

John 14: Jesus' "Father" Theology

Jesus' Coming and Going

John 14.28-31

“Come now; let us leave.”

Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

JOHN 13.1

- ❖ For several hours, Jesus has been interacting with his disciples during the Passover meal: he has washed their feet, giving them an example of the self-effacing service he requires them to extend to others; he has given them a new commandment that will define them to the world as legitimate Christ-followers; he has redefined the Passover meal and instituted a new covenant based on his own sacrificial death; he has reminded them that he is leaving them and given promises of hope and sufficiency for after his departure. It is now time to leave.

²⁸ You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.'

If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for
the Father is greater than I.

²⁹ I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen
you will believe.

³⁰ I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming.

He has no hold over me, ³¹ but he comes so that the world may learn
that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

Come now; let us leave.

Jesus' Going and Coming

"You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.'

"I am with you for only a short time, and then I am going to the One who sent me."

JOHN 7.33

- ❖ Several times this evening, Jesus has told his disciples that he is going—and coming again (vss. 2, 3, 12, 18). Throughout his ministry, Jesus had emphasized that he had been sent by the Father: he had come to speak exactly what the Father told him to say and do exactly what the Father had commanded him to do. His mission was specific—he had come to do the Father's will. Beyond the instances recorded in John's Gospel, Jesus had told his disciples more than 10 times of his "going"—making it clear to them that he had to go to Jerusalem to be betrayed, crucified, but, he had also assured them, he would be resurrected on the third day.

The Disciples' Love Questioned

If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I."

Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!"

JOHN 13.37-38

- ❖ This has not been a stellar evening for the disciples: they have argued over which of them was the greatest; they have let Jesus wash their feet but haven't reciprocated; they have declared with Peter their undying loyalty, and then one of them has left to arrange Jesus' betrayal; they have revealed an astonishing dullness to all that Jesus has been saying and doing for three years. After his death and resurrection, they will exhibit a complete memory loss regarding Jesus' specific assurances.

The Clash of the Princes

“I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.”

“Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

JOHN 12.31-33

- ❖ From the beginning of his ministry, Jesus had identified this period of time as the most pivotal in human history—a clash of kingdoms, values, and authority. John will later write: *“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work”* (1 John 3.9). Like us, the disciples are unable to grasp the ultimate purposes of the Father and His *Only-Authorized-Representative*. Their minds and understanding (like ours) grasp little beyond what is immediately beneficial. Though this night is far from over, it is time to turn the page; Jesus is ready but, tragically, they are not.

Examining the Issues

“I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.”

“I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am.

JOHN 13.19

- ❖ Why does Jesus imply that the disciples don't love him?
- ❖ What differentiates the assumed love of the disciples for Jesus and Jesus' demonstratable love for the Father?
- ❖ What does Jesus mean when he said that the Father is greater than him? Is the Son less than the Father? (Throughout church history, this has been a highly controversial verse and the basis for conflicting belief about Christ).