



The Gospel of John

"Divine Words For Dark Days 6"

John 14:1-7

In times of despair: when we are grieving, confused, hurting, mistreated, scared and in despair— be encouraged by the words of Jesus in **John 14:1-7.**

In times of despair:

Don't let your heart be troubled
Believe in Jesus— He is God
Rejoice In Hope— Remember The Promises Of Jesus

In times of despair:

Know the Truth

Scripture

"Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.
2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?
3 If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also.
4 **You know the way to where I am going."**
5 **"Lord," Thomas said, "we don't know where you're going. How can we know the way?"**
6 Jesus told him, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**
7 **If you know me, you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."** CSB

Quote of the day

“Truth will always be truth, regardless of lack of understanding, disbelief or ignorance.” — W. Clement Stone

“The entirety of your word is truth, each of your righteous judgments endures forever.” — Psalm 119:160

Kim Peek was the man who inspired the 1988 film *Rain Man* about an autistic savant with astounding mathematical skills. Peek is what doctors call a mega-savant. A savant possesses remarkable expertise in 1 to 3 subjects. Peek was an expert in at least 15 subjects, including history, sports, space, music, and geography. No one in the world is thought to possess a brain as extraordinary as Peek's was. He had total recall of 9,000 books. It was discovered that each of Peek's eyes could read a separate page simultaneously, absorbing every word. In fact, a page that might take an average person 3 minutes to read, Peek could read in 10 seconds and never forget.

Kim Peek once went to a performance of Shakespeare's play, “*Twelfth Night*.” As the play was ending, Peek stood up and said out loud, “You've got to stop it, stop it, stop it.” It turned out that the actor had skipped the second to the last verse of the play. The actor then apologized saying, “The verses are so much alike I didn't think it would matter.”

Peek responded, “It mattered to William Shakespeare, and it should matter to you.” Citation: *The Original Rain Man*, “The Week (3-4-05) pp.40-41

If the words of Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night” that had been omitted mattered to Kim Peek so much that he stood up and said to stop the play — **How much more should the Truth of God’s Word matter to us?**

In times of despair:

Know the Truth vv.4-7

You know the way to where I am going.” 5 “Lord,” Thomas said, “we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?” 6 Jesus told him, “I

am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” CSB

The word translated “**know**” in this text comes from the Greek word “**Oida**” meaning to be aware of, to have knowledge to be informed.

Four observations about the truth in **John 14:4-7**:

Knowing the truth gives us Hope

Forgetting the truth brings Despair

Believing the truth gives us Clarity

Accepting the truth that Jesus is God gives us Confidence

Four observations about knowing the truth:

1. Knowing the truth gives us hope v.4

“You know the way to where I am going.” CSB

A better and more clear interpretation of **John 14:4** could read— “You know where I am going and you know the way.”

John 14:4 refers to the fact that Jesus had taught His disciples where He was going and He also taught them the way to where He was going.

Knowing that Jesus is in heaven and realizing we know how to get there brings peace, comfort and joy to every follower of Christ.

Henry Venn, a Puritan preacher, was dying and, his biography tells us, “The prospect made him so high-spirited and jubilant that his doctor said his joy at dying kept him alive a further fortnight.” We derive great comfort from the fact that Jesus is coming to take us to be with Him. Citation: R. Kent Hughes, John: That You May Believe, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1999), 339–340.

Knowing the truth gives us hope

Four observations about knowing the truth:

2. Forgetting the truth brings despair v.5

“Lord,” Thomas said, “we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?” CSB

In times of despair

Do not forget what God has promised.

In **John 3:1-20** Jesus in His communication with Nicodemus— revealed where Jesus was going and gave clear insight on how to know the way to where Jesus was going.

In his despair Thomas did not remember— Jesus had taught the disciples where He was going and how they could know the way.

Forgetting the truth can have negative consequences.

Stefan Thomas, a programmer in San Francisco, has two guesses left to figure out a password that is worth nearly \$800 million. The password will let him unlock a small hard drive, known as an IronKey, which contains the private keys to a digital wallet that holds 7,002 Bitcoin.

The problem is that years ago Mr. Thomas lost the paper where he wrote down the password for his IronKey, which gives users 10 guesses before it seizes up and encrypts its contents forever. He has since tried eight of his most commonly used password formulations—to no avail. Thomas said, “I would just lay in bed and think about it. Then I would go to the computer with some new strategy, and it wouldn’t work, and I would be desperate again.”

Bitcoin has made a lot of its holders very rich in a short time. But the cryptocurrency’s unusual nature has also meant that many people are locked out of their Bitcoin fortunes as a result of lost or forgotten keys. They have been forced to watch, helpless, as the price has risen and fallen sharply, unable to cash in on their digital wealth.

Of the existing 18.5 million Bitcoin, around 20 percent—currently worth around \$420 billion—appear to be in lost or stranded wallets. Brad Yasar has put his hard drives, containing millions of dollars in Bitcoin, in vacuum-sealed bags out of sight. He said, “I don’t want to be reminded every day ... of what I lost.” Citation: “Lost Passwords Lock Millionaires Out of Their Bitcoin Fortunes,” New York Times (1-12-21)

Forgotten passwords are like forgotten promises— The promises of God are true and we would do well to remember and apply these promises to our life.

When we consistently read and meditate on Scripture we will not forget the principles of God’s Word, we will not forget the promises of God’s Word.

Proverbs 3:1-2 “My son, don’t forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commands; 2 **for they will bring you many days, a full life,, and well-being.**” CSB

Five Promises to Remember in Difficult and Desperate Situations

1. God is near to those who call on Him

Psalms 145:18-20 “The LORD is near all who call out to Him, all who call out to Him with integrity. 19 He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry for help and saves them. 20 The LORD guards all those who love Him . . .” CSB

Philippians 4:6-7 “Don’t worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” CSB

2. God is at work in our lives— He is developing us for the future He has for us.

James 1:2-4 “Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.” CSB

3. God will supply our needs

Philippians 4:19 “. . . God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” CSB

4. God will give us strength to face and overcome any situation

Philippians 4:13 “I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me.” CSB

Paul wrote Philippians while he was in prison in Rome.

2 Corinthians 11:24-28 “Five times I received the forty lashes minus one from the Jews. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day in the open sea. 26 On frequent journeys, I faced dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own people, dangers from Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, and dangers among false brothers; 27 toil and hardship, many sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, often without food, cold, and without clothing. 28 Not to mention other things, there is the daily pressure on me: my concern for all the churches.

The Apostle Paul could testify to the promise of God that gives us strength to face and overcome any situation.

5. We can overcome any temptation

James 4:7 “. . . submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” CSB

Often when we are facing difficult times we are tempted to rationalize God's Word to accommodate our current situation.

Remember this: Satan makes stupid things make sense and sinful things look attractive.

James 1:13-15 “No one undergoing a trial should say, “I am being tempted by God,” since God is not tempted by evil, and He himself doesn't tempt anyone. 14 But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. 15 Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.

In difficult and desperate times— **Do not forget the truths of God's Word**