



January 4, 2026

A Few Last Words Before I Go
Show Us The Father

John 14:1-11

1. **Sermon Outline:**

- a. Trust Jesus, Even When You Don't Understand (vv1-6)
 - i. The disciples were confused and upset about Jesus leaving
 - ii. Trust the goodness, wisdom, and preparation of Jesus when you don't understand His plan
 - iii. The end is clear - Jesus will return for His people
- b. To Know God, Get to Know Jesus
 - i. Jesus isn't just the way to God, He is God!
 - ii. Make a plan to know Jesus better in 2026
- c. Show Our Community the Father This Year: One Degree Higher
 - i. We're surrounded by people who don't know the way or the Father
 - ii. One Degree Higher

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:**

- a. This week begins a new series titled “A Few Last Words Before I Go” covering a portion of John’s Gospel commonly known as Jesus’ Farewell Discourse. Today, before we consider this week’s focal passage, take time to read the Farewell Discourse, John 13:31 – 17:26. This will prepare you to understand each week’s focal passage in context.
- b. What are two or three major themes that Jesus repeatedly returns to in the Discourse?
- c. Which passage gives you the most comfort? Is there a single verse that jumps out as one that should be committed to memory?

4. Tuesday:

- a. Read this week's focal passage: John 14:1-11 and then meditate on verse 1.
- b. According to John 14:1a, what is the implied condition of Jesus' disciples as He begins speaking?
 - i. The word translated "troubled" is the same word translated "stirred up" in John 5:7. What does that suggest about their mental condition?
 - ii. Why would the Disciples have been "troubled" (consider John 13:31-38)?
 - iii. What specific emotions do you think they were experiencing?
 - iv. When you face the situation where someone is departing (perhaps a child leaving for college or military service, or a loved one at the end of life), what emotions do you experience? Where do you turn for comfort?
- c. How does Jesus respond to their "troubled" condition?
 - i. What does He not say in this case that we sometimes expect to hear when we are "troubled" (see passages like Isaiah 35:4, Daniel 10:12 & 19, Matthew 10:31, and Luke 2:10)
 - ii. Why would the first part of Jesus' response ("Believe in God") have been almost unnecessary for the Disciples to be told? How does the second part ("Believe also in me") challenge the Disciples?
 - iii. In your own words, what does Jesus say is the antidote for a "troubled" spirit (for anxiety)? What is it not? Why is it that anxiety and stress tend to make us doubt God rather than trust Him?

5. Wednesday:

- a. Read this week's focal passage: John 14:1-11 and then meditate on verses 2 & 3.
- b. Why would the knowledge that Jesus' departure was for a purpose that would benefit them have been reassuring to the Disciples?
- c. We sometimes pass over John 14:2a without considering the implications of Jesus' statement that His Father's house has many rooms. If you are mathematically inclined (and have a good calculator) use the dimensions of the New Jerusalem (a cube of about 1380 miles on each side) to calculate how many rooms the size of an average American home (2,400 square feet with 10 foot ceilings) it could contain (answer is at the end of this study if you don't want to do the math). How does the answer make you feel about our God?
- d. What is the significant promise that Jesus makes in these two verses? Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Why should this promise, as amplified elsewhere in the New Testament, be our ultimate means of overcoming a "troubled" life?

6. Thursday:

- a. Read this week's focal passage: John 14:1-11 and then meditate on verses 4 -7.
- b. What would the Disciples' likely reaction be to Jesus' statement in verse 4? Do you think that it would have helped them overcome their "troubled" mindset or would it have caused them to be even more confused? What does Thomas' reply suggest?
- c. Many scholars consider verse 6 (or verses 6 & 7) to be the theological pinnacle of John's Gospel. Why would they feel this way?
- d. Jesus makes three claims about Himself in verse 6. What does it mean to you that He is:
 - i. The Way (see also John 10:9, Ephesians 2:18, and Hebrews 9:8 & 10:20)
 - ii. The Truth (see also John 1:14 & 17, 17:3, and 1 John 5:20)
 - iii. The Life (see also John 1:4, 5:26, 6:57, 11:25, Acts 3:15, and 1 John 1:1-2)
- e. Which of the three claims does our society most reject?
- f. Christianity is often criticized because of its exclusivity. How does Jesus address this in verse 6?
- g. What is the basis for Jesus' statement in verse 7? Why is Jesus the only person who ever lived that can honestly make such a statement about His Father (see John 10:30)?

7. Friday:

- a. Read this week's focal passage: John 14:1-11 and then meditate on verses 8 -10.
- b. How does Philip's response show that the Disciples are still "troubled" (confused/stirred up)? How does Philip's statement demonstrate a fundamental misunderstanding of theological truth (see John 1:18a and Exodus 33:18-23)?
- c. Read these verses: John 1:14, 12:45, 2 Corinthians 4:4, Philippians 2:6, Colossians 1:15, and Hebrews 1:3. How important is it that we understand that seeing Jesus is seeing the Father – even though we cannot see the Father directly?
- d. In verse 10, Jesus asks Philip a question which is certainly not rhetorical. What do you think his answer was at that point? Why do so many people today still struggle with this same question?
- e. Who does Jesus credit for what He says and does? In what manner should we model Jesus in crediting God for what we accomplish for Christ?

8. Saturday:

- a. Read this week's focal passage one final time: John 14:1-11, and then meditate on verse 11.

- b. Anyone making the statements Jesus makes in the preceding verses would be expected to back them up with some proof. What proof does Jesus offer (see also John 5:36 & 10:38)?
- c. How did John acknowledge Jesus' proof when he stated the purpose of his Gospel (see John 20:30-31)?
- d. In verse 11 Jesus gives the Disciples two options for believing. What are they? Which is greater? Which must we have in order to be saved (see Romans 10:10 and Ephesians 2:8)?

9. Application:

- a. One of the most challenging parts of the Christian faith to understand (in fact, it is impossible to understand fully) is the Trinity. In these verses, Jesus speaks only about two persons of the Trinity (Father and Son – He will address the Holy Spirit in the coming passages). Still, He makes it abundantly clear that believing that the persons of the Godhead are one, even though distinct, is critically important. We must guard our hearts and minds so that we don't ever stray from this critical doctrine.
 - b. Christianity is exclusive. Jesus teaches that "anyone may come" (John 7:37 and Revelation 22:17), but there is only ONE way to get in - that is through Christ Jesus. Our society finds that exclusivity objectionable, but instead of shying away from the truth, we need to continually emphasize that Jesus is the ONLY WAY!
- 10. Pray:** In addition to the request presented on LRBC's weekly Praise & Prayer Requests List, pray for this Unengaged People group:

"Eritreans have been living in Sweden since the 19th century. A large majority are still citizens of the East African country of Eritrea but have been welcomed to live in Sweden for better opportunities. While there are some who follow the Muslim faith, many are Coptic or follow a form of Eastern Orthodoxy, relying on traditions, saint worship, and their own works to aid in their salvation and religious holiness. There are about 56,500 Eritreans living in various cities in Sweden who are not being engaged with the gospel of Jesus. Pray that the Eritreans in Sweden will put their faith solely in Jesus and His finished work on the cross. Ask that they will follow Jesus as the Good Shepherd and believe that He is the "door of the sheep" and that if anyone enters by Him, they "will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." Jesus came that the Eritreans in Sweden "may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:7-15 ESV). Pray that they will be rooted and grounded in Christ and grow in their knowledge of the Word, relying on the true character of Jesus instead of their own abilities and religious traditions." (from the International Mission Board daily prayer requests for January 2nd)

NOTE: The answer to the math problem is that the New Jerusalem is large enough to hold about 16,000,000,000,000,000 rooms, each the size of an average American home. Based on today's world population, that would be almost 2 million such homes for every man, woman, and child alive.