

Another View John 14: 1-14

Walking Through Uncertainty Without Losing Your Way

Most of us aren't sitting around thinking about big religious ideas. We're trying to deal with real life. A decision we're not sure about. Something that isn't getting better. A conversation we wish we could take back.

Life doesn't usually fall apart all at once. It just starts to feel... off. That's where the disciples are in this part of the Bible. Things are changing. They don't know what's coming next. And you can feel the worry starting to build. So, what does Jesus do? He doesn't give them a plan. He doesn't hand them a checklist. He says,

"Don't let this get the best of you... trust God, and trust me."

He's not saying everything is fine.

He's saying, *don't lose your footing in the middle of it.*

Because we don't get to choose when life gets hard. But we do get to choose what we hold onto when it does. Fear shows up fast. It pushes us to react, to assume the worst, to say things we regret. Trust slows things down. It gives us a second to think... and choose a better response. That's where most of us struggle. We want to know exactly what to do before we move. We want the whole plan laid out.

But one of the disciples says what we're all thinking: *"How are we supposed to know the way?"* And Jesus answers, *"I am the way."* In plain terms, that means this: You don't have to figure everything out. You just must stay connected and that shows up in small, everyday ways: Taking a breath before you snap back. Choosing patience instead of reacting. Asking yourself, *"Is this the right move... or just the easy one?"*

You may not see the whole path. But you can still take the next step. The problem is, we've got a lot of noise around us. Everyone's got an opinion, everyone's reacting to something. It's hard to know what's actually true anymore. Jesus cuts through that and says, *"I am the truth."*

So instead of going with whatever we hear, we start asking: Does this line up with how Jesus lived? Is it honest? Does it build people up... or tear them down? That's how you keep your footing.

Then there's that moment where one of the disciples basically says, **"Just show us God."** And Jesus answers, *"If you've seen me, you've seen Him."* So, if you're wondering what God is like, look at Jesus. Look at how He treated people. Who He stopped for, who He forgave, who He did not ignore. That's your answer.

Then comes a line that sounds like too much: *"You'll do even greater things..."* That can feel out of reach. But it's not about doing something huge. It's about doing what He did — right where you are.

A kind word, showing up for someone. Letting go of something you've been holding onto. But let's be honest — that's not always easy to do. We don't always have the strength or patience to do that on our own and that's where prayer comes in.

But let's be honest — a lot of us have asked why **prayer** doesn't always turn out the way we think it should. But prayer is not about getting God to do what we want. It's about getting ourselves lined up with what He's doing. Less, *"God, fix this for me,"* "More, *"God, help me handle this the right way."*

After hearing all this, you start to get it. This isn't about having everything figured out. It's about staying connected to the One who does. And maybe that's the shift this week. Not trying to solve everything. Not trying to control every outcome. Just walking through real life, with the right guide. One step at a time

Walking it Out This Week

Take a few quiet minutes sometime this week—no rush, no pressure. Just pause... and be honest with yourself.

- **Right now, what is troubling your heart the most?**
- **Jesus says, “*Don’t let this get the best of you... trust me.*” What would it look like to trust Him with that—just a little more?**
- There are a lot of voices around us.
What is one voice, thought, or habit you need to tune out this week?
- **Who is one person you can show up for this week—no big plan, just be there?**
- **Who is one person you can show up for this week—no big plan, just be there?**
- Finally, take a moment to pray not for everything to be fixed, but for direction. **“God, help me walk through this time in my life the right way.”**

Faith Between Sundays:

Monday – Pause Before You React— *John 14:1*

“Do not let your hearts be troubled...”

If something sets you off? Before you answer, take a breath. Count to three if you must. Not everything needs an instant reaction. A short pause can keep a small moment from turning into a bigger problem.

Tuesday – Take the Next Right Step— *John 14:6*

“I am the way...”

You don't need the whole plan today. Pick the next right thing:

- Make the call you've been putting off
- Finish the task in front of you
- Have the conversation you've been avoiding

Forward is forward—even if it's just one step.

Wednesday – Filter What You Pass On— *John 14:6*

“I am... the truth...”

You're going to hear something today—news, gossip, frustration. Before you pass it on, ask:

- Is it true?
- Is it helpful?
- Does it make things better or worse?

If not, let it stop with you. It's harder than it sounds, but it matters.

Thursday – Show Up for Someone— *John 14:12*

“Whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing...”

Don't overthink it.

- Send a quick text: *“Thinking about you.”*
- Stop and listen when someone talks
- Offer help instead of saying, “Let me know if you need anything”

Small actions are how real care shows up.

Friday – Let Something Go— *John 14:1 (paraphrased)*

“Trust in me...”

You're carrying something you don't need to carry. A comment. A frustration. Something someone said. Before the day ends, decide: *I'm not taking this into tomorrow.* Letting go doesn't mean it didn't matter. It just means it doesn't get to control you anymore.

Saturday – Ask for Direction, Not Just Results— *John 14:13*

“If you ask in my name...”

Prayers for the Week

Monday: When You Feel Anxious or Overwhelmed

“Do not let your hearts be troubled...”

God, this is weighing on me more than I want to admit. Help me not to get pulled under by it. Settle my thoughts. Remind me You’re still here... and I’m not facing this alone.

Tuesday: When You Don’t Know What to Do

“I am the way...”

God, I don’t have this figured out. Show me the next step. Not the whole plan—just what I need for right now. Help me move in the right direction.

Wednesday: When Life Feels Confusing

“I am... the truth...”

God, there’s a lot of noise around me. Help me see clearly. Quiet what isn’t true. Guide me toward what is right, honest, and good.

Thursday: When God Feels Distant

“If you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father...”

God, You feel far away right now. Help me see You in the middle of my day, in people, in moments, in small things I might miss. Remind me what You’re really like.

Friday: When You Feel Like You’re Not Doing Enough

“You will do the works I have been doing...”

God, what I’m doing feels small. But if it matters to You, help me stay faithful in it. Use even the simple things I do today.

Saturday: When You’re Holding Onto Something

“Trust... in me.”

God, I’ve been carrying this too long. Give me the strength to let it go. Not because it didn’t matter, but because I don’t want it to control me anymore.

Sunday: When You Pray and Don’t See Answers Right Away

“If you ask in my name...”

God, I don’t always understand how this works. But I’m still coming to You. Shape what I’m asking for. Help me trust You, even when I don’t see results yet.

From the Pew

I once had a student walk into our dive shop from another place she had tried to learn SCUBA diving. She had already been told—kindly—that maybe SCUBA diving just wasn't for her. Not in a harsh way. Not to be mean. Just... realistic. The instructor told her the sport required skills she didn't seem to have. And to be honest ... after I got her in the pool the first time, I understood why he said it.

She was a weak swimmer. About 110 pounds soaking wet. The tank looked like it weighed more than she did. I remember standing there thinking, *I may have made a mistake taking her on as a student*. But after a few lessons I realized she had something else. Drive. Not confidence. Not ability. But a willingness to try that I hadn't seen in a long time. So, I kept working with her. And if I'm being honest... I didn't always do it perfectly.

I pushed her hard. Sometimes harder than I should have. Part of me even thought, *if this gets too hard, she'll probably quit*. That was a bad assumption. Because she didn't quit. Not once. She kept showing up. Kept trying. Kept pushing through things that would have stopped most people. And slowly, skills that weren't there at the beginning started to show up – balance, control, awareness, confidence.

She didn't just become a diver. She became a very good diver.

Then a dive master, then an instructor. And eventually... she was working at NASA's Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory. A massive pool used to simulate spacewalks, with full-scale models of the International Space Station. Astronauts trained there. Let that sink in for a second. She became a better diver/instructor than I ever was. And I've thought about that a lot over the years.

Because that first instructor didn't say anything cruel. He was probably trying to help. But a few simple words, spoken in a moment, almost closed a door that was never meant to be closed. And on the other side of that door, was a life none of us could have predicted.

Most people don't fail because they lack ability. They fail because somewhere along the way, they started believing the wrong voice. A comment. An opinion. Something said in passing. And it sticks.

That's why what Jesus says in John 14 matters so much. He's talking to people who are unsure, anxious, and don't have it all together and He doesn't just give them a plan. He gives them something to hold onto. *"Don't let this get the best of you... trust me."*

And here's where this hits home for us. Most of us have no problem trusting ourselves. We trust our experience. Our instincts. Our ability to figure things out. But if we're honest, we don't always trust Christ the same way.

That student of mine didn't start with ability. She started with willingness. She didn't have it all together. She just kept showing up and kept following instruction. Step by step, and then over time, everything changed. That's not all that different from how faith works.

Jesus doesn't send us somewhere else. He doesn't say, "Come back when you're ready." He knows exactly where we are.

What we can do, and what we can't do. He just asks us to follow.

You don't need to have it all figured out. You don't need to be strong enough. You don't even need to feel ready. You just need the willingness to take the next step. Because if someone who could barely swim can end up training astronauts, then maybe we can trust that Christ knows what He's doing with us too.

So maybe the question this week isn't just:

"What are people saying to me?" Maybe it's: **"Which voice am I trusting?"** Because the voice you follow, will shape where you end up.

A simple Reminder from God

A reflection inspired by John 14: 1-14

I know things feel uncertain right now. I see what's been weighing on you, the questions you don't have answers to, the things you're trying to hold together. You don't have to pretend with me. I never asked you to have everything figured out. I asked you to trust me.

Not all at once. Just in the next step. I know you want clarity. I know you want the whole plan. But right now, I'm asking you to walk with me, even when you can't see the whole path.

You're not behind. You're not disqualified. You're not on your own. I know where you are. I know what you can handle.

And I'm not sending you somewhere you can't go. Stay with me.

When things feel overwhelming, pause. When you don't know what to do, just take the next step. When the noise gets loud, come back to what's true.

You don't have to get everything right this week.

Just don't let go of me. We'll walk this out together

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