



January 11, 2026
A Few Last Words Before I Go
Greater Works
John 14:12-17

1. **Sermon Outline:**

- a. Jesus Promised We Would Do Greater Works.
 - i. Jesus made a stunning promise to believers!
 - ii. Because He was leaving to go to the Father.
- b. Our Power for Greater Works Is Prayer and the Holy Spirit.
 - i. Greater works happen when we pray in faith.
 - ii. Greater works happen when we walk in the Holy Spirit.
- c. Our Prerequisites for Greater Works Are Faith and Obedience.
 - i. Greater works flow out of transforming faith in Jesus Christ.
 - ii. We can't do greater works if we're outside the will of Jesus.

2. **Sunday Afternoon** – As soon as possible after the sermon, consider:

- a. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
- b. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
- c. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
- d. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
- e. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

3. **Monday:** [This week's focal passage is short, only six verses, but packed with important truth. Please read it in its entirety each day before proceeding with the study questions.]

- a. What does Jesus' use of the double "Truly" ("Very truly" in the NIV) tell us about the message that will follow?
 - i. This terminology is found 25 times in John's gospel. Use a concordance to locate and read these 25 verses (or if one is not available, read John 3:3, 5:24, 6:47, 8:51, 8:58, 13:20-21, and 16:23).
 - ii. Jesus seems to use "truly, truly" when there is some doubt about what he is saying in the mind of the listener. Why might the Disciples have had doubts about what Jesus was saying in verse 12?
 - iii. Truth is a central theme of John's Gospel. Truth is not presented as just a philosophical concept but in a relational context that leads to action and discipleship. What action is involved in verse 12a? Why is this action of paramount importance to us as Christians (recall John 3:16)?

- b. What does the phrase “whoever believes in me” tell us about who this verse applies to? Who at LRBC would be included?
- c. How do the verses studied last week (especially John 14:6 and 10-11) rule out understanding the word “greater” to mean “more spectacular”?
- d. How are the works His disciples (including us) did/will do greater than what Jesus did geographically, ethnically, numerically, and spiritually? Although in one sense we do these works, who is really doing them (see John 15:5, Ephesians 2:4-7, and Philippians 4:13)?

4. *Tuesday:*

- a. What two qualifications does Jesus state in verses 13 & 14 are necessary for us to receive what we pray for?
 - i. What does it mean to “ask in my name”? In the Bible, knowing someone's name implied knowing their nature. How would this govern what we might ask “in His name”? Why is tacking “in Jesus' name” to the end of a prayer insufficient?
 - ii. What does it mean that “the Father may be glorified in the Son” when our prayers are answered? What type of prayers does this tell us will certainly not be answered? How is the same idea captured in the Lord’s model prayer (Matthew 6:9-13, especially verse 10)?
- b. As we seek to pray in Jesus’ name, how should these factors influence what we pray:
 - i. Christ’s kingdom purpose. Do our prayers fit in with His kingdom purposes?
 - ii. Christ’s larger perspective. Do our prayers focus on our will being done or on God’s will for all of His Church?
 - iii. Christ’s requirement to follow Him. Are you obedient and following what He has already revealed as His will?
 - iv. Christ’s promise of peace. Do our prayers focus more on our own desires for comfort than on accepting what God wills for our lives?

5. *Wednesday:*

- a. What did Jesus say His disciples would do if they loved Him? What leeway does the word “will” provide in verse 15? Are we allowed to only obey the commands we find easy?
 - i. Read John 14:21 & 23, 15:10, 1 John 5:3, and 2 John 6. What does the repeated statement of this same principle suggest about its importance?
 - ii. What kind of lifestyle would be demonstrated by a Christian living this way? How does Luke 9:23 apply?
 - iii. Why is the motivation for our obedience all-important? What would obedience without love be?

- iv. How did Jesus demonstrate this principle in His life (see John 14:31)?
 - b. Do you think such obedience receives sufficient emphasis in American churches? How might our churches change if the majority of attendees were fully obedient??
6. **Thursday:**
- a. As you read verse 16, what do you see as the four most important words?
 - i. All major modern translations begin the verse with “and”. What does the “and” signify? To whom does the promise of this verse apply?
 - ii. How does Jesus tie this very important promise back to the previous verses about asking in His name?
 - b. In various translations, what Jesus tells us He will ask the Father to give us is called the “Advocate” (NIV), “Comforter” (KJV), “Counselor” (CSB), and “Helper” (ESV). Because the Greek word *parakletos* can mean any of these (and much more), some less popular versions simply transliterate it as “Paraclete”. Regardless of what word your translation uses, what do we know He is promising? How important is that promise to you?
 - c. Jesus says that the “Helper” He promises is “another”. Who is the other “Helper” the disciples already had (see 1 John 2:1, Romans 8:34, and 1 Timothy 2:5)? When you consider what both the Son and the Holy Spirit do, why does the title “Helper” seem inadequate?
 - d. What significance is there in the fact that Jesus says this “Helper” will be with us forever? How does this relate to what Paul tells us in Romans 8:38-39?
7. **Friday:**
- a. How does Jesus expand on the nature of the “Helper” He promised in verse 17a?
 - i. Why would Jesus call him the “Spirit of Truth”? What truth will the Spirit reveal to us (see John 14:26, 16:13, 1 Corinthians 2:9-10, and 1 John 2:20 & 26-27)?
 - ii. How important do these verses show us “the Helper” is to Christians today – especially as we navigate in this environment where falsehoods are promoted so openly?
 - b. What limitation does Jesus present concerning who can receive the promised “Helper”?
 - i. What/who is the “World” in the context Jesus uses the word in verse 17? Consider John 1:10, 3:16 & 19, 7:7, 8:23, 12:31, and 14:30.
 - ii. Why is it wrong to suggest that the “world” cannot accept/receive the Spirit just because of sin? What does John 16:8-9 tell us the Spirit will do in the world? How does much of the world respond (verse 9)? Who responds differently (John 6:37 & 39, 10:29, 16:2, 6, 9 & 24, and 18:9)?
 - iii. If sin prevented us from receiving the Spirit, who could? How do John 1:11-12 and 1 John 1:9 & 2:1 provide us with a way around this

apparent roadblock? In light of these verses, what is it obvious we must do daily (or more often)?

- c. How does Jesus tell us we will know (and know that we have) the “Helper” in the final sentence of verse 17?

8. *Saturday:*

- a. Much more will be revealed about the “Helper” in the passages Brian will preach on in future weeks. In preparation, read and meditate on these verses. What does each set tell you about the Holy Spirit?
 - i. John 14:16-17 and 16:13-15
 - ii. Acts 1:8 and 2:1-4
 - iii. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and Galatians 5:22-23
 - iv. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Romans 8:9-11, and 2 Corinthians 3:17-18
 - v. John 3:5-8 and Romans 8:26-27
- b. John 14 begins with Jesus telling us, “Let not your hearts be troubled.” Read this week’s focal passage (John 14:12-17) one more time, meditating on how what Jesus teaches here helps us not be troubled.

9. **Application:**

- a. Obedience is not a condition of our salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9), but it must be a result! Jesus is emphatic that we will obey His commands if we love Him. One of His most explicit commands is in Matthew 28:19-20. How are you doing at helping accomplish this Great Commission?
- b. Prayer and the Holy Spirit are the key to a life of obedience. Together, they transform us, revealing God’s will and empowering us to do what, by nature, we are incapable of doing.

10. **Pray:** Since many of us celebrated the Ethiopian Christmas with our brothers and sisters from the True Light Ethiopian Church this past Saturday, please pray for these three Unengaged and Unreached People groups in Ethiopia and for those requests in LRBC’s weekly Praise & Prayer Requests List:

- a. **The Awi:** The approximately 1.1 million Awi live mainly in the northwest section of Ethiopia. They are predominantly farmers and speak the Awngi language.
- b. **Guragie:** The approximately 3 million Guragie, divided into seven distinct subgroups, live in central and southwest Ethiopia. Most speak Sebat Bet Gurage as a heart language and make a living as farmers or by raising cattle,
- c. **Hararghe Oromo:** Approximately 8 million Hararghe Oromo live in eastern Ethiopia, and most practice Islam.