

RELATED SCRIPTURES

John 13:21-38 | Exodus 3:13-15 | Romans 10:9

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 1.21.24

SUMMARY

While troubled in his spirit, Jesus tells his disciples that there was one among them who would betray him (John 13:21). Jesus continues by speaking of his departure and that, “Where I am going you cannot come” (John 13:33). Even further, Jesus predicts Peter’s denial (John 13:38). Despite these shocking statements, Jesus tells his disciples, “Let not your hearts be troubled.” These statements, in and of themselves, would supply an abundance of reasoning for the followers of Jesus to be troubled. However, with these difficult statements, Jesus provides his followers with an abundance of reassurance. In the first seven verses of chapter 14, Jesus makes some astonishing claims—in no uncertain terms—equating himself to the Father in heaven. Jesus takes claim of and organizes the Father’s “house” as he pleases; he exclusively knows the way to the Father, and most importantly, he expresses his unity with the Father when stating “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6), as his use of “I am” is an *explicit* reference to the holy name of God, “I am who I am” (Exodus 3:14). His disciples still ask for further assurance to which Jesus points to his own word and his miraculous body of work of which the disciples all served as witnesses (John 14:10-11). In essence, Jesus tells his followers, “Based on what you’ve heard and seen from me, you should now know that the Father has sent me and that I am united with the Father. Trust me, and whatever you may face in the days ahead, know that your union with me gives you union with the Father in heaven.”

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of John 14:1-11.

Jesus told his disciples, “Let not your hearts be troubled,” because he was about to take on all their troubles himself. How does the reality of the cross help you face times of uncertainty and trouble?

The disciples witnessed all the works and teachings that Jesus performed, yet they asked for additional reassurances when faced with difficulty. In what ways do we do the same thing? How has he been faithful to you? Do you still ask for more “proof” beyond what he’s given you? Why do you suppose this happens?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.