

Alnwick Baptist Church

13th September 2026

John 14: Falling in Love with Jesus, the Promise keeper, the way to the Father.

SLIDE 1

As a church family we have been looking at a series titled 'Falling in Love with Jesus' and we're doing that as we walk through the book of John.

Today we are looking at John 14 –
Jesus the Promise Keeper, Jesus The Way to the Father.

Let us pray:

Father God,

I pray that we hear You, see You and fall in love with You again, and again.

Lord let Your words seep into our very soul.

Lord let our hearts beat, just as if falling in love for the first time.

Lord let our spirit sing to glorify You, as if in eternal love.

Let us journey with You as The Way,

Walk with You in Truth

and live with You each day, not as a future destination,

but as our whole world, being, and soul now and always.

In Jesus' name,

Amen x

As we look at the passage of John 14, I'm reading from the NLT Bible but also have some references from The Message. I've also used some themes explored within this book – Called to be Friends by Ian Galloway who was one of my lecturers from St Johns' Collage.

We're going to look at the whole of John 14 but split into 2 parts and starting with 14:1-14 picking up the rest later if you are using your own Bible you may want to leave them open.

JOHN 14:1-14

Jesus, the Way to the Father

14 "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.

² There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going."

⁵ "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus told him, "**I am** the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!"

⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

⁹ Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. ¹¹ Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.

¹² “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. ¹³ You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!

At the heart of this message The Promise Maker and The Promise Keeper is Jesus.

This is the Jesus who says: I’m the way, the truth, and the life.

And I wonder what leaps into your heart when you hear and read this passage?

Is it the Jesus who says – Don’t worry, don’t let your hearts be troubled?

Is it the Jesus that says – I’m preparing a place and I will come and get you?

Is it the Jesus who is patient who loving perseveres.

Is it the Jesus who promises that we can ask anything in His name?

Is it the Jesus that offers a union, a partnership to do great work in His Father’s name?

Or is it the Jesus who tells us He is The Way to The Father, The Truth for us in The Spirit and The Life both now and eternal?

The Jesus who is The Way, The Jesus who is the Truth and The Jesus who is the Life to the Father.

Within this passage there are many references and, on the surface, it can appear to be repetition, particularly between Jesus and The Father and The Father and Jesus. And there is the potential to miss the significance of Jesus’s references and meanings. But as always, when

Jesus repeats himself, it is good for us to prick up our ears and pay particular attention.

This morning as we look through this passage, we do so with eyes on Jesus the Promise Keeper, The Way to The Father. With Jesus as The Way, as The Truth and as The Life.

And these are what we will reflect upon each in turn this morning.

SLIDE 2

Jesus as The Way.

Jesus begins by preparing the hearts of His disciples.

He tells them, and us:

Do not let your hearts be troubled.

I love Jesus for this alone.

He knows that we get troubled, he knows our human ways, because of His humanity.

He knows because He understands. And this is not just a Divine, Godly knowing, but a signpost to Jesus the man. Jesus fully Divine, Jesus as fully human.

He gets us because He's a God who has lived with us in this place.

And so He understands that we get troubled and the things which trouble us. He also knows that we need to clear the decks as it were of this distraction of being troubled, before we can hear His message and focus upon Him.

This might just be me... but there are times when I can be with someone and yet become distracted, not hearing them, because my heart is troubled.

Jesus knows this and he tells us what we need to hear, before we will actually hear His message to us. We need to begin with untroubled hearts, or as the Message puts it 'Don't let this rattle you.'

But within the context of this story, Jesus is sharing this message to the disciples after he has informed them that he would die, that one of them would betray him and that one of them would deny him.... Their world feels unstable, and they don't understand. They are surrounded by officials who were corrupt and unjust.

Fearful, not knowing what is going happen next and how it will unfold.

And yet in the midst of this, Jesus says:

"Don't let your hearts be troubled".

And as this is the Living Word of God it applies very much to us today. When our world is shaken and we do not understand, when we struggle to trust in those who are in world leadership. When we become fearful of what may come next and how will it unfold. When we do not have control over circumstances, and the future feels unsettled and unsteady...

But yet still, He says to you and to me –

"Don't let your hearts be troubled".

And the word that Jesus starts His sentence with is don't.

He's doesn't say try not to or it's best not to be troubled - He says Don't.

And this suggests we have a choice. It suggests it's a command.

We have a choice as to whether our hearts are troubled or not....
And he continues by saying: Trust in God, and trust also in me.
Trust is the answer to an untroubled, unrattled heart.
Those things that we have no control over, we relinquish to Him, we entrust to Him.

Jesus then goes on to tell us that there is a place, a place which He is going to prepare for us. As these disciples are worried, anxious and fearful of the possibility of death, Jesus says do not let your hearts be troubled, trust in me, trust in My father I am preparing a place for you all. Again, there is no sense of urgency in this – Jesus isn't on a deadline, a place is being prepared it's not ready now.... But He knows when it will be ready, He knows when it needs to be ready for. He's not beholden to builders who extend deadlines and push budgets. He knows and He's promised us that He is going to prepare a place. He's prepared our hearts, He's told us to trust, and he's told us He's preparing for us.

And we have to love Thomas in this - "No, we don't know, Lord, We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way". And Jesus doesn't sign and say let's go over this again, one more time.... I think we need a recap...He loving tells him again in a way that the disciples would have been more familiar with.

And I love Jesus again for this – because I always need to extra learning! I also love the Gospel of John for this in that it teaches as any good teacher should.

When I used to teach and I'm sure all you here who have taught and been taught, you will know that it is good practice to start a lesson by laying out aims and objectives. And in some instances, you may even

need to reiterate ground rule basics – don't stab each other with pencils, don't flick rulers. Love one another!

But each lesson should begin with:

This is what we are learning today, and this is how we are going to do it.

Aims and objectives at the start of something help both teacher and student because it gives a sense of direction and journey.

This is what I want to share with you today and this is the journey of how we are going to get there and what we're going to learn it together.

The book of John does just this. We are told what he wants us to learn and then goes on to teach us using signs, wonders and knowledge from the past.

It's set out right in the beginning of John 1 which says:

In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

² He existed in the beginning with God.

This is how John begins His lesson to us – Jesus, The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He existed in the beginning with God. He uses a part of the passage from Genesis 1... In the beginning God.

The book of John then continues to tell us and point us to this message that Jesus who is God, God who is Jesus. They were always together,

evening in the beginning. This is what he wants to share with us. This is his message to us and to His disciples.

The book of John uses the Old Testament to back up its evidence this is known as Intertextuality – one of the challenging words I learned whilst studying and continually had to look up and remind myself what it meant! Intertextuality is the shaping of a text's meaning by another text through references, allusions (reference to), quotations, or shared cultural contexts.

This is what the book of John does he uses stories and quotes from the Old Testament to give evidence and validity to the stories he's telling now.

When I think of my own testament and I'm sure if you think of your testament – your story of how came to believe in Jesus, we use our testament our history, our journey of what has brought us to this conclusion.

And here is John 14 we can see he's using the past, using the Old Testament to help the disciples then, and us as his students now, to point us in the right direction to learn the message Jesus is sharing.

An example of this intertextuality can be seen in the references to I Am...

When Jesus says I Am The Way, I Am the truth and I Am the Life... He's referring to the Old Testament scripture... because this is how God refers to Himself in Exodus 3 when Moses encounters the burning bush and asks God for his name and God responds: "I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you."

This is my eternal name,
my name to remember for all generations.

I AM.

Jesus is referring to himself as God.

And God as Himself.

I AM the way.

Jesus told Phillip, “I **am** the way....

Phillip and the other disciples would have been very familiar with this term from the Old Testament.

The Message version of the Bible uses I am the road – a term that we may find helpful. Jesus said, “I am the Road, also the Truth, also the Life. A road to be walked on and with, a road that leads to God. But it is not a one-way street, it is a two-way road – I am in the Father and the Father is in me. It is a Road in which both Father and Son exist.

And this leads us to know The Truth, as we pick up the rest of our passage from verse 15 – 30.

JOHN 15 – 30: Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ “If you love me, obey^[d] my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,^[e] who will never leave you. ¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him.

But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.^[f] ¹⁸ No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.

¹⁹ Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live,

you also will live. ²⁰ When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.”

²² Judas (not Judas Iscariot, but the other disciple with that name) said to him, “Lord, why are you going to reveal yourself only to us and not to the world at large?”

²³ Jesus replied, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them.

²⁴ Anyone who doesn’t love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me. ²⁵ I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. ²⁶ But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

²⁷ “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.

²⁸ Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again. If you really loved me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father, who is greater than I am. ²⁹ I have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe.

³⁰ “I don’t have much more time to talk to you, because the ruler of this world approaches. He has no power over me, ³¹ but I will do what the Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love the Father. Come, let’s be going.

SLIDE 3

I AM The Truth

We are being gifted with The Holy Spirit which leads us in all truth.

We know The Truth, we know The Father because we know the son, and because we know them, we love them and want to obey their commands.

Because we know the truth, we recognise it. And Jesus is saying it's a good thing I'm going because then you will have this advocate, this helper, this Holy Spirit who will always be with you.

This truth teller.

And as we already know this truth, the truth is what sets us free – it enables us to walk and live in the light, not fearfully in the shadow of lies, not with troubled hearts.

Something that has really struck me whilst studying this passage is that Jesus seems to have to repeat himself a lot.

He doesn't just say, 'I'm God, trust me' and has done with it... he understands that they, and we, struggle to grasp His point.

And even those who were closest to him seem to miss what he's telling them.

And it makes you think... what is it that they didn't see in this man Jesus?

What is it that made them doubt Him and miss his point?

How many other people did they see going about turning water into wine, walking on water or raising people from the dead...

but yet here was Jesus doing all of these things and still they do not recognise Him as The Way. They didn't recognise Him as the father. There was mistrust. They didn't see The Truth.

Or...were they too busy looking for their own truth to see The Truth?
Are we too busy seeing our own truth to miss The Truth?

SLIDE 4

Many years ago Matt had to go on a work trip overseas and as a gift he bought us both Rolex watches.

They looked really good and for a while they were better than the real thing – because they hadn't been as costly, we hadn't had to invest as much as if they had been the real thing.

However, with time things became clear that they were not the real deal...

timekeeping became a little inaccurate on both, Matt's numbers fell from their positions stopping the hour hand from moving on, and my arm turned an unhealthy-looking shade of green after wearing it.

We sometimes settle for counterfeits.

Sometimes we are happy with a knock off version rather than the real thing.

But there is always a catch.

Sometimes we even convince ourselves it's better than the real thing.

Our teacher is a truth teller.

...the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.' Vrs 24

The Truth, The Holy Spirit, helps us to see lies.
The Truth helps us to live without fear.
The Truth helps us to live without troubled hearts.

I Am the Truth.

SLIDE 5

I AM The Life.

And here is our invitation into the Life with The Way, The Truth and The Life, from Jesus.

An Invitation to live a life walking The Road, with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit looking to the Father.

This invitation isn't an invitation into what happens after we die, it's an invitation for both now and then. And with this invitation comes with the promises that we will never be left as orphans, we will never be left without... because our advocate, that is the Holy Spirit, The Helper will live within us.

When we look to the book of John we see that this invitation was open to everyone – the woman at the well, the leper, the religious leaders... All are welcome and invited to come and walk in the way, with the truth and the life.

This life that we are invited into is one in which the Promise Keeper tells us "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

Jesus again reminds us at the end of His message – don't be troubled.

I am leaving you with a gift, this is the life I want you to lead.

The way is the Road.

The Truth is the indwelling.

The Life is the journey we take with The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.

Now and always.

This is an invitation to each of us to walk, live and journey with Jesus.
Jesus The Way, The Truth and The Life.

Let me pray.

Father God,

We thank You for this message that You are a God who knows.

A God who chose to come and dwell with us and in us.

Whatever comes today, tomorrow and the coming days, let us be reminded of the truth that You have given within us.

When our world seems shaken, let us know that You are always here with us.

You are always in control.

You are a Promise Keeper.

You are the Way, The truth and The Life.

Let us live and walk in the Truth, with The Way, always.

In Jesus' name,

Amen x

We are now going to sing 'Christ is Enough for me', please stand if you're able.

Let us go today in the peace that God has given us, walking with the way, filled in the truth to live as we have been called children of God.

Amen

Please stay for tea and coffee.