

Read John 14 in its entirety.

Introduction: I like to think of John 14 as a commentary on Genesis 15:1. “The LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.” You say, but wasn’t Abram supposed to inherit the earth? Well, it’s the same thing. If God is your inheritance, then you have everything else and all things are yours. But I would like to unpack this a bit today.

Jesus had just told the apostles that in a little while He would be no longer with them. He said that they could not go where He was going, at least not then, but they would follow Him later. Peter said, “Why not now? I will die for you.” Jesus said, “Will you? Peter? The truth is, you will deny me three times before the rooster crows.”

So the apostles were downhearted, discouraged. Jesus was saying things they could not understand, but things that they would understand later. So He begins to explain it to them, and as they listened to Him, some questions arose in their minds, questions that He answered. These questions would open up a comfort to them that would unfold in the days to come and would be of great comfort to the church in all the ages of the church, comfort that may very well serve the church in what may be difficult and testing days in our future. Let us look at these questions

- I. Where are you going, and how do we get there?
  - A. Jesus’ astounding Declaration. The Strong Foundation of Faith and Hope.
    1. Ye believe in God, believe also in Me. The words of a madman, if they are not true.
    2. There is plenty of room in my Father’s House; I would have told you so if it were not so.
    3. When I get through preparing a place for you, I will come and receive you unto myself, so you can be where I am. Wherever I am going, you will be there too.
    4. And you know this: you know both where I am going, and how to get there.
  - B. Thomas: “Whoa. What do you mean? We do not know where you are going and how could we possibly know the way.” That’s the question: Ques-

tion number one with two sides to it. Where are you going, and how do we get there?

1. People who have knowledge know more than they think they know. Knowledge is one, and one path leads into another. People who do not know, always think they know more than they know and speak nonsense.
2. Jesus answers both sides of the question in verse 6, 7. The Foundation of Faith and Hope.
  - a. Where am I going: to my Father. You should have known that. I came from my Father with a mission, to perfectly do the works and speak the words that He commanded me. Now I am about finished with speaking those words and doing the works, and now it is time to return to my Father.
  - b. How do you go where I am going? You should have known that, too. I am the way, the truth, and the Life. No man comes to the Father but by me.
3. This is the fundamental issue of man’s life and the question that confronts every religion in the world and has occupied the great philosophies: How do we make contact with God; how do we come to God? What is the truth about God and the world? What does it mean to live, to truly live the good life? What is the reason for what we do and for what we believe.
4. There is no more fundamental question that the church must answer to the world than this: Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. This is the foundation of all we say and do.
5. He goes before us to the Father and someday we will be where He is. Yes, He, the man Christ Jesus in His resurrected body is in Heaven and that is the eternal state and hope for the children of God. When did the church quit talking about going to heaven? When the preachers quit talking about heaven? When did we quit singing about going to heaven?
6. For me, I will take the words of Jesus over all the words of the philosophers and new fangled theologies. He will come to take us where He is now. And so shall we ever be with the Lord.
7. This our inheritance, the inheritance of Abraham who looked for a city that has foundations, whose builder and maker is God; This is also our inheritance for we, according to Peter have been begotten again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven

for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time....”

8. Because of this, we are commanded to seek those things which are above, where Christ sits at the right hand of God. We are also reminded that we no longer know Christ after the flesh, for He is glorified and sits on His heavenly throne, the throne of David, for He has received His inheritance, and

II. The Second question followed hard upon the heels of the other: “Show us the Father; then we will be satisfied.” Where is the Fulness to be Found? One of Satan’s very best works.

- A. Implied: You are not enough, Jesus of Nazareth. Are you going to take us to God.
- B. Frustration: Have I been such a long time with you? Something wrong with your eyes?
- C. Knowledge “seen” How is God revealed; seen? In Christ alone.
- D. Fullness: We do not come to Christ in order to be taken somewhere else. Jesus Christ is not a means to an end: He is the end itself. Speaks of knowledge, perhaps, more than ontology.
  1. Ephesians 3:14ff
  2. Colossians 2:6-10 [do not comment]
- E. Question: Where is the fullness? The fullness is to be desired and followed passionately, but where is it found? In Christ alone: the way, the truth, the life.
  1. In His words: vs. 9
  2. In His works: vs. 10
  3. In His Spirit: vs. 12-21. The gift of the Father and the Son.

III. The Third Question: “How will you manifest yourself to us, and not unto the world?” How will the vindication of the Gospel take place? Are we just in our little shell?

- A. The Present silence of the King.
  1. Overcoming His enemies is easy for God: think the flood; think Sodom and Gomorrah; think the conquest of Canaan. Power and might belongs to God, but the kingdom of God is a different order: a moral and spiritual order.

2. The kingdom comes as seed sown in the field; as leaven in a measure of meal.
  3. God is mostly honor in terms of His covenant.
    - a. Promise: ability and integrity.
    - b. Not be ashamed.
    - c. God takes a far, far look into the future and wants to take such a look, too.
    - d. Vindication of Abraham? Of Ezekiel? Of Moses? Of the apostle Paul?
- B. God will win the moral and spiritual victory, so that He will be vindicated in all that He does. [Bavinck]
1. The Holy Spirit will do this through teaching: the words of Christ:
    - a. First of all, brought to the memory of the Apostles, who wrote them down.
    - b. It is this doctrine which is the foundation of the church, the pillar and ground of the truth.
    - c. It is this way that we have His words and do them. Vs. 23. Love: the **KNOWLEDGE OF LOVE; NOT THE FACT OF LOVE.**
    - d. It will not come through signs and wonders; though the awesome display of physical power; but by spiritual power. Vs. 23
    - e. Along with the Spirit, the Father and the Son, **ABIDES**, with those that manifest their love by keeping His words. The figure of the Temple. We are living stones in a living temple. The Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit come to live with you and me. Living Stones in a Living Temple.
  2. It is through these powerful words that men’s hearts are changed and God manifests Himself to His people and reproveth the World.
- C. It is in this way, that we enter into our inheritance.
1. Our hope and faith is in Christ alone;
  2. The fullness is Christ alone; and
  3. Our vindication is in Christ alone.

If there is a God; If I have a soul; If there are spiritual realities; If Christ is at the right hand of God; If He will come again at the manifestation of His kingdom to judge the living and the dead.

If faith IS the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen. IF you can see Him who is invisible. If Christ is coming to take you where He is. Then, do

not worry about the vindication of your faith and the certainty of your message. For Christ is All, All in All.

Application: a perhaps too ignored parable of our Lord:

1. After the conversion of Zacchaeus and because they thought that the kingdom should immediately appear.
2. Similar to the talents, but with important differences.
3. Each of ten servants receive the same small sum: one pound. “occupy.” Do what you are supposed to be doing.
4. Citizens: rebellion against their Lord. Kingdom not yet “manifest.”
5. Long wait before it was manifest.
6. Don’t fret over what you don’t know: Do what you know.