

Authority reflects sovereignty.

John 14:1-14 (NLT) - Jesus, the Way to the Father

¹ “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ² There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.”

⁵ “No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

⁷ If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!”

⁸ Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

⁹ Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. ¹¹ 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.

¹² “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. ¹³ You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!

Study Guide

This last Sunday we spoke about how authority reflects sovereignty, and that when we pray in the name of Jesus, his name is not a magic word that makes it all happen, but rather that it is a reminder that we are to pray as he would will, for the things that God wants to see happen in and among us. When you think about praying “in the name of Jesus” (according to his will) how easy is that for you? When you think about the will of God, is that something that is clear to you or is it hard to understand?

If you have been a Christian for any length of time you have likely experienced both things: moments when the will of God is clear and easy to see, and also moments where it doesn’t make sense or seems impossible to understand. So, what do we do when we are supposed to pray according to God’s will, but we aren’t exactly sure what that is?

Take a moment to read Jeremiah 17:5-8. As you read that, what do you think it tells us about knowing God's will? What are we supposed to do in times of 'drought'?

The answer is: trust God. Sometimes we know what it is that he wants us to do. Sometimes His will is clear and easy to see. But sometimes it is harder to see or, perhaps, harder to understand and in those moments we go back to what we know about God: that He loves us, has good plans for us, is watching over us, and is always loving, faithful, and gracious to us. And then we pray. We pray that He will remind us of that. We pray in light of all we know of Him, and in the midst of not knowing as much as we would like, we still get to pray in the name of Jesus.

So take some time to do that together. Pray in the Name of Jesus for each other.