

# **STANLEY FAITH EV FREE**

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**Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

## **John 14: 1-14 Way Truth Life**

### **INTRODUCTION / REVIEW**

#### **READING THE TEXT**

**14:1 “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.**

## PREACHING THE TEXT

14:1-2 “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. **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?”

## PREPARING FOR OUR EXIT TO GLORY

Jesus is preparing His disciples to live without Him. I've made many mistakes in my life and I'm sure in ministry. It's not too hard to come up with a list. But one thing I got right was to take the advice of Jeff Sorvik the one who best equipped me for Pastoral Ministry. He and other mentors told me that as soon as you begin a ministry begin also to train those who will either take your place or plant another church. This will expand the kingdom and make sure that your church will be solid for decades to come.

## ILLUSTRATION - PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

When I moved from North Bay in Superior to Pastor in both Winter and Radisson, I began training Tonee Martin who was a school teacher and also working with a former Pastor who was older than I but who needed someone to come alongside him and just bless and heal him.

After six years of ministry I broke my neck and was able to place Pastor Tonee in Winter who still serves there today and Pastor John who just retired from Radisson this year. All the Elders and Ministry Team Leaders are still in place.

END ILLUSTRATION-----

The point is, Jesus took this last season of ministry to personally spend time with a group of leaders preparing them to do what only He knew how to do. He was preparing for His Exit. A great deal of His preparation was done in the form of training and equipping as the Disciples shared life together.

But in this passage, there is a different kind of preparation going on. It is an emotional preparation. When Jesus says in John 13 that He is leaving, that is a scary thing to hear. What will we do? How will we make it? We are not ready! What if we have questions? How do we get in touch with you Jesus if you go away? Do we text or email or send a letter?

## TAKING JESUS AT HIS WORD

Jesus is comforting His disciples by letting them know that they can count on His word. Believe me. Believe that when I tell you something you can count on it. And here is what I am promising you.

## THERE IS A PLACE FOR HIS FOLLOWERS

I am going to prepare a place for you so that when it is your time to move from the mission field called *mission field earth* to *the home office called heaven* I guarantee that I will be waiting. Not only will I be waiting but I will be there preparing a place for you to live.

## HISTORICAL NOTE:

This promise of Jesus to go prepare a place for the disciples is a loose reference to a marriage covenant. Jesus called himself and groom and the people of God as His bride. It's an illustration that can only be taken so far. But it speaks of the covenant love of Jesus and faithfulness of Jesus to those who receive His gift of life and covenant love. Now here is what Jesus was referring to when He said He was going to prepare a place for them.

### **The Couple's Responsibilities During the Betrothal**

During betrothal the groom's responsibility was to focus on preparing a new dwelling place for his bride and family:

- In Biblical times this was most often done by adding additional rooms to the family's existing home.
- The Rabbi's determined that the place to which the bride was to be taken must be better than the place she had lived before.
- It was not the groom's duty to determine when the place he was preparing for the bride was ready - his father would make that determination and give the go ahead to receive his bride.
- The bride also was to keep herself busy in preparation for the wedding day - specifically wedding garments were to be sewn and prepared.

The disciples would have gotten this illustration. They would have understood that if Jesus is the groom he would prepare a place. He would not prepare a place and never come back to get His bride. Why would He do all the work of dying on the cross, washing His bride pure, giving her the

Holy Spirit and preparing a place in heaven only to forget about her and not return?

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#### HOW DO I RESPOND TO THAT?

Our response is the same of a bride waiting for the groom to appear. Clothe yourself with Christ. Live like you belong to Jesus Christ instead of the world. Love Jesus and love others. And if you have a covenant love with Jesus then don't hang up on Him when He calls. Answer and talk. Answer and listen. Take in His word and continue to be prepared to be His ambassador now and His precious covenant people when He returns.

**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.**

#### THE BIG REVEAL WON'T HAPPEN WITHOUT HIS BRIDE

*“Don't worry that I won't be there to cut the cake without you.”*

Do you ever see pictures of the ceremony without the bride? Do you ever see the rice and the limo and the honeymoon and the moving in pictures without the bride?

That is what Jesus is alluding to! After He has gone to prepare a place for His bride He will come back for her.

#### WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH YOU?

If you are sick and afraid of death cling to Jesus and trust Him. He will return for you. If you wonder where He is and He seems absent know that He is preparing a place for you. And since He is preparing a place for you are you preparing your heart for Him? Are you preparing for His return?

**4 And you know the way to where I am going.”**

#### YOU KNOW THE WAY

Jesus must have known that Thomas and perhaps others were wondering how they would find Him again. After all who has ever made a road map of heaven? First you take the hidden elevator on Saint Peter Street. Then take a left on Jesus Boulevard...Jesus bring up brochures the

subject. You know how to find me. You know the way. If you don't you really should.

**5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”**

#### DIRECTIONS TO PARADISE

Again, Jesus knew Thomas was not a man of faith but a man of logic. This was the same one who would need to see the wounds in Jesus side to believe it was the risen Christ. But Jesus is going to make an important point. It is not about a formula. It is not about a ritual. It is not about having directions to heaven. No one has that map or can physically make a rocket that can travel far enough to reach the highest heaven. We can even navigate to the end of our galaxy. So, we can't travel to heaven in a rocket and we can't get physical directions that are good enough to find Him. So here is what Jesus has to say about finding Him.

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

The road is Jesus. Apparently, that means when you seek Jesus He can hear you from wherever He is. He is the road map to heaven and to God. And God gets to make the map. It is God's heaven. People are arrogant enough to think that we deserve the right to make our own way to heaven but we did not build heaven. We did not even make ourselves. The molecules in our bodies are held together by our creator. Our sin was forgiven by Jesus and no one else died on the cross for our sin.

So, Jesus is the only way to the Father. No one comes to the Father except through Jesus. Jesus is the door. Jesus is the righteous branch. Jesus is the path. Jesus is the way, the truth, and He is the given or life.

**7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”**

#### PHILIP DOES NOT MAKE THE CONNECTION

Jesus perceives that Philip is not making the connection. Like many today Philip understands that Jesus is in good standing with God. He is in good standing with God. And He has done good works. Jesus is who we pray to. But somehow the connection is lost that Jesus is God. And not only is Jesus God, Jesus is God's voice and Jesus is God made visible. If you want to see God or hear God then you must receive Jesus Christ. You must go through Jesus Christ the Word of God; the Son of God.

If you receive Jesus the word of God and the voice of God you ARE receiving the Father. Because Jesus and the Father are one. They share the same nature. But does Philip get it? Let's see.

**8 Philip** said to him, "**Lord, show us the Father**, and it is enough for us." **9a** Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, **and you still do not know me, Philip?**"

#### THE FATHER AND JESUS SHARE THE DIVINE NATURE

***John 10:27-32*** <sup>27</sup> ***My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*** <sup>28</sup> ***I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.*** <sup>29</sup> ***My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.*** <sup>30</sup> ***I and the Father are one.***  
<sup>31</sup> ***The Jews picked up stones again to stone him.*** <sup>32</sup> ***Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?"*** <sup>33</sup> ***The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."***

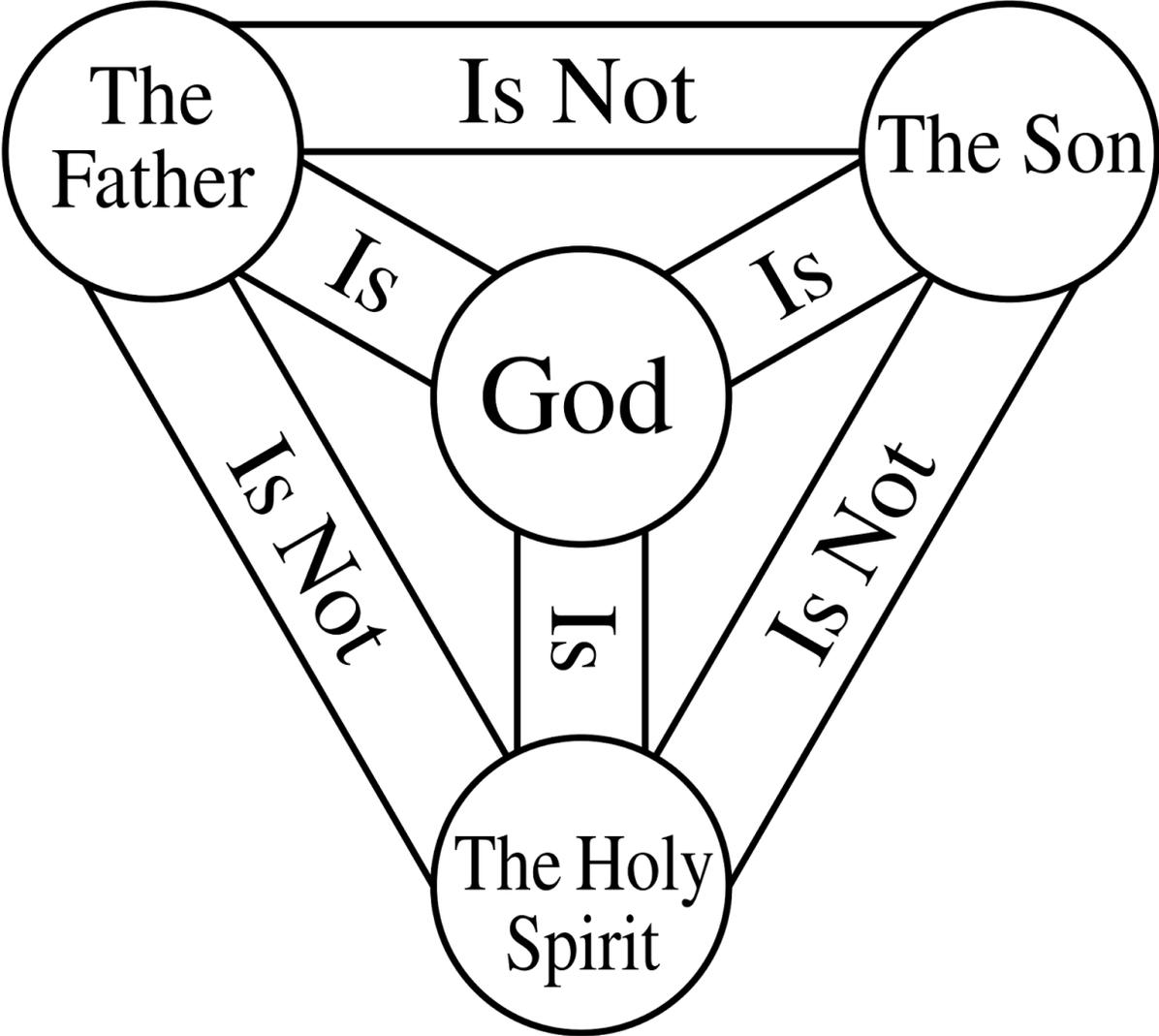
**9b** Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? **10** Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

#### THE NATURE OF THE TRINITY

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.

TRINITY ILLUSTRATION (SLIDE PLEASE!!!!)



THE ROLE OF JESUS WORKS

The work of Jesus was to authenticate that He indeed came speaking for the Trinitarian God. Jesus walked on the earth and spoke for The Father. After all, Jesus shares the divine nature. Jesus is God.

Now we finish we two verse that have been misunderstood and used to form whole denominations of false teaching.

**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.**

## GREATER WORKS

What is the greater work? It's hard to imagine that anyone can do a greater work than raise Lazarus from the dead or walk on the water or heal lepers or create eyes for a man born blind. It is not a numbers game either. More works do not mean better works.

## WHY?

Why do the greater works not have to do with numbers or quality of the miracle? Because of the text. Jesus tells us why believers generally will do greater miracles.

## BECAUSE I AM GOING TO THE FATHER

Believers will do greater miracles *“because Jesus is going to the Father.”* This is a reference to the time in which Jesus has been raised and the Holy Spirit has been given to God’s people the church. In this time, we have Jesus interceding for us and telling us how to pray for others. And we pray in a superior way because when a miracle occurs we see things in light of eternity and redemption and in light of God’s plan of salvation of souls. In fact, we can see that it would be far better for a person to remain sick and trust God for heaven than to be healed and go to hell because He takes God and His goodness for granted.

## WHATEVER YOU ASK

Many people emphasize the part that says, “*whatever you ask*”, but they forget the passage also says; “*For the glory of The Father.*”

If you ask for something that does not also glorify The Father, your prayer is not going to be answered. Both of these conditions are in the text. In a practical sense here is how it works when Jesus helps us pray and works out miracles in our everyday life.

STORY: Jesus showing who to pray for / supercharging the prayer / glorifying the Father / building the church / and it is greater because Jesus is using ordinary people like us to do extraordinary things that only He can do by His power through us.

## **SUMMARY / CHALLENGE**

### **TAKING IT HOME**

1. Is your heart troubled? If so will you ask Jesus to show you that He is preparing a place for you both in this life and the next?
2. How do you respond to the covenant love of Jesus?
3. Are you trusting Jesus and His ability to save and keep you or are you trying to figure it all out in your mind?
4. How does it look in your life right now to go to Jesus and ask Him to do works in your life that glorify The Father? If that is not happening what is the first step that God is calling you to take?