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Show Us the Father

John 14:7-14

Do you remember the 1984 movie called The Karate Kid? Daniel LaRusso was being bullied at school. Once when Daniel got beat up, Mr. Miyagi, their apartment handyman, rescued him from the bullies and easily defeated them with his skill at karate. Mr. Miyagi eventually began teaching Daniel karate so that he could settle the score with the bullies in a karate championship. Daniel began his training by waxing an old car. Remember, wax on, wax off. After Daniel finished one, he thought it was time for his training. Instead, Daniel had to wax several more old cars the same way, wax on, wax off. **When Daniel became frustrated**, Mr. Miyagi demonstrated to Daniel that the repetition of waxing all those cars had built muscle memory he would need in defensive moves in karate. Daniel's body was learning things, yet he was not aware of it. Jesus had been teaching the disciples about God the Father and His personal relationship with the Father through His decisions, actions and attitude, yet the disciples were not fully aware of what Jesus taught.

Jesus had brought up the Father in the last verse when He said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"* (John 14:6). Jesus continued His thought. *"If you had known Me, you would have **known My Father** also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him"* (14:7). What Jesus is saying to all the disciples is if they had **really known** Him, they would have **really known** God the Father. Because of Philip's coming question, it is obvious that the disciples really did not know Jesus the way **He expected** the disciples to know Him. If they did, then they would have truly known God the Father, yet they did not. How does Jesus expect His disciples, which include us, to know Him? The **first level** of knowing is simply hearing what is said without any attachment of believing it is true. The **second level** of knowing is hearing what is said and knowing it is true but still without any attachment of believing it is true. The **third level** of knowing is hearing what is said, knowing what is said is true and then believing it is true so that it changes your life. The **fourth level of knowing** happens when we believe and develop a deeper relationship with the one known. This is the knowing level that every Christian should strive to achieve in knowing Jesus. Paul wrote, *"that I may **know Him** and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death"* (Philippians 3:10). Do you really know Jesus?

The disciples were working on that third level of knowing which includes fully believing in Jesus. They had heard Jesus. They knew that what He said was true. They were beginning to believe His teachings, then the crucifixion happened. This

was the work the Father had sent the Son to do to bring about our salvation yet the disciples did not understand the crucifixion when it happened. Here is a lesson for us. **There are always things that come about in our lives that will challenge what we know as true and our belief in those truths.** Will we still hold to those truths? Christians overcome these challenges through a growing faith in Jesus! We will trust in the sovereignty of God knowing that “*all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. . . . to be conformed to the image of His Son*” (Romans 8:28-29). Jesus expects all of His followers to know Him on this deepest level. **Do not be satisfied with a shallow knowledge of Jesus.** Seek to know Him. When you really know Jesus, you will know God the Father. You will also know the Spirit of God working in your life. And in this relationship with Jesus, you will understand the Trinity.

The last phrase in that verse, “*and from now on you know Him and have seen Him*” is a statement Jesus made about a future event as if it were already true. Did the disciples instantly know God the Father when Jesus said this? No. This is part of the reason why Philip asked the question in the next verse. He was confused by Jesus’ statement. “*Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us’*” (John 14:8). Philip and the other disciples wanted to see some evidence, some physical proof of God the Father. Maybe like Abraham and Sarah at the promise of their son in their old age (Genesis 18:1-15) or when Abraham was about to sacrifice his son (22:12-18). Or maybe like Moses did at the burning bush (Exodus 3:4-15) or when he met God face to face 7 different times on Mount Sinai (19:3, 8, 20; 20:21; 24:13; 32:31; 34:4-5). Or maybe like Isaiah saw God on His throne (6:1, John 12:41). Have you ever wanted to see God? Most of us have wanted to see God at some point, we wanted physical proof in our lives that God is real. We may have been like Thomas, “*Unless I see . . . I will not believe*” (John 20:25). Hopefully, God has helped us see Him through the pages of scripture, in the life of Jesus who proclaimed to Philip and the disciples, “*He who has seen Me has seen the Father*” (14:9). We know that “*while we are at home in this body we are absent from the Lord. **For we walk by faith, not by sight.***” Paul went on to say that we should, “*make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him*” (1 Corinthians 5:6-8).

Jesus responded to Philip’s question with, “*Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’*” Jesus may be a bit frustrated here. He has been teaching the disciples at many times in many ways who God the Father is. Jesus has been showing God the Father to His disciples all the years they have been together. Every decision, every action, every attitude of Jesus was a revelation of God the Father. Jesus would go as far as to say, “*I and My Father are one*” (John 10:30) and

“The Father is in Me, and I in Him” (10:38). Jesus did not say, I am the Father. He is not, yet they are One God. In the gospel of John, Jesus refers to God the Father about 100 times. Anyone who seriously desires to understand the Trinity and the relationship between Jesus and God the Father should study all these verses in the gospel of John. You will learn that they are different persons, yet they both have the same heart and mind with Jesus always wanting to do the will of the Father. They are separate, yet together on everything. Many people believe in God but they have not made the connection that Jesus reveals God. In Jesus we see God. In Jesus we know God. If you want to know God, know Jesus! The invisible God has been made visible in Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:3). The only way, the only reason Jesus is able to reveal God the Father to us and the world is by being God Himself.

Jesus explained to His disciples His relationship with His Father. Jesus asked, *“Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works”* (John 14:10). How would you answer Jesus’ question? Do you believe that Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in Him? Jesus should expect His followers to understand and believe this basic truth of faith in Jesus. Remember how this chapter began. Jesus said, *“You believe in God, believe also in Me.”* The Father is in the Son and the Son in the Father! The words the Jesus speaks are the same words God the Father speaks. The works that Jesus does are the same works that God the Father does. The Son and the Father are working together in complete harmony. The words of truth God the Father speaks are the same words of truth that Jesus speaks. The power of God the Father to accomplish His works is the same power in Jesus to accomplish His works.

Then Jesus said, *“Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves”* (John 14:11). Again, Jesus reiterates that He and the Father are One. We are to believe this! To have faith in God, you must also have faith in Jesus. If you say you have faith in God, but you do not believe in or have faith in Jesus, then you really do not have faith in the true living God until you have faith in Jesus. We should believe this simply because God and Jesus tell us to believe it. God never lies. Jesus never lies. So, believe them. If you cannot believe them because of what they say, then look at their works. The works of God show His righteousness, justice and love. His works glorify Him. The works of Jesus show His righteousness, justice and love. The works of Jesus glorify God. Our works before God condemn us. We need God’s grace and mercy.

These next verses must be understood in this discussion. The words of Jesus are the words of God. The works of Jesus are the works of God. God the Father and God

the Son are speaking and working together for the glory of God. Jesus is always doing the will of God. Whatever God commands, Jesus does. Lots of the times these verses are taken out of context. Jesus then said, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father”* (John 14:12). Again, Jesus is speaking the truth. He is telling us a truth. The works that are done are the works of God through the Son who is with the Father. The greatest work we can do is sharing God’s truth, sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus could only be at one place at a time and He mainly preached among the Jews. Jesus told His disciples, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you”* (Matthew 28:19-20). How many people became followers of Jesus Christ during His time on earth? We are not sure. Yet on the day of Pentecost, after Jesus’ ascension to the Father, Peter preached his first sermon and *“about three thousand souls were added to them”* (Acts 2:41). That was probably more than Jesus reached. Then the disciples carried the good news around the world, as we do today. There is great joy in heaven every time a sinner repents (Luke 15:7, 10).

What is the beginning point for these conversions? Prayer. Jesus said, *“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it”* (John 14:13-14). Were all of Jesus’ prayers answered? All but one. Jesus prayed, *“take this cup away from Me”* (Luke 22:42). But then the prayer was answered when Jesus said, *“Not My will, but Yours, be done.”* When you pray the will of God the Father, He will always answer your prayer. Just like Jesus, He always prayed God’s will. God the Father was glorified in the Son. How can you pray so that God always answers your prayers? Pray the will of the Father. How can you know the will of God. Grow deeper in knowing Jesus.

Actions to take: Do not be satisfied with a shallow relationship with Jesus Christ. Pray that you may gain Christ to the fullest. Seek to know Him (Philippians 3:8-11). Learn to have the mind of Christ. (2:3-11) *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God”* (Romans 12:2).

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