

Knowing Jesus as Comforter
John 14 Discussion Questions
4/9/17

1. In **John 14**, Jesus is preparing His disciples for His departure and He tells them to not let their hearts be troubled (**v.1 & v.27**). He knows they will naturally be sad. Have you ever had a situation where you had to say bye to someone and it was difficult?
2. What are some of the reasons the disciples might be discouraged? What are some common reasons we experience discouragement and need to be reminded of Christ's comfort?
3. First, Jesus comforts by giving hope (**vv.2-3**). Why should these verses give us hope and comfort? It was suggested in the sermon that the idea of heaven often doesn't comfort us because we think of heaven as boring. Do you agree with this?
4. Is it encouraging for you to consider that all our longings and desires are ultimately created by God and will be ultimately fulfilled in heaven? Is this the way most people think about heaven?
5. Second, Jesus comforts by giving Himself (**vv.5-9**). Explain what Jesus means when He calls himself the way. How would you respond to someone who said this kind of exclusivity is unloving and not consistent with their view of God?
6. **Read John 14:18**. Do you think Jesus is referring to His post-resurrection appearance, the day of Pentecost, or His second coming? Why? Are there indications in the text that back up your position?
7. Third, Jesus comforts by giving prayer (**vv.13-14**). How would you explain **vv.13-14** to someone?
8. One extreme we must avoid is thinking we can ask for anything and simply tag on the phrase "in Jesus name" and we will get whatever we want. On the other hand, we must avoid thinking that there is no purpose in prayer. Do you wrestle with this tension? How do you think about this?
9. Fourth, Jesus comforts by giving the Paraclete, or Holy Spirit (**vv.16-17**). Why should this be a comfort?
10. Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of truth (**v.17**) and says He will "teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (**v.26**). What specific role does Jesus emphasize when talking about the Holy Spirit in this passage? How does the Holy Spirit do these things for the disciples? How does the Holy Spirit serve us today?
11. Fifth, Jesus comforts the disciples by giving redemption. In **v.3 & v.12** we discover that God will bring good through Jesus' leaving. Explain how each of these verses reveals that it is good Jesus is leaving the disciples.
12. How is the cross the ultimate example of God providing redemption and bringing about good out of pain and evil?
13. We have seen five ways Jesus provides comfort for us: hope, Himself, prayer, Paraclete, redemption. Is there one of these that remains confusing to you and therefore not really encouraging? Is there one of these that is especially encouraging to you?