

## John 13:36-14:6 – “Do You Know This?”

(Pew Bible Page: 900-901)

**Intro:** A. W. Tozer, a man with only a grade school education, once remarked to an associate pastor who similarly had only the most basic education: “You and I have a peculiar advantage over the men who went to seminary: We know that we don’t know!” What Tozer was saying was a basic human reality: no one can truly claim to be educated who hasn’t first discovered his own ignorance! In tonight’s passage Jesus followed this same pattern. He dealt with His disciple’s ignorance of their own weakness, then taught them that they already knew all they needed; they just didn’t know that they knew!

**Proposition:** Sin leaves us in darkness, but Jesus has come to bring us into the light.

Our study tonight will center on three points: (vv.13:36-38) Our Weakness Revealed; (vv.14:1-3) Jesus Strength Displayed; (vv.4-6) Knowing What we Know.

(vv.13:36-38) Our Weakness Revealed – Peter apparently missed what Jesus said in verses 34-35, so baffled was he about Jesus’ statement in 33, “*Where I am going you cannot come,*” because he turned the conversation back to that subject: **John 13:36 - 36** *Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?”* Jesus had already answered that question sufficiently in His own mind, at least: He was going to the cross. He was going there to prepare a place for them. These things were settled in the Master’s mind. Now He added a word to Peter, “*Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.*”<sup>1</sup> Here Jesus predicted the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Compare this statement to **John 21:18–19 - 18** *Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.* **19** *(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”* Jesus, who knows all things, here signified that Peter would indeed one day follow Him to a cross – and history tells us that this, of course, came to pass. Peter was famously crucified upside down in Rome around the year 64 A.D. But Jesus was saying to Peter here, not now; not yet. Jesus was very strong in the way He said this: “*You CANNOT follow me now.*” Peter was by no means ready to follow Jesus to death at that point. There was a work of preparation necessary in Peter’s life before he would be ready. Peter was ignorant of that necessity. He thought he was ready to lay down his life for Jesus. He had yet to learn his own weakness. To learn this, he would have to experience failure and its accompanying brokenness (cf. **Lk. 22:54-62**). Though Peter did not know this, Jesus was aware of it. **John 13:38 - 38** *Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.”* We do not know our own hearts, but Jesus knows them intimately. Jesus knows our failures in

---

<sup>1</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 13:36). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

### John 13:36-14:6 – “Do You Know This?”

(Pew Bible Page: 900-901)

advance. In fact, He has planned them for our good. He uses them to prepare us for the way we will glorify God in the end. Peter would not be prepared to follow Jesus into death until he learned his own weakness.

[DOCTRINAL POINT] We are not prepared to follow Jesus into death until we learn that we have no strength in ourselves.

[APPLICATION] It is important for us to realize at this point that Peter and the other disciples, all of whom would learn this same lesson within the coming few hours – these were saved men. They had put their faith in Christ. They were His, yet there was something lacking that would keep them from living lives of the sacrificial love He called them to in verses 34-35. Before they could die with Him in daily sacrificial love toward others, they must first be confronted with their own weakness, failure, and brokenness. You can be a Christian without being broken; but you cannot die with Jesus daily until you’ve come face to face with the truth that you are nothing and He is everything. If we would die with Jesus, we must first of all die to self.

[ILLUSTRATION] In 2 Corinthians 3, the Apostle Paul, writing to his beloved saints in Corinth, analyzed the reason their church had so many problems – division, immorality, confusion about marriage, disorder at the Lord’s table, doctrinal denial concerning the resurrection. “You are carnal,” he said. The Corinthians were living their lives from a human perspective. They were convinced that spiritually speaking, they were the people and wisdom would die with them. So instead of dying daily in self-sacrificial love for Jesus, they simply made a holy mess, in Jesus’ name. What was their difficulty? They hadn’t yet seen that they were nothing; had nothing in themselves to offer; that Jesus alone was everything. Until we learn this lesson, we have nothing of lasting value to offer to the Master in return for His self-sacrificial love for us.

(vv.14:1-3) Jesus’ Strength Displayed – The fact of their untrustworthiness was a disturbing truth for the disciples to be confronted with by their Master, so Jesus immediately moved to bring their attention to a further truth that would give them comfort: though they were weak, He was strong enough to supply all that they were lacking: **John 14:1 - 1** “*Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.*” Our hearts are troubled to learn that we are too weak to follow Jesus to the cross. Like the disciples, we don’t understand. Isn’t there something we can offer Him out of love for Him? Something we can provide for Him out of our own resources. No, said Jesus. You have nothing to offer me in return for your salvation, nothing I can use until you realize your brokenness. What, then, should we do? “*Believe in God; believe also in me.*” Faced with our own weakness, the call is for us to put our trust entirely in Him. Trust Him to provide for us what we cannot find in ourselves. It’s as if Jesus said to them, don’t worry about your weakness. I am trustworthy and I’ll supply all your needs. What will He do for those who put their trust Him? **John 14:2 - 2** *In my Father’s house are many*

### **John 13:36-14:6 – “Do You Know This?”**

(Pew Bible Page: 900-901)

*rooms.* There is room for all who put their faith in Him in the Father’s house. No one need worry that there will not be a place for them in the Father’s house. We have Jesus’ word on it: There is room for you! Jesus offered proof of this truth: *If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?* The proof Jesus offered was His voluntary submission to the cross so His followers could take their place in the Father’s house. Jesus was saying, Would I go to the cross for a lie? Don’t you know my trustworthiness? Then, He said something more – a further word of assurance. **John 14:3 - 3** *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.* The “if” is not conditional. It’s more “because I am going you can count on this fact; I’ll be coming back to get you so that I can take you there myself – you and Me together, in my Father’s house forever.” What a word of comfort! We may be too weak in ourselves, but Jesus is strong enough in Himself to take us all the way to the Father’s house. Do we believe this?

[DOCTRINAL POINT] We are not prepared to follow Jesus into life until we learn that He is strong enough to supply all we need.

[ILLUSTRATION] We live in a world of wonders and dangers. We usually feel that we are adequate to handle the wonders on our own, but who among us feels adequate to face life’s dangers without the help of someone stronger than ourselves?

[APPLICATION] In just this same way, faced with the reality of our own weakness, we need the assurance of Jesus’ strength to keep our hearts from fainting when troubles come. We will never be able to quiet our hearts by looking within ourselves. Our only hope is to fix our eyes on Jesus; to find in Him the strength we need to face life’s storms. Many believers today have forgotten this truth. Fixing our eyes on the storms around us, we feel fear. Alarm bells sound in our souls. Will our culture completely crumble? What if we have to face persecution, real persecution in our lifetime? Dear ones, it’s a good time to listen again to the comforting words of Jesus: *“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to be with myself, that where I am you may be also.”* Could there be a better time for us to remind ourselves of our weakness and His strength?

(vv.4-6) Knowing What we Know – When we know our weakness and trust Jesus’ strength, we know where He is going and we know how to get there. **John 14:4 - 4** *And you know the way to where I am going.* This statement shocked the disciples. Jesus said to them, You already know the answer; you just don’t know that you know. Thomas spoke what all the rest were doubtless thinking: **John 14:5 - 5** *Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”* In one respect, Thomas’ question reflected sound reasoning: if you

### **John 13:36-14:6 – “Do You Know This?”**

(Pew Bible Page: 900-901)

don't know where you are going, how can you know the way? But they already knew the way! They had trusted God and Jesus, God's Son. They simply didn't realize that this was enough. So, Jesus shone a light into their darkness of mind, saying, **John 14:6 - 6** *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* Notice the beauty of what is going on here. The disciples did not realize their weakness, so Jesus revealed it to them. They did not realize Christ's strength, so Jesus again revealed it to them. They did not realize that they already knew the way: Jesus is the way, the truth and the life – the way to the Father – So Jesus told them frankly. The disciples contributed nothing; they received everything from the Master. They knew; but they didn't realize they knew until Christ cleared away their confusion.

[DOCTRINAL POINT] To know Jesus is to know the way to the Father. Jesus has come to reveal this truth to us – to those who “know without knowing.”

[ILLUSTRATION] Jesus is well known for opening the eyes of the blind during His earthly ministry. Is it any surprise then, that He is still involved in that ministry today?

**Conclusion:** Jesus still opens the eyes of the blind and that means He is still opening the eyes of His disciples to precious, comforting truths: our weakness and His sufficiency. “Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.”