



# **INCOMPARABLE VISION**

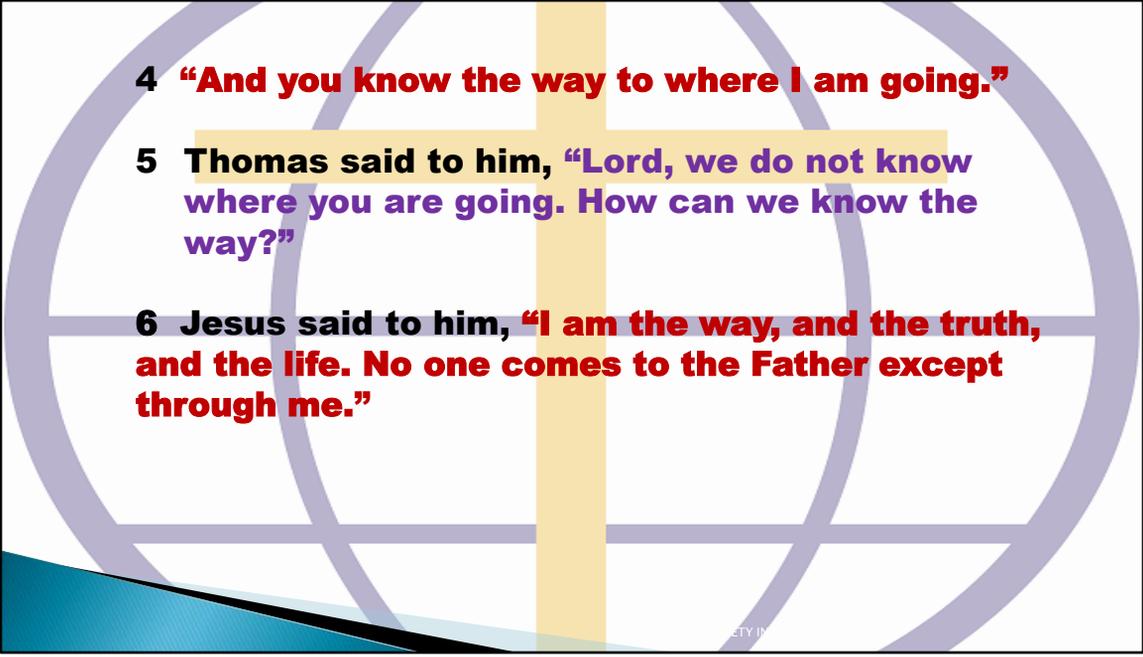
**SERMON**

## **SCRIPTURE READING John 14:1-14; 23 (ESV)**

**“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?**

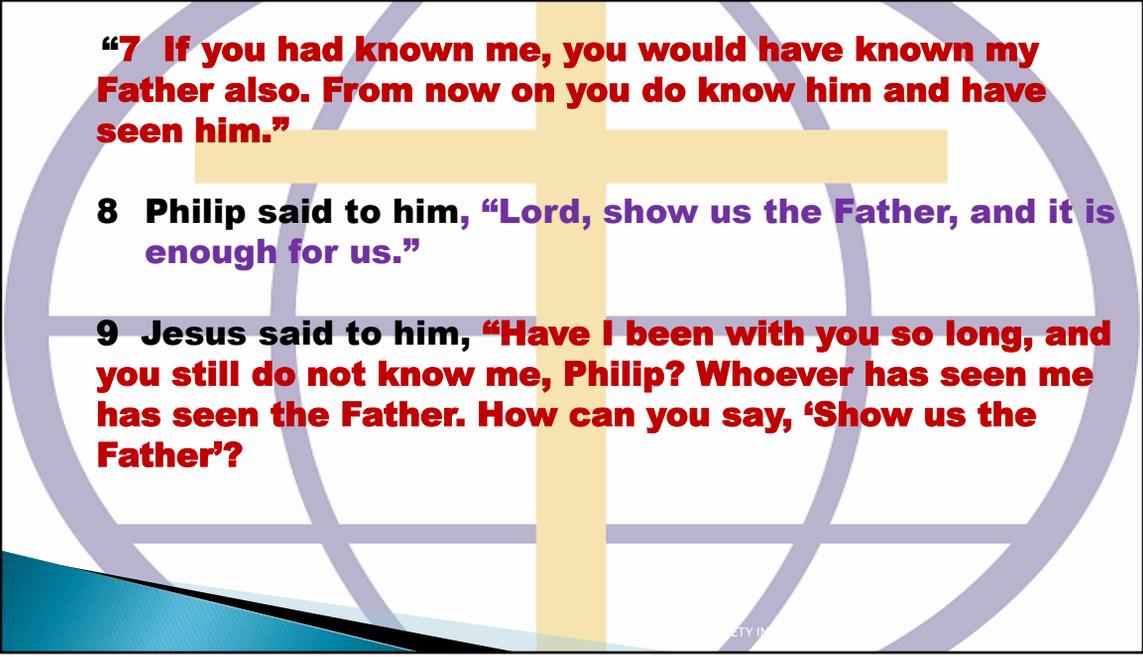
**3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”**



**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?”**

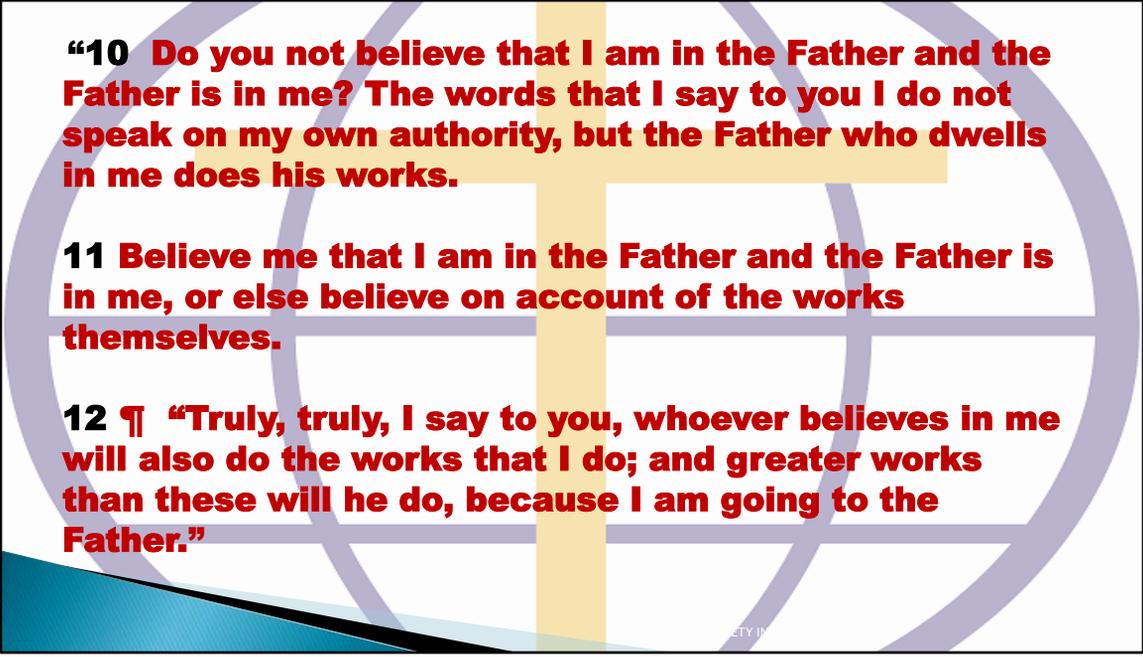
**6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”**



**“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.”**

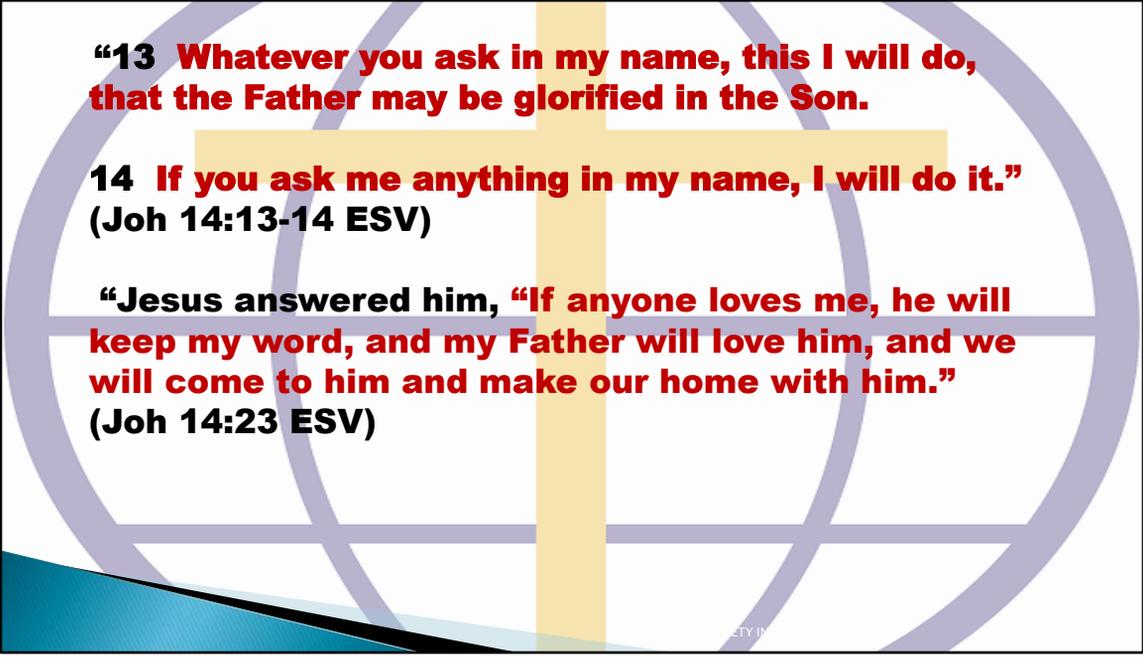
**9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”**



**“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.**

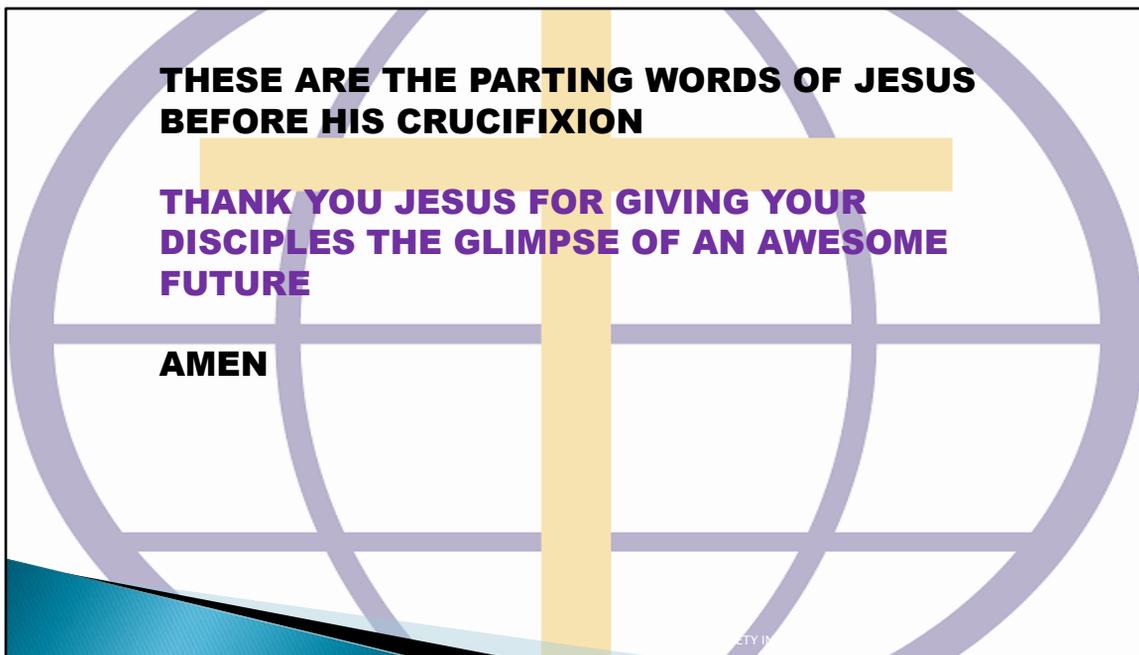
**12 ¶ “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”**



**“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.”**  
**(Joh 14:13-14 ESV)**

**“Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”**  
**(Joh 14:23 ESV)**



This is a message that Jesus gave to his disciples just before voluntarily giving his life for all of us as the Lamb of God, the Saviour of the world. The disciples could not fathom that Jesus would go to Jerusalem and suffer what he suffered for all of us.

Prior to the ordeal he would face, he told things to the disciples which troubled and disturbed them profoundly: one among them would betray him (Judas Iscariot) and Peter would betray him three times before the rooster would crow.

Needless to say, some of his parting words were very sober and troubling. However, although they did not fully understand at the time, he gave them the greatest vision of a bright future that could ever be told.

He told them not to let their hearts be troubled. Then he gave them a command to believe in God and to also believe in him.

Believing is the one work we are asked to do. The Bible tells us that we are to live by faith.. **"28 ¶ Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.""** (Joh 6:28-29 ESV)

I would like to share with you an example of one man trusting God in faith.

Now we are not to compare ourselves to this man. We are all different. God has placed us in his body, the church where he wants. Every member is important as we are all connected to the head who is Jesus (1 Cor. 12). He works with us collectively and individually. We all have different experiences in life, different personalities, different strengths and weaknesses, etc.

On Thursday, May 7, 2020, I listen to Bill Adsit who was an invited speaker to the national prayer breakfast meeting. This was to be the 55th breakfast prayer meeting on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. However because of COVID-19, the meeting was held virtually throughout Canada on the Internet.

(NEXT SLIDE)

## Bill Adsit



**Bill is a member of the Tahltan Band (located in northern British Columbia) and was one of very few that was put into the Residential School at age 5 and never left until 15. His life has been a challenge.**

**Bill was completely alone during his stay at the residential and had lost all contact with family and the Tahltan Nation. At age 15 he was on his own and through circumstances he ended up in a Christian foster home.**

**Bill says that he is extremely thankful for the intervention of God first, wife and family second and friends, who have contributed to his life.**

- Has a Bachelor of Commerce degree (Accounting) from the University of Alberta.
- In his career with the Federal Government he worked as a Communications Specialist with the Canadian Military,
- a Flight Service Specialist with Transport Canada,
- a Business Tax Auditor with Canada Revenue Agency and Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC) as a Business Development Officer
- and ended his career Regional Quality Assurance.

Manager.

- After his time with the Federal Government, he was the CEO/President of the Tahltan Nation Development Corporation for ten years.
- He recently completed his term as a board member for BC Hydro. He currently is employed with Arrow Transport Systems and the Indigenous Advisory Monitoring Committee for the Federal Government on the TMX pipeline.

In retelling his story, he told how he was taken from his family when he five years old, following his parents' divorce. He was placed in a residential school where he was maltreated in various ways including abused sexually .

At the age of 15, he found himself completely alone and homeless.

After a series of tragic events, he was placed in a Christian foster home where God met him.

His life was completely changed as God met him in his suffering.

Many things touched me about his testimony. For example, he had to go testify before a judge about his stay in the residential school. One of the officials working in the court called him a victim of the residential school. He corrected the person who called him a victim by telling him or her that he was not a victim but “a conqueror of the residential school”.

He gives all the credit to God. He fully realize that God miraculously intervened in his life to change him.

Instead of descending in the trap of self-pity and self-condemnation, he chose to accept God’s calling and to boldly accept his grace. He finished his testimony by quoting Charles Swindoll.

## Quote from Charles Swindoll

(<https://www.azquotes.com/quote>)

- ▶ **The longer I live the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company . . . a church . . . a home.**
- ▶ **We have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for the day. Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it. Our attitude is everything.**

Jesus told his disciples to choose an attitude, **“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.”**

Jesus was teaching his disciples how to react because of who he was and the love God the Father had for them.

God’s word is living because Jesus is alive. His words written long ago applied to his disciples today.

What Jesus told the disciples before his crucifixion also applies to us.

Let us stop and think about what Jesus taught them that day!

Jesus went before us and live perfectly as a human being. Jesus always knew the outcome of his mission. He had complete trust in his heavenly Father. His heart was never troubled doubting what would happen to him. His mission was to do the Father’s will, which he did perfectly for all of us.

Faith is a gift from God.

## FAITH – A GIFT FROM GOD

▶ **“Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:” (2Pe 1:1 ESV)**

Faith is received. It is a gift. Our participation is to exercise that gift in the free will that God has given us.

In John 14:2-3, Jesus reassures them of their future.

**“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.” (Joh 14:2-3 ESV)**

**...the word translated “rooms” does not refer to the quality of the place Jesus is preparing (as in the KJV, “mansions”). The concern on the hearts of the disciples is their loss of Jesus’ fellowship. The “room” in Greek refers to an abode, a place of residence, a place “with your name on it.” Jesus is saying to them (and to us) that heaven is awaiting our arrival. The experience of heaven will not be merely one of bliss, but it will be one of fellowship when Jesus renews his presence with us.**

Burge, Gary M.. John (The ESV Application Commentary Book 4) . Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

Jesus is promising to take us with him in God his Father’s house!

He is telling them that God the Father wants them and us in his presence.

He is not talking about a room in a palace. It’s so much more than that. It’s a promise of a relationship with Jesus and God the Father that will last all eternity.

He basically told the disciples at the time to not let their anxiety and preoccupations take over their minds.

Jesus, today, is telling us the same thing. The Father wants you and I in his presence to have a relationship with him in Jesus. This is an eternal relationship. At his return, Jesus will give us the gift of immortality, a guarantee that we will never die again.

The apostles and the disciples of Jesus certainly went through the ups and downs of life. They were human beings just like we are today.

- They lived in an unstable world.
- They had family concerns.
- They had parents.

- They had to eat and sleep just like we do.
- They lived under the regimes of unstable governments.
- They had health problems.
- They went through various kinds suffering.
- This saw injustices.
- This lived with society's false religions and philosophies .
- They saw selfishness.
- They had challenges in their families.
- They live through conflicts of various kinds.
- Because they belong to Jesus, they were going to be looked down upon. Many of them rejected.
- Just like us, every day was not a bad day. They had their ups and downs just like us.

In the midst of all of that, they were to remember what Jesus told him, **“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me”**.

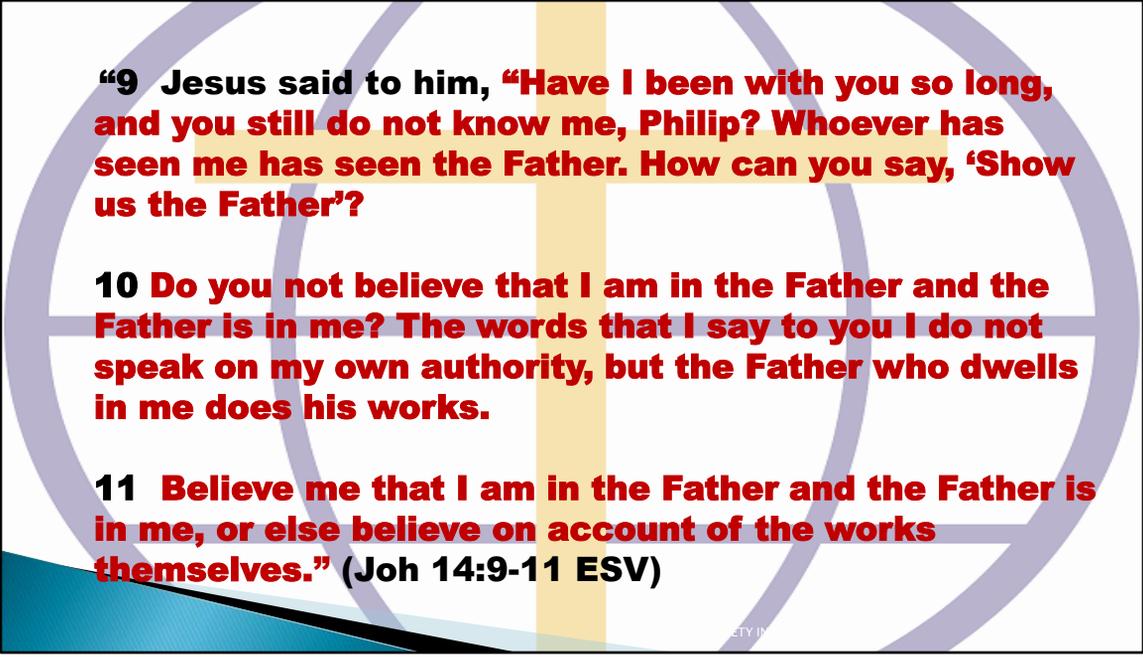
Jesus is telling us the same thing today. He was telling them that God was in control. They could rest in him. They and us would not be left alone.

He also reassures them that God the Father and Jesus have the same and intent.

In Jesus, we see perfectly who God is. We see God's heart towards us.

He told them that what he was teaching was not based on his authority but on the authority of God the Father who resided in him and he resided in God the Father.

God the Father was working in Jesus. This is what he told them exactly.



**“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.” (Joh 14:9-11 ESV)**

Jesus explained to them the relationship he has with the Father.

Again, we are to choose to act on the gift of faith and to believe what Jesus is telling us.

It is very difficult for us to comprehend how God the Father and Jesus indwell one another. From a human point of view, we can apprehend and capture what Jesus is telling us. We cannot fully grasp and understand in our finite physical mind. We accept it is true. We have to remember that God is spirit and we are not. There is a reality in God that is so different and which transcends and surpasses our human reality.

Jesus is telling the disciples and us that the three-person of the one God indwell one another yet remain distinct from one another. We know that this is true because we believe Jesus. Human reasoning and science cannot prove it. Again, we accept it in faith.

Jesus goes on to reassure the disciples he hears their prayers and ours. He also tells them that the work of the church, the work of his disciples will be greater than his,

because he lives in his disciples who are in the thousands and millions living and spreading the good news all over the world. Because Jesus is the head of the church, we become his hands and feet in this world.

He promises that if we ask in his name he will do what we ask to the glory of God the Father. Jesus came to the earth to do the Father's will.

It is certain that if we ask something that is not in the Father's will that he will not answer or that he will answer in a way that is in the Father's will.

Jesus also tells them another good reason why they are not let their hearts be troubled. He tells them that he will send another helper just like him. The disciples he was speaking to and his disciples that would come in the future would not be left orphans.

God the Holy Spirit would come to live with them, with us and in them and in us.

Because God lives in us, it just makes sense, led by the Holy Spirit that we would want to live by his commandments. In fact, knowing the commandments of Jesus and keeping them is an external and sure sign we love God.

God's commandments are always for our good and the good of others. God's commandments are always God honoring and God glorifying.

Receiving his grace, receiving his faith always leads **to the obedience of faith**, as the apostle Paul writes.

The encouragement that Jesus gave his disciples goes even further. To me and I'm sure to you, this is an astounding and humbling statement.



**“22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?”**

**23 Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”**

**24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.” (Joh 14:22-24 ESV)**

Isn't this an amazing promise, by responding to Jesus in faith and obedience, not only Jesus and the Holy Spirit live in us but God the Father also!

This is a mind-blowing revelation is it not?

The triune God making his home in his early disciples and us!

**“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he who keeps the law, is blessed.” (Pr 29:18 KJV\_2011)**

**“Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.” (Pr 29:18 ESV)**

In Jesus, we have the greatest vision which calls us to faith, repentance and obedience. The vision shared by Jesus is the greatest gift given to us by God. The unsurpassable, incomparable, matchless and unequalled gift of God giving Himself to us! What love!

In the body of Christ, we are all different.

Bill Adsit, the man we referred to at the beginning of the sermon has different gifting than you and I. We are all different in the body of Christ. We are not to compare one to another.

One thing we all have in common is the indwelling of God in us. We all have in common the gift of faith.

With God's help, although we do not yet do it perfectly, we are to make every effort to put on the new self and not to let our hearts be troubled, to believe in God and to believe in Jesus!

Let us pray