled hearts. We've seen that description multiple times before—the disciples on a stormy sea at night, Jesus at the tomb of Lazarus, and Jesus again as He anticipated the cross. *To be troubled is not necessarily sinful; it is part of being human in a sin-cursed world—even for the God-man.*

Jesus has shocked the disciples by doing the slave's job of washing their feet. He has declared that one of them will betray Him, and that Peter, the outspoken leader of the group, will himself deny the Lord three times before the night is done. He is going to proceed fleshing out a theme they dreaded—how He will be leaving them soon through a brutal series of events.

No wonder their hearts are troubled. What could possibly steady them through this extended ordeal? And why was it necessary for these calamities to happen now? Where is God in all this? What is He doing? And what of their conviction that Jesus is indeed the promised Messiah, the Savior-King of the world? Jesus will answer these and other

questions troubling their hearts this fateful night.

1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. **2** In my Father's house are many rooms. 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, that where I am you may be also. **4** And you know the way to 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 had known me, you would have known 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 it is enough for us." **9** Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? 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 authority, 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, or else believe on account of the works themselves. **12** "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and

greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

Everything coming to a head this night has to do with the divine mission of Jesus as the "one mediator between God and man" (1 Timothy 2:5).

1. Reconciler: Jesus opens the only way to God the Father (1-6).
2. Revealer: To know Jesus the Son is to know God the Father (7-11).
3. Intercessor: Jesus empowers our works and our prayers to God's glory (12-14).

1. Reconciler: Jesus opens the only way to God the Father (1-6).

¹ "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. 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, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to 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.

Like a bridegroom preparing a place for his bride then going to get her to bring her to her new home.

These men did believe in God, and they did believe in Jesus. But their Lord and Master is calling them to push their faith further yet—to trust Him even as they enter a series of events that seem at cross purposes with who they know Jesus to be. They are right about His identity. He is the Savior-King. But they don't fully comprehend how He will accomplish His mission according to God's promises.

In time they will understand far better how it all fits together. They will testify to the world the words and works of Jesus the Messiah. They will write it down in what would be the New Testament, explaining to all people everywhere how Jesus ratified the new covenant in His blood to call together a people transformed from the inside out from every nation and tribe on earth through many generations.

There are many dwelling places in my Father's house. The very thing you fear most—that I am going where you cannot come now—is to prepare a place for you to dwell there with me. No sinner could ever deserve to dwell in the house of the Lord

forever, but the crucified Savior-King will make a way for it to happen.

Preparing a place for His bride required the humbling incarnation of God the Son, a perfect life, His suffering and death for sin, His resurrection from the dead, His ascension to the right hand of the Father where He intercedes for His own to this day. It is the heavenly bridegroom's ultimate expression of love for his bride.

Ephesians 5:25-27

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,
²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Jesus uses the imagery of a Jewish bridegroom making his home ready for his bride and then coming back to bring her to live with him.

John 14:3

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

What Jesus is saying is still unclear to His disciples. Thomas confesses, "We don't know where you're going, so how can we know how to get there?"

Jesus answers with one of His most loved "I am" statements:

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Where He is going is to God the Father in the heavenly city, and He Himself is the only way to get there. The apostle John describes this heavenly city that will one day descend to earth in Revelation 21 and 22. It is a vast city 1500 miles square and 1500 miles high. Its foundations made of jewels, its streets of pure gold, its gates of pearl, shining with the light of God throughout the entire complex, the river of life running from the throne of God, with the tree of life along its banks.

Hebrews 12 tells us innumerable angels in festal gathering are there, along with the assembly of the firstborn (that is the people who belong to Jesus), the spirits of the saints made perfect. They inhabit this capital city of the universe, where God the Father, Son, and Spirit reign.

He's the way—the only mediator between God and man. There is no other way to the Father's house.

He's the truth—His promises and words are absolutely reliable—a covenant promise signed in His own lifeblood.

He's the life—all who trust in Him receive life eternal. He's been teaching that for years now.

Isn't it obvious that we human beings cannot by their own power and intellect bridge the huge gap between our sinful, finite selves and an infinite, holy God. He has to make the move to bring us to Himself. It's something only God can do. That's the mission of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. If He's not telling the absolute truth when He makes these claims, then He's not the Savior God. He's not even a good person. He's engaged in the greatest scam in history. And if He can't give His followers eternal life, what good will heaven do for them? They won't live to enjoy it.

Applications

- What crises are troubling your heart today? All of them will in time be completely resolved by Jesus, who reconciles us to God.

- What other ways do people imagine will get them to God and into His heavenly house, and why do Jesus' words here expose such schemes as untrustworthy?

The path Jesus had to take to make a way for us was exceedingly painful, and those who follow Him will endure painful circumstances as well. Think how infinitely valuable was the suffering of Jesus, and ask yourself whether following Him is also worth whatever temporary pain you must bear.

2. Revealer: To know Jesus the Son is to know God the Father (7-11).

⁷ If you had known me, you would have known 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 it is enough for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? 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 authority, 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, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

As Jesus has done many times before, He points to His words and His works as proof

that He and the Father are one. He taught as no other mere human had ever taught. He revealed things only God could know. John introduced Him to us in chapter 1 as the Word who was with God and who was God and who pitched His tent alongside of us, displaying the shining splendor of deity, full of grace and truth. His words are spirit and life to those who receive them.

John 5:24

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

His works were miraculous, healing blind and lame, raising the dead. Even His enemies could not deny them.

John 5:36b

The works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.

If you want to know what God the Father is like, look to Jesus. Listen to His lifegiving words. Consider His miraculous works. He made God knowable for us. God is Spirit. He is invisible. He is infinite. How could we possibly know someone we cannot see or touch?

But John the apostle will testify in 1 John 1:1-3

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

To know Jesus is to know God. He is the Revealer. He mediates the distance between God and man and makes God knowable.

Hebrews 1:1-3

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

God testified over and over again through the prophets that His Son the Messiah was coming, that He would bring life to sinners like us. Jesus puts it this way to those who studied the Scriptures in His day, but missed how they pointed to Him as the Mediator:

John 5:39-40

³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

Applications

- If you feel distanced from God, study Jesus and learn who He is. You will come to know God for who He is.
- In what ways are you making it a priority in your life to know Jesus through the testimony of the prophets and the apostles?
- When did you come to Him for eternal life, and if you have not done so, why not?

3. Intercessor: Jesus empowers our works and our prayers to God's glory (12-14).

¹² "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask

in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

What audacious promises these! How could anyone do greater works than Jesus did? All the healings, raising people from the dead, rescuing the redeemed. What else is left?

Well, once the apostles were empowered by the Holy Spirit, they too healed the sick and raised the dead. And they took the message of redemption through Christ Jesus to all ethnicities. On the very day the Spirit was given to them in keeping with the promise of Jesus, three thousand souls came to Christ. That added more disciples in one day than had followed Jesus His entire ministry. And tens of thousands soon followed in faith. The gospel broke through to the Gentiles, spreading throughout the Roman Empire into Asia and Europe, and in time to the New World. Just as Jesus promised His apostles in Acts 1, His Spirit-empowered apostles would bear testimony about Him to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the world, where we worship Jesus this day.

They would, in the words of their enemies, turn the world upside down. They did miracles, and God answered their prayers. For they prayed in keeping with the name, the revealed character, of Jesus. They come

to the Father through the Mediator, Jesus Christ. He intercedes for them before the Father's throne.

*Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest who's name is love
Who ever lives and pleads for me.*

The apostles did not do miracles all the time, but God enabled them to do them at strategic times in keeping with His will. He still works miracles in His time and in His way.

Not every prayer receives immediate answer in the affirmative, but we can know that when we pray God hears, and God answers in keeping with His perfect will, sometimes surprising us with how He intervenes. *We pray because we know the power is not from ourselves but from Him. We pray because we know how dependent we are on Him. We pray because He calls on us to do so. He has proven His love for us, and bids His children come.*

Even when He seems silent, it is for our good, for He has promised that all things work together for good to them that love God, who are the called according to His purpose of conforming us to the character of Jesus Christ His Son.

Applications

- In what ways do your works show dependence on God for His power?
- In what ways do your prayers show reliance on God to do what we cannot do ourselves?
- How can the conviction that Jesus is interceding for you in your service to God encourage you toward good works and faithful praying?

Conclusion

We are troubled people in a troubled world. The One who turns the tables is the Divine Mediator, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Closing Song: How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

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- If you feel distanced from God, study Jesus and learn who He is. You will come to know God for who He is.
- In what ways are you making it a priority in your life to know Jesus through the testimony of the prophets and the apostles?
- When did you come to Him for eternal life, and if you have not done so, why not?
- In what ways do your works show dependence on God for His power?
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