

Introduction:

- Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson go camping: They decide to go on a camping trip and after dinner and a spot of tea, they laid down for the night and went to sleep. A few hours later, Holmes woke up and nudged his faithful friend: "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see." Watson replied, "I see millions of stars." "What does that tell you?" Watson pondered for a minute: "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets." "Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo." "Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three." "Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow." "Theologically, I can see that God is all-powerful and that we are small and insignificant." "What does it tell you, Holmes?" Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke: "Watson, you idiot. Someone has stolen our tent!" Application: People can be very profound in giving an answer and miss the bigger point.
- *"And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 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'? 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." (John 14:4-10, ESV)*
- I believe in our passage that Jesus is answering questions that our culture is asking and giving very clear answers as to where our faith should be directed.
- I also believe that Jesus is confronting some underlying deceptions that if left unsettled will shipwreck many peoples faith.

I. Bring It To The Surface

- A. Questions often bring things to the surface that in other wise would remain buried.
 1. Context of our passage: Things are not stable as the disciples let on to be.
 - a) Jn 13:1 Jesus announces that his hour had come to leave the this world and return to His Father.
 - b) He announces that one of them would betray Him.
 - c) Peter just received a prophetic word that he will deny Jesus, x3 before morning. 13:38
 - d) If Peter will deny Jesus, what chance do we stand. 13:38
 2. To men who have left everything to follow Jesus, and now they are told by Jesus he is leaving...where does that leave them?

3. *Don't be troubled*...14:1 present imperative. Stop! Being troubled. Jesus is talking with men whose hearts are far from tranquil. He commands them to trust in God and trust also in Me! Faith is required in times of uncertainty! It causes one to be stable.
- B. Questions often reveal things about the one who asks. What do the questions of the disciples reveal? They are basic questions are: Where are you going? Why can't we come? What are the directions to where you are going? Where is God / the Father?
 1. The questions:
 - a) Where are you going? Kinda confusing because there are two sides-natural and spiritual:
 - (1) The natural, "Where are you going?" He was leaving this world.
 - (2) The spiritual, "Where are you leading us?" He was returning to the Father, and we have never seen Him.
 - (3) These are questions that all people ask of religion(s).
 - b) Why can't we come with? What is keeping me from getting where you are going?
 - c) What is the road map? What are the directions to where you are going?
 - d) What authority is at the top of this system?
 2. The questions the disciples ask:
 - a) Peter, "Where are you going?" 13:36 Reveals that he still does not understand who Jesus is and what His mission is. Christians today, because they do not understand who Jesus is and what His mission is, are just as lost as Peter.
 - b) Peter, "Why can't we come with? I am ready to die for you." 13:37 Reveals Peter is still trying to earn his way with Jesus rather than stand in faith. Most people want to do something for God so they can earn their way in. IE Prophet Bob Jones, "It is much easier to die for Jesus than to live for Him." Peter is the zealot.
 - c) Thomas, "How can we know the way? We don't even know where you are going?" Reveals he does not know who Jesus is and what the mission is. Thomas is the skeptic.
 - d) Philip, "Show us the Father and we will be satisfied." Reveals that they do not see Jesus as God. And it also reveals "We don't really know you are so".....IE. Like an alien, "Take me to your leader." I am looking for the One with more authority. Philip is the pragmatic. "Show me the money!" Ie. Many Christians know the message but do not believe in Jesus.
- C. Then there are two questions that Jesus asks; these questions bring things to the surface in His disciples.
 1. The two questions that Jesus poses in this passage: are 'depth charge' questions about knowing and believing. Jesus says,
 - a) "Don't you know me?" 14:9 and Ginosko Gr. - to have an intimate/personal knowledge of.
 - b) "Don't you believe in me?" 14:10 Pistuo Gr.- faith, trust, resting confidence.
 2. Both questions demand a yes answer. To be lacking a 'yes' to either questions will leave you in a vulnerable state open to deception. (More later) And more importantly will leave you without a way to go where Jesus is going...to the Father.

II. Don't Be Deceived

- A. Don't be deceived is what this passage is about. It is on the heart of Jesus. And with the disciples being so unsure, Jesus is trying establish a sure foundation under them so that they will stand in the day of testing...and pass! This is why 14:1 Starts with don't be troubled believe in God and believe in me.
- B. Instability or uncertainty. (See 210110 Sermon: Take Heart Be Encouraged)
1. In the midst of all your questions. Do not be deceived. It is easiest to be deceived when you are full of questions/doubts.
 2. It is in the midst of asking questions/uncertainty that we are open to deception. You ask questions because you are in unsure mode...you are in search mode...you are looking for answers mode.
 3. It is when you are unsure, searching, looking for answer that you are most vulnerable to being deceived. In the midst of your questions, do not be deceived!
 4. The passage is like Sherlock (Jesus) asking Watson (the disciples) "What do you see?" They are seeing everything but the main point: Someone stole our tent! They took our truth!
- C. The conversation with Jesus in Jn 13:31-14:11 causes the disciples to re-evaluate what they really believe about Jesus. It is what many people in the body of Christ are doing today.
1. I hear often of believers who no longer believe in God. What does that mean?
 - a) Are they now atheists? An atheist refers to someone who does not believe in the existence of God or any gods.
 - b) Are they now agnostics? refers to someone who doesn't know whether there is a god, or even if such a thing is knowable. An **agnostic** is one who believes it impossible to know anything about God or about the creation of the universe and refrains from commitment to any religious doctrine.
 - c) Are they now Christian Atheists? believes in Christ but lives as if He doesn't exist. He believes in Christ but not in anything supernatural about Him.
 - d) Are they pluralists - they COEXIST. **Pluralism** is a belief that there are many ways to God. Or that there are many gods that coexist to lead us to the same place.
 - e) All of these have a form of godliness but deny the power of the Gospel. *"having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people."* (2 Timothy 3:5, ESV) *"having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, (They are) always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth."* (2 Timothy 3:5-7, ESV) They are knowing about but not believing.
 - f) This is a "Build Your Own God" theology. (like ordering a build-your-own pizza).
 - (1) Building your own god is what idolatry is.
 - (2) Oprah Winfrey: *"My God would never send anyone to hell." "Well, I am a Christian who believes that there are certainly many more paths to God other than Christianity."*

2. These believers are in a place of 'crisis' of faith. They are not certain of what they believe.
 - a) The disciples were at that place in John 14. It is for this reason that Jesus asks them the two questions: Don't you know me? Don't you believe in me?
 - b) The answer to these two questions supply the anchor, provide the foundation for your walk with God, your stand in Christ, your message to this world.

III. Be Firm In This: Know Me and Believe In Me

A. Do you know Me?

1. God is best known through Jesus. 14:9 *"If you have seen me you have seen the Father."*
2. Jesus is not very pluralistic at all. He constantly makes absolute, unique statements about himself. I am the Bread of Life, he says. I am the light of the world. I am the resurrection and the life. I am God! That's what Jesus claims about himself.
3. Jesus is never "a" bread or "a" light or "a" resurrection - Jesus claims that he, uniquely, came into our dark broken world to give us the light of life. Jesus is not a Coexist god.
4. He declares in 14:6 *"I am the Way, The Truth and The Life!"*
5. There is a difference between understanding God's thoughts and knowing God. Ie. Is there a man here this morning that totally understands your wife? NO! But we still love them and trust them! You don't have to understand God to love and trust Him.
6. In Acts 17:22-ff., Paul sees the inscription on the stone altar in Athens: To The Unknown God. And he introduces them to God who came to live in men's hearts. You can know Him!
7. In Jn 14 Jesus is not at some public debate, He is intimately seated and connected with the ones he loves most! This is the inner circle that is struggling. And he is telling US, don't despair. I am the Way The Truth and The Life! If you know me, you will know my Father. If you have seen me you have seen the Father! Do you know me?

B. Do you believe in Me?

1. *"Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do."* (John 14:11, NLT)
2. The more I know of Him the more I believe. Faith comes by hearing the message. Ro 10:17
3. Because I believe I seek.
 - a) *"If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me."* (Jeremiah 29:13, NLT)
 - b) *"I love all who love me. Those who search will surely find me."* (Proverbs 8:17, NLT)

Conclusion:

- IF you seek Him you will find Him. This is what scripture says!
- *"And you know the way to where I am going."* (John 14:4, NLT) *"Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."* (John 14:6, NLT)