

Introduction:

- John 13:36-14:9
 - Jesus said, *"If you have seen me you have seen the Father."* He was saying to His disciples, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father, seen what the Father is like, and seen what the Father does."
- I was watching Saving Private Ryan the other night. In one part of the movie, private Ryan cannot remember what his brothers looked like. All of his brothers had been killed in WWII. He was the only one of four brother left alive. As he is struggling to see their faces, Tom Hanks says to him. "You need a context. Think of a memory you had with them and you will remember their faces." Private Ryan begins to tell a story and describe in great detail one of his last memories with his brothers before they all shipped out.
 - Jesus by coming and living before us provides a context to remember who the Father is.

I. Trouble Around The Table

- A. The context of this passage is the last Passover Feast that Jesus is sharing with His disciples. It is interesting in life how much intimacy as well as trouble gets stirred up around the dinner table.
 1. Jesus is facing His last meal. He desires the intimacy of His disciples but knows that it will not come.
 2. The disciples desire the intimacy of Jesus especially with all this talk about leaving, betrayal, death, and coming again to get them and take them somewhere.
 3. The one place that was designed for communion and community is the place of shared meals. Yet, there is a lot happening around this table.
 4. I want us to take note of the security that Jesus walks in because of His relationship with the Father. He is not "freaking out" because of what is happening. He is solid on his inside, focused and loving well in the midst of trying times. The disciples on the other hand, are falling apart slowly and soon to be falling apart quickly. What accounts for this difference?
- B. They are lacking a deep relationship with the Father. Jesus has been preaching, ministering and leading them to discover how much the Father loves them, values them, and desires to be with them. This personal relationship with Father God is priority to Jesus that they find it.
- C. This lack of personal relationship with the father is beginning to be revealed around this last meal that they are sharing together. It is making visible the 'orphan spirit' that they are living out of. What is an 'orphan spirit'?
 1. The orphan spirit refers to a spiritual condition in which some Christians profess outwardly to know God as Father, but they experience an internal contradiction to that belief. Deep down they struggle to comprehend that God really loves them. Ie. An orphan has no name, no family, no rights, no inheritance. An orphan has to succeed

on his own, make his own way and make a name for himself. An orphan strives to gain approval and acceptance. By "orphan," I am referring to a sense of abandonment, loneliness, alienation and isolation. Some have felt these for so long they think it is normal.

2. An 'orphan spirit' is person who lacks emotional identity and seeks to earn his identity through his/her efforts. Their symptoms include a critical spirit, being defensive, unable to take correction, feeling abandoned and blames others. Those are all self-protect modes of operation. These things begin to come out as this dinner progresses.
- D. Signs of trouble. The following comments by Jesus disciples begin to reveal this 'orphan spirit'. They have experienced for three and a half years with Jesus a strong sense of security and significance. Jesus brings these. (two things that way to many Christians lack). They have found it in a man...Jesus. And this man is now telling them that He is leaving them. What has Jesus been trying to do for three and half years? Connect them to the Father. Even though they were around the anointing, carried the anointing, ministered to others the anointing they still lacked that personal relationship with the Father that would give them the strength that they need to be 'sons of God.'
1. *"Simon Peter asked, "Lord, where are you going?""* (John 13:36, NLT)
 2. *"But why can't I come now, Lord?" he asked. "I'm ready to die for you."* (John 13:37, NLT) Performance - die for you.
 3. *"No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"* (John 14:5, NLT)
 4. *"Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."* (John 14:8, NLT) 'Gimme'

II. Strength Is In The House

- A. One the chief understandings of the Hebrew word, Abba, is father. It means strength/ leader is in the house. When we receive revelation that Jesus now lives in our hearts we cry, "ABBA, FATHER!" (Romans 8:15) because strength is in the house...Father is home!
- B. Sitting with them. Unbeknownst to the disciples, Father is at the table. Strength is in the house! After entertaining all of their questions and comments Jesus gives them the cure to their troubles. *"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!"* Let's "Selah" that for a moment. Jesus does the Father's will. He came to demonstrate the Father's love. Look at what he did, how he did it, and why he did it! Jesus is one with God!
 1. *"For when you see me, you are seeing the one who sent me."* (John 12:45, NLT)
 2. *"I tell you the truth, anyone who welcomes my messenger is welcoming me, and anyone who welcomes me is welcoming the Father who sent me."* (John 13:20, NLT)
- C. When you look at Jesus life and ministry what do you see?
 1. He loved unconditionally: Prostitute, demon possessed, Pharisee, Pilot, tax collector. It made no difference who you were. Jesus loved you...even if you did not love Him.

You do not have to do anything to earn it or pay it back. Woman caught in adultery, Nicodemus, demoniac. He is patient in that love. 2 Peter 3:9

2. He forgave all. He forgave those who asked for forgiveness and those who did not. *"Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."* He keeps no records of wrong and will not bring it up or haunt us with it. Saul, thief on the cross, Mary Magdalene - 7 demons,
 3. He rejected no one. He accepted everyone as they were. You did not have to do anything special to be received by Him. Just show up. Zacchaeus, Peter, Matthew,
 4. He gives value to us. Luke 15 sheep, coin, sons. We are valuable to him. Lk 7 woman of night. He gives value to us by making us important to Him.
 5. He gives me identity. I have roots and those roots tie me to purpose. Not only am I important to Him but my life has meaning. Demoniac of Mark 5, Saul, Peter after resurrection.
- D. All five of these elements communicate strength. That strength brings security and significance into our lives. When you get a revelation of who the Father is, strength enters your life. The disciples needed this revelation! We need this revelation!
1. What do you see when you look at Jesus life? You see the Father.
 2. How many of you look to and at Jesus every day yet never see the Father.
 3. Jn 14:10 *The words I speak are not my own but my Father who lives in me and works through me.*

III. Everyone, Eat Up!

- A. "Let me unpack this for us." What we see Jesus bringing to people is "personal worth." I hear this testimony over and over by people who have had a genuine conversion/salvation experience. People go from not wanting to live to suddenly having great personal worth in Christ Jesus. That is a revelation that you must live out of for all your Christian life.
1. You can not love others well or as Jesus loved until you experience the personal worth that only one can experience from the Father, through the Lord Jesus Christ.
 2. Jesus is the Way, The Truth and the Life. You can only get to Father through Him. (14:6)
- B. Security and Significance are two things we get from our relationship with our heavenly Father. If you are not walking in those, then I have to ask, "Whose your daddy?" Because God by the very nature of who He is brings security and significance into our lives.
- C. Security and Significance come by way of understanding and receiving (not necessarily in that order) the following:
1. Unconditional love
 2. Acceptance
 3. Forgiveness

4. Value - importance. We are valuable to God. Jn 15:8 when we produce fruit we bring the Father joy.
5. Identity - I have a home, a place of belong, authority. Lk 15 prodigal.
6. I am needed. When I find love in Father and become a son, I am need to give that love to others. Jn 13:34,35

Conclusion:

- Jesus is the Father's revelation of himself. Not one revelation that needs dozens of other revelations in order to give an accurate picture, but *"if you have seen me, you have seen the Father."*
- He is the way to the Father because only he has an intimate knowledge of God unmarred by sin.
- He is the truth because he has the perfect power of making life one coherent experience in spite of its ups and downs.
- He is the life because he was not subject to death but made it subject to him.