



10/9/23

I love what Tim asked in the message...Are we ready to let go of the "what ifs" and put on our game face, and get ready to do whatever God calls us to do? I was thinking, when we understand the what ifs in order to prepare for whatever may come...that IS putting on our game face. But when we let the what ifs paralyze us, that's when we miss out on the fullness of the relationship we can have with the Lord. My friend, I pray that you and I will put on our game face today, and be ready to do whatever God has for us.

Blessings,
Jonna

John 14:8-19

Jesus had just told the disciples that He is the way, the truth, and the life...and because they knew Jesus, they knew the Father. After all this time of being with Him, the disciples still didn't completely understand who He was, because Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Why would that be enough? Was he saying that they wouldn't expect the Father to perform miracles to prove Himself to them? Like it was a gracious thing to say, "Just show us the Father"?

I think Philip's response grieved Jesus. "Have I been with you so long, and you still don't know Me?" I could judge Philip, but then I would have to point the finger back at myself. I may not ask to SEE the Father, but I sure do ask to HEAR the Father. He might say to me, "Don't you know Me, Jonna? Whoever reads My word has heard Me." Maybe He wants me to know His word better, and then I will understand His will better.

Jesus said, "Don't you believe that I'm in the Father and He's in Me? Isn't this the message I've been saying all along? Don't you realize that I'm not doing any of what I'm doing on My own authority? I'm doing it according to what My Father wants, according to the work He's doing in Me." I wonder if it grieved Jesus to say, "Believe what I'm saying...and if you can't do that...at least believe based on the works I've done." Can I do that? Believe Him because of the gospel?

So many of the questions I have about my suffering or what I should do are answered in the gospel. "Can I love Jesus if He allows me to suffer?" Just look at the gospel. He was completely innocent and suffered on the cross so that my suffering would only be temporary. "What is God's will for my life?" Look at the message Jesus gave. "Love God with everything you've got and love people...no matter what you're doing." It's far more important to God that I do everything in love than that I do a specific task. Truly, I could "do" the right thing, but if it's not done in faith, I've done it for the wrong reasons. "Jesus, will You really take me to heaven? Is it real?" If I can't believe because He says it is so, believe based on the gospel...and all the prophecies that were fulfilled in Him.

Jesus said, "Truly truly (by repeating it twice, He's saying...this is absolutely true), I say to You, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do...even greater." So...the works come AFTER belief. It's the Lord who works in me. I don't do the works in order to get in God's good graces. I do the works because I AM in God's good graces. I am in God's good graces because I BELIEVE Him.

He said, "You're going to do these great works because I'm going to the Father." If they were like me, they would be thinking, "Why do You have to go to the Father in order for me to do great works?" These works aren't about doing bigger miracles than Jesus...they're about spreading the gospel to a greater number of people...like the 3000 men who were saved 40 days after Jesus left. But why does Jesus have to go to the Father before these great works would happen? I imagine if Jesus hadn't left the earth, the disciples wouldn't have started spreading the news. Who wants to hear the disciple when you can hear the Master? Crowds would have continued to draw near to Jesus...like when someone goes to a concert. They may listen to the warmup band...but they're there to see the main attraction. But then the word would not have spread as far and wide as it has now. So, Jesus was not going to leave them alone to spread the word. He was going to explain that a few verses later...but it was important for them to hear Him and believe Him.

He said, "Whatever you ask IN MY NAME, this I will do, THAT the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything IN MY NAME, I will do it." What does this mean, "In My name"? It means that I'm asking according to His character and His authority. When I ask, am I asking for something that Jesus would want? Even Jesus, when He asked the Father to let the cup pass from Him said, "Yet not My will, but Your will be done." So to ask in His name is to ask with open hands. To ask in His name is also to ask with a specific motivation...that the Father may be glorified. John 15:16 adds to that, "that I may bear fruit that lasts." To make sure I'm asking in the name of Jesus is to ask according to what honors Him, bears fruit for Him, and glorifies the Father. How many times do I get frustrated that God "isn't answering prayers" when what I'm asking for is something He knows would not honor Him and would be detrimental to me?

If I'm going to ask IN HIS NAME, it means I love Him. I'm not in this relationship just to GET. I'm in this relationship because it's a RELATIONSHIP...the best one imaginable, lasting for all eternity. If I love Him, I'll obey Him...because that is a demonstration of my love for Him. Just

like the Father demonstrated His love for me by giving His Son for me when I didn't even care, I demonstrate my love for Him by following Him.

But God knows I can't do what He's calling me to do in my own strength. I can't do the works...I can't even obey. So He has an answer. In ADDITION to Himself as their help and comfort and teacher, He would also GIVE the Holy Spirit...my Helper, advocate, counselor. The Holy Spirit was not going to come UNTIL Jesus ascended to heaven. He is the Spirit of truth who would lead the disciples into all truth. He was there the whole time Jesus was on earth...He was dwelling WITH the disciples, but once Jesus left, He would be dwelling IN the disciples...and not just the 12...but ALL those who BELIEVE in Jesus...Not the whole world, because the world doesn't see Him or know Him. But all those who believe in Jesus...who know Him...ALSO have the help of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, "Don't worry. You're not orphans. I'm not leaving you. You're not going back to an unknown life. Everything I've been teaching you over the last three years has been to prepare you for the works you're going to do through the power of the Holy Spirit. I'm going away soon and the world won't see Me. They never really did. But You WILL see Me again...and because I live, you will live."

It never ceases to amaze me that Jesus spent the last hours of His life before He was arrested, comforting and encouraging His disciples. He embodied LOVE...literally!!! He was telling them that He wasn't abandoning them, that He still had an awesome purpose for them, and that He was providing them with the power, wisdom, knowledge, and confidence they needed to fulfill their mission. That same power and truth is working in me today. God's word and promises are timeless. They are not negated by culture. He is the same God yesterday, today, and forever. The question is, do I know enough of who He is to say, "It is enough for me... I will follow You...There is nothing more You have to do to prove to me that You're real... I stand with You"?