

Looking Forward Through Easter
Hope Chapel Honolulu
John 14:1-31

¹⁵ If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.
(John 14:15-17, ESV)

Introduction

Let's take a fresh look at Christ's final conversation with the disciples before His crucifixion and resurrection to refresh and renew our faith as our annual Easter celebration approaches. While we look back at Easter and perhaps even take the resurrection of Christ for granted, the disciples had a very different perspective and would soon come to think that they had no future. Christ's promises about both who and what was yet to come, therefore, should not be mistaken as things of the past, nor even just things that were just ahead of the disciples, but of the present realities of today.

1. Christ's words lead us to a trilemma, not a dilemma. (John 14:1-11)

- a) "Hear, O Israel, the LORD your God is one" (Dt6:5).
- b) Speaking of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

2. Relationship and discipleship are not really options (John 14:12-24).

- a) "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."
- b) "If anyone loves me...we will come to him and make our home with him."

3. Christ's presentation of a trilemma (John 14:25-31).

- a) Why is our belief about God so significant about the way we see the world and ourselves?
- b) How have our beliefs about faith in God led us astray?

Conclusion

While it is true that the word "trinity" does not appear in Scripture, both Old and New Testament writings contain both theophanies and revelations of a God who is One in terms of relationship and purpose (i.e. "God is love"-1Jn4:7-8) yet somehow distinctly and uniquely expressing a trilemma of faith (i.e. "go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit"-Mt28:18-20). Holydays are great opportunities for us to examine what we believe about God and how our personal beliefs help or hurt our relationships and results in life.

For our prayerful study, discussion and application:

1. Read John 13:1-14:11 and discuss what you think most troubled the disciples hearts and minds.
2. Read John 14:1-26 and discuss how Christ's revelation of God differed from the disciples' beliefs.
3. What are the signs or evidences of someone's love for God? What evidence can be seen in your life?

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