

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

John 14:1-15

Lesson #52

Intimate Connections

11/20/2016

John 14:1

"Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me."

## Jesus' disciples had questions.

- "thy Kingdom come" vs. "My Kingdom is not of this world".
- "Son of David" vs. "Suffering servant".
- "Messiah will endure forever" vs. "I will leave you soon".
- "Israel will be restored" vs. "Disciples will fall away".



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John 14:1

"Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me."

## Modern disciples have questions.

- "abundant life" vs. "bear a cross".
- "ask for anything in my name" vs. "?".
- "A light on a hill" vs. "worldly church".
- "United by the Spirit" vs. "divided by the Spirit".
- "Prosper in all things" vs. "forsake all to know Christ".



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## A common theme in John 13-15: An intimate association with Jesus distinguishes Christianity as unique.

### Chapter 13

#### Attachment

(foot washing - a part with Jesus)

"If I do not wash you, you have no part with me." 13:8

### Chapter 14

#### Access

(Jesus is the only way to union with God)

"No one comes to the Father except by me." 14:6

### Chapter 15

#### Abiding

(vine & branches - a participation with Jesus)

"apart from me you can do nothing." 15:5

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## John 14:1-15 Three ancient Jewish questions (that have present significance)

vs.1-3

### Earthly kingdom?

"I go to prepare a place for you." 14:2-3

Are the promises for this life?

vs.4-11

### One God?

"He who has seen me has seen the Father." 14:9

Is Jesus the only way?

vs.12-15

### Authoritarian name?

"If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it." 14:14

How to pray with power?

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John 14

"2 In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

## The Jewish mindset

- The Kingdom of God is to be on this earth - Israel, Palestine, Jerusalem.
- Messiah is to remain forever.

## The modern mindset

- It's all about this life and now.
- We expect more than Jesus.



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### John 17:24

“Father, I desire that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am, in order **that they may behold My glory**, which Thou hast given Me; for Thou didst love Me before the foundation of the world.”

### 1 Corinthians 13:12

“For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then **I will know fully just as I also have even fully known.**”

- The glory of heaven is to know Jesus.

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### John 14

“4 And you know the way where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do 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, but through Me.”** 7 If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you 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 so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father;** how do 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 initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. 11 Believe Me that **I am in the Father, and the Father in Me;** otherwise believe on account of the works themselves.”

### The Jewish mindset

- There is only **ONE God** - YAHWEH.
- The **Law** is our way to the FATHER.



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### John 14

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### The modern mindset

- **Pluralism** - There are many ways to God.
- Our relationship with God is linked to our **good works**.



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### John 14

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### Jesus is the way to the Father

- Our relationship with Jesus is also with God.

John 14:1

“believe in God, believe also in Me.”



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## Evidence for the deity of Jesus

- Direct statements in Scripture.
  - ✓ Jn.14:9-11 “he who has seen me has seen the Father.”
  - ✓ Jn.1:1-14 “the Word became flesh”
  - ✓ Phil.2:5-11 “existed in the form of God”
- Behavior that is uniquely divine.
  - ✓ Receiving worship - Matt. 17:19-20, 21:21-22, Jas.1:6,
  - ✓ Forgiving sin - 1 John 5:14-15
- Biblical citations ascribed to both God and Jesus.

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### O.T. references to God

Ps. 45:6  
Isa. 40:3  
Joel 2:32  
Isa. 8:13-14  
Isa. 44:6, 48:12  
Ps. 97:9  
Ps. 24:7, 29:3  
Isa. 8:13  
Deut. 10:17  
Isa. 45:22-23  
II Chron. 7:14  
Isa. 49:26  
Isa. 45:18  
Isa. 45:22; Ps. 83:18

### NT References to Jesus

Heb. 1:8 “Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever.”  
Matt. 3:3 “Make ready the way of the Lord.”  
Acts 2:21 “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”  
I Pet. 2:6-8; Rom. 9:33 “The Lord of hosts is ‘a rock to stumble over’”  
Rev. 1:17-18, 22:12-13 “the first and the last”  
Jn. 3:31 “He is above all”  
Jas. 2:1; I Cor. 2:8 “Lord of glory”  
I Pet. 3:15 The Lord of hosts is sacred.  
I Tim. 6:15-16 “the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of Kings ...”  
Phil. 2:10-11 “at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow.”  
Mk. 2:5-7 forgiving sins as only God can.  
Jn. 4:24 Jehovah is Savior and Redeemer  
Rev. 4:11; Jn. 1:3 Creator  
Heb. 10:7; Jn. 5:39 “In the roll of the Book it is written of Me”

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### Jesus is also described as God.

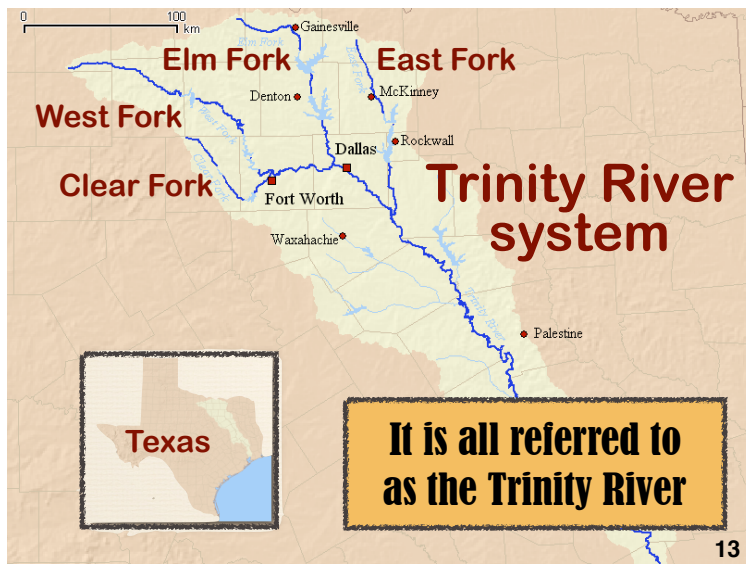
- *Jn. 1:1* "and the Word was God"
- *Jn. 1:18* "the only begotten God"
- *Jn. 20:28* "my Lord and my God"
- *Titus 2:13* "of our God and Savior Jesus Christ"

### Jesus claimed things that belong only to God.

- "his angels" *Matt. 13:41*
- "his kingdom" *Matt. 12:28*
- "his elect" *Mk. 13:20*
- authority to forgive sins *Mk. 2:8-10*
- receiving worship *Matt. 28:9*

Biblical citations ascribed to both God & Jesus.

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### John 14

"12 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. 15 If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."

### Assurance of answered prayers

- This does not seem to be consistent with other Scriptures. *2 Cor. 12:7-10, Jn. 17*
- This does not seem to be wise in terms of God's plan. *Jer. 17:9*
- This does not seem to be true in human experience.



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### Some suggested answers.

- There are Scriptural conditions that apply.
  - ✓ Faith - *Matt. 17:19-20, 21:21-22, Jas. 1:6,*
  - ✓ God's will - *1 John 5:14-15*
  - ✓ Proper motive - *Jas. 4:3*
- Jesus often used hyperbole (exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally).
  - ✓ *Mk. 9:23* "everything is possible for him who believes."
  - ✓ *Matt. 5:29* "if your right eye offends you, pluck it out."
  - ✓ *Lk. 14:26* "If any man comes to me and does not hate his father and mother. . ."

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### A possible explanation.

- Answered prayer is a function of intimate attachment to Jesus and his purposes.
- To the extent that we are attached to the TRUE Jesus and HIS work we will know what to ask for and receive it.
- In reality, we are not perfectly attached to the TRUE Jesus and HIS work therefore we do not always receive what we ask for.
- The purpose of this text is to endorse the authority of Jesus' name (not to assure our answers).

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### John 14:1

"Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me."

### John 14 is centered on our confident faith in Jesus

#### vs.1-3

**Jesus is the essence of heaven.**

"that where I am there you may be also." 14:3

#### vs.4-11

**Jesus and the Father are one.**

"He who has seen me has seen the Father." 14:9

#### vs.12-15

**Jesus' name is the authority for our prayers.**

"If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it." 14:14

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## ***The authority of Jesus is the issue.***

*John 14:1*

“believe in God, believe also in Me.”

*John 14:3*

“that where I am, there you may be also.”

*John 14:11*

“Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me;”

*John 14:14*

“If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.”



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## ***Lessons for us***

- **Our hope is beyond this life.** - “We bear a cross in this life on our way to a banquet in the next.”
- **The glory of heaven is Jesus.** - Seeing him and knowing him fully is the essence of heaven.
- **Jesus is the unique Son and only way to the Father.** - Christianity is tied to faith in Christ.
- **Prayer is effective IF and WHEN** it is under the authority of Jesus.



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