

Challenging Chapters of the Bible

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John 14:1

- **“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.”**
- **In chapter 13 we heard –**
 - **One of you will deny me.**
 - **One of you will betray me.**
 - **I’m going away.**

John 14:1

- **A very effective way to have peace in a storm is to rehearse the promises of God.**
 - I will never leave you or forsake you.
 - I will come again.
 - I have an ‘expected end’ (plan) for you.
 - Whoever believes in me will never die.

John 14:6

- **Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.**
- **It is this claim, perhaps more than anything else, that causes such angst over Jesus.**
- **When there is only one way, all other ways, no matter how noble sounding, are false.**

John 14:6

- **Our world does not like exclusivity.**
- **13 “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. 14 But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.**

John 14:9

- **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?**
- **Romans 8:29 For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.**

John 14:12-14

- 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!
- These verses have caused a lot of heart burn, an unnecessarily I believe.

John 14:12-14

- **Point #1 - will do the same works I have done. If your mind goes immediately to 'water to wine', 'raising the dead', and 'walking on water' you might be disappointed and in for a surprise.**
- **Almost every definition of miracle begins with one of these words, 'surprising', 'unusual' or 'extraordinary'.**

John 14:12-14

- I do not think Jesus is talking about his miracles – in fact, if he were most of us would have no claim to the phrase that proceeds where Jesus says ‘anyone who believes in me’.
- Performing miracles is never a confirmation of belief – just ask Pharaoh’s magicians.
- When asked what the greatest commands were he said, “love God, and love others”. No mention of miracles.
- So the works of Jesus – love towards God and love of others.

John 14:12-14

- **So what about the ‘greater works because I am going to be with the Father’?**
- **What (I should say ‘who’) did Jesus promise He would send when He went to His Father?**
- **The NT gospel is slightly different than the OT in one respect – timing.**

John 14:12-14

- In the OT it was believe on the one God would send and that was enough to be saved.
- In the NT it is believe on the one He sent (Jesus) and receive the seal, the Holy Spirit of God, and the power that comes with His presence.
- The greater work is the greater offer - wherein the messiah has been named and the Spirit of God will indwell.
- Love God, love others, and walk in the Spirit.

John 14:12-14

- Now let's deal with "You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it".
- Lifted from its context this is false – you cannot just tack on "in Jesus name" as some have thought and get what you want.
- In fact the only way to ask for anything in Jesus' name is to ask for the things that He cares about.

John 14:12-14

- **So what is meant? In context, we are called to the same works as Jesus and even the greater ones.**
- **Love God, and love others by modeling and sharing the gospel, and walking in the Spirit.**
- **So anything I ask for to accomplish that task will be granted to me.**

Questions