

In The Name of Our Creator  
The Son Our Saviour and Redeemer.  
and  
The Triune Spirit Who Is With Us Always.

The reading from John's Gospel today is frequently read at funerals, and for good reason. It contains promises that are profoundly comforting in the face of the death of loved ones. The challenge for me today on this 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, is to help my brothers and sisters to understand that this Gospel of John is not about life after death, but is a Gospel that has everything to do with our lives here and now. The setting is Jesus' farewell address at his last supper with the Apostles. Jesus tells the Apostles exactly what is going to happen to him and the Apostles.

- 1] Jesus has washed his Apostles' feet and explained to them what it means to be a Servant to all.
- 2] Jesus foretold his betrayal by Judas,
- 3] Jesus said to them I will be with you only a little while longer, and they can not be with him.
- 4] Jesus foretold Peter's denial.
- 5] Thomas said to Jesus Show me?
- 6] Phillip, also requires Show me?

No wonder they are troubled, their beloved teacher is leaving them, one of their own has turned against them, and Peter is ready to deny Jesus. What is going to happen to them has the last 3 years been a waste of time? Has our lifetime been wasted? But Jesus responds to their anxiety of his Apostle by saying, {Peace be with you.} {Do not let your hearts be troubled, believe in God. believe in Me Also. Jesus calls them back into the Triune relationship of trust and assures them that he is not abandoning them. Rather he is returning to his father the One True God. The good news for them. In speaking of his ascension to his father. Jesus assures them that this is also their destination, as it is ours also my brothers and sisters. The Apostles have forgotten what Jesus had told them. There are many dwellings in his Father's house, and he goes to prepare a place for them Jesus says this to them, they know the place he is going John 14, 4. but you always have somebody from Missouri, show me? Thomas, like most characters in John's Gospel, takes Jesus quite literal. Show me. Thomas wants directions, a road map to this place, Jesus responds by saying that he himself is the way, {I am the way, and the truth, and the life, No one comes to the father except through me} John 14,6 I believe it is unfortunate that this verse has often been used as a trump card, or worse, as a threat, to tell people that they better get with the program and, accept Jesus as their personal Saviour in order to be saved. In my opinion to say that to a person is totally wrong, it takes away what John is trying to tell us it changes the spirit of Jesus' words. Jesus' statement is a promise, a word of comfort to his Apostles, and to you and I, Jesus himself is all they need. Jesus shows you and I he is the way, the relationship with the Father. Jesus restores their faith and rids them of their doubt, there is no need to panic, no need to show me. Jesus reaffirms and says to them {if you know me, you also know my father}

So that there can be no misunderstanding, Jesus adds, {From now on, you do know him and have seen him. This time it is Phillip who is not convinced, {Lord, here we go show me,} show us the Father, and we will be satisfied}, Jesus' response contains a hint of exasperation, {Have I been with you all this time, Phillip, and you still not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father} Here Jesus affirms from the Gospel of John. John tells you and I, no one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is part of the Triune Spirit, and through the Triune spirit is made known to you and I. This is the whole of Jesus' mission, to make known to all people the one true God, to reveal who God is. Jesus, who has come from God and is now returning to God, my brothers and sisters if we want to have a relationship with God you and I have to look no further, than the teachings of Jesus in John's Gospel. All the words that Jesus has spoken, all the works that Jesus has done, come from God and show us you and I who God is by the Triune Spirit, John 14:10-11.

This passage has everything to do with life here and now because Jesus entrusts his mission to his Apostles, and to you and I today. Jesus tells us have faith not doubt. {very truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these because I am going to the father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son, if in my name you ask me for anything I will do it}.

Can you and I do all, what Jesus did ?.Jesus promise becomes a little hard to understand. Greater works than these? By the spirit of God ?.Greater works than healing the blind and raising the dead?. And you will do whatever we ask in your name?. My brothers and sisters we have all known the pain of praying for healing that did not come, of feeling powerless in the face of disease and death. How can these promises be true?. Perhaps our problem is that in hearing these promises, we expect to do these greater works in the same way that Jesus did with the same power from God. Yet even good works are not a guarantee to give us faith in the one true God, but the teachings of Jesus in our Gospel you and I can understand by our faith in the Triune Spirit, what Jesus and God wants from our relationship with them. Jesus promises to be with us through the power of the Spirit, to work in and through us to accomplish his purposes in the world. This does not necessarily happen in, visible, spectacular ways. My brothers and sisters wherever there is healing, reconciling, life giving work happening, this is the work of the Triune Spirit, the Gift of God for his People. No one has ever seen God ?, but we know God by the teachings of the Gospels, we do not need to be like Thomas and Phillip, show me, for as you and I are followers of Jesus, our statement is I Believe.