

The Final Days of Jesus
REVEALING THE FATHER

Saturday, March 14
Reading: John 14:7-14

John 14:12 *Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in Me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

Philip vocalizes the disciples' confusion when he asks Jesus to show them the Father. He was probably hoping for a majestic vision like God gave to Moses or Ezekiel. He did not realize that he had a far superior revelation of God in the Person of the incarnate Son of God living with them. Even after all this time with Jesus, they still did not completely realize who He was!

There seems to be some sadness in Jesus' voice in verse nine as He once again explains that He is "the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15). To see Jesus is to see the Father for They (together with the Holy Spirit) are one in nature and unity.

Jesus' unity with the Father should have been clear to these men by now. Jesus had taught them and poured His life into them. But they were still confused so Jesus pointed to the words He had spoken – the very words of God. He also points them to the works He has done in the Father's name as proof of His unity with the Father.

Jesus also promised that believers would do greater things than He was doing and that they would be able to ask anything in His name and He would do it. This new authority would be theirs because Jesus was going to the Father. Two things are implied by Jesus going to the Father. First, He went to the Father by way of the cross. This gave His followers the salvation that would change their lives. Second, when Jesus returned to the Father He promised to send the Holy Spirit who would give them the power to witness and live for Him (14:15). This would show the power of the Father in their lives.

LESSON ONE: "They Will Do Even Greater Things." What did Jesus mean when He said His followers would do greater things than He had done? He was obviously not talking about miracles for no one has performed miracles like Jesus. The "greater works" has to do with the scope of their witness and service. While Jesus was on earth, He never reached beyond Palestine. While many believed in Him, it was small compared to what the disciples would do through His power working in them. Within four decades, the gospel had reached all of the Roman Empire and beyond. The greater works are God's people reaching the world with the gospel. How are you involved in these greater works? What more might the Holy Spirit do through you if you let Him?

LESSON TWO: "Whatever You Ask in My Name." Up until now, Jesus had been present and had provided for His disciples needs. Even though He was going away, Jesus assures them that He will continue to provide for them. Jesus promises to answer when His people pray in His name. To pray in Jesus' name is not a magical formula to get whatever you want. It means that our requests are consistent with the will and purpose of God. It is to pray as Jesus would pray! To ask for the things He would ask for! The purpose and outcome of all prayer is the glory of God. Is this the focus of your prayers? Are you praying as Jesus would pray or just asking for what YOU want? What might you need to adjust to pray as Jesus would pray?