

I Am In the Father and the Father is In Me

Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 14, 2017 – John 14: 1-12

God is beyond any one of our imaginations. I believe in God. I believe in God's goodness and many works. I have been blessed abundantly with many things in this world. Probably one of my most precious abundances is my four grandchildren, Jack, Evelyn, Joe and Elodie. I can't describe the joy. So why does my heart still move into times of troubled contemplation and fear? Because, like you, I am well aware of what I (we) can lose.

Jesus' words this week speak to us of our fears, **"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?"** This place that Jesus refers to is probably not a place like my house or yours. It is probably not a mansion in the sky, but rather a relational dwelling with God in Christ.

It is in the familiar words of Jesus, **"Where I am going you know the way."** And Thomas' famous response, **"Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?"** that sets the parameters for this relationship. In fact, Jesus becomes quite perturbed with the disciples who continue to miss the point of all that he has done with his time on earth. Soon Jesus will die on the cross. The life that the disciples have known with him will drastically change. Jesus wants them ready and prepared for the loss. He wants them ready and prepared to do his work once he is gone.

Jesus has tried to teach the disciples (and us) that life is a relationship best lived by knowing the Father and serving all of humanity. Life, he says, is about caring for each other and following him in service to all. **"I am the way, the truth and the life."** The only way to truly know the Father is through a relationship with Jesus. **"If you know me, then you will also know my Father."** Why? Because the infinite truth of God is so vast and so enormous that the human mind, heart and soul cannot contain this truth. However, in relationship with Jesus, we have the opportunity to know and to grow into the fullness and abundant life that Jesus promised last week in the gospel.

Today, Jesus calls us to recognize the works of God that we experience each and every day in the blessings, relationships and abundance that God bestows on us. We are called to believe in God's goodness and truth. **"Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe because of the works themselves."** It's all relational! Belief builds relationships. Fear destroys. Believe in Christ and live in God.

Happy Easter!
Sue Schettler