

John 14:15-31 (NLT)

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The Undiscovered Country

Illustration Hamlet.

Who would fardels bear,
To grunt and sweat under a weary life,
But that the dread of something after death,
The undiscovered country from whose bourn
No traveler returns, puzzles the will
And makes us rather bear those ills we have
Than fly to others that we know not of?
Thus conscience does make cowards of us all,
And thus the native hue of resolution
Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,- Hamlet Act 3 scene
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Who would choose to grunt and sweat through an exhausting life, unless they were afraid of something dreadful after death, the undiscovered country from which no visitor returns, which we wonder about without getting any answers from and which makes us stick to the evils we know rather than rush off to seek the ones we don't? Fear of death makes us all cowards, and our natural boldness becomes weak with too much thinking. - Hamlet Act 3 Scene 1 Modern Version.

Many in this world have a tangible fear of death, often this fear grows with age, leading to final years of terror. It is a sad and unnecessary outcome of the sin of Adam and Eve. Where once we were meant to be at peace with our God, now the time we have on earth is burdened by toil that God never desired but was warranted by our disobedience. To focus our minds and prevent us from being "Eternally Sinful", God prevented us from eating from the tree of "Eternal Life" while in a sinful state. Through the ministry of Jesus we now have a new way back to the original design of God. Therefore for a believer, death should no longer come with a sense of fear.

1 Corinthians 15:54-55 (NLT) "Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled:

"Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

Jesus said, 'Do not be afraid.' Angels said, '**Do not be afraid,**' **God said it too.** After all these things, this word of God came to Abram in a vision: '**Don't be afraid, Abram. I'm your shield. Your reward will be grand.**' (Genesis 15:1) But the angel assured her, '**Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you.**' (Luke 1:30) Jesus was quick to comfort them. '**Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid.**' (Matthew 14:17) **So why should we not be afraid? Because God can be trusted.**

So with a God who can be trusted we can head off into **new territory, or a fresh experience of old territory. We can ask questions. We do not need to be afraid.**

Jesus.

"As we reach these chapters in John's Gospel, we can sense a similar feeling. The mood changes. The sharp tone of conflict is muted. No Pharisee intrudes here. Instead we sense only tenderness and a strange sort of peace. Strange, because Jesus' life is now measured not by months or weeks but by hours. Jesus chose to spend the last hours on earth with His own. To His own—and to you and me—Jesus explains how to practice the presence of, and to know intimate fellowship with, God."- Larry Richards

Jesus has spent his time on earth following the will of the Father, one of the aims was to represent to his followers what Kingdom living would be like, in one sense he advocated for his followers while on earth. Jesus knows this role is coming to an end, to be replaced by advocating for his followers in heaven.

"That means that Jesus' *present* advocacy is discharged in the courts of heaven; John 14 implies that *during his ministry* his role

as Paraclete, strengthening and helping his disciples, was discharged on earth. 'Another Paraclete' is given to perform this latter task."- D. A. Carson

Part of this advocacy is for us to ask things of Jesus, and he will ensure these prayers are answered.

"Asking "in Jesus' name" means more than simply tacking words on at the end of a prayer. To Old and New Testament people one's name was inextricably tied to his character and mission. Thus prayer is to be "according to His will and instruction, in order that the commission may be fulfilled" It is not outward conformity to rules that God seeks. God cares rather about a responsive inner attitude, a commitment to act on Jesus' words. We sense that "the" commandments are now "My" commandments, that the Spirit and Scripture's communication are deeply personal whisperings of our loving God. They are directions that lead us to joy and to fellowship. "- Larry Richards

We can't **just** think Jesus was a good man, here he highlights that IF Jesus were to reveal himself after his resurrection to non believers, he would be forced to assume the role of Judge, therefore;

"The last time the world saw Jesus was when Joseph and Nicodemus took Him from the cross and buried Him. The next time the world sees Him, He will come in power and great glory to judge lost sinners. In fact, it was an act of mercy that He did not manifest Himself to the world, because that would have meant judgment. He has revealed Himself to His church and left the church in the world to be a witness of God's love. He is patiently waiting, still giving lost sinners opportunity to repent and be saved (2 Peter 3:1-10). One day He will return (Rev. 1:7) and the world will behold Him."- Warren W. Wiersbe

Side Note- Vs 28

"When Jesus said "My Father is greater than I" (John 14:28), He was not denying His own deity or His equality with God, for then He would have been contradicting Himself (John 10:30). When Jesus was here on earth, He was necessarily limited by having a

human body. He voluntarily laid aside the independent exercise of His divine attributes and submitted Himself to the Father. In that sense, the Father was greater than the Son. Of course, when the Son returned to heaven, all He had laid aside was restored once again (John 17:1, 5)."-Warren W. Wiersbe

"Arians and Jehovah's Witnesses argue from the statement, **The Father is greater than I**, that Jesus is a lesser god. But this would make Jesus a created being or would lead to polytheism, both of which are clearly unbiblical. The Father and the Son share the same essence (John 1:1-2; 14:9; 20:28). The Father and the Son are "One" in purpose and essence (10:30). Thus the Father is greater in office or glory than the Son was in His humiliation."- Edwin A. Blum

"Judas (not Judas Iscariot) may have been the same man called Thaddaeus (Matt. 10:3; Mark 3:18)"- Edwin A. Blum

The HS

Two links tie this verse to what precedes. (1) The prospect of doing 'greater things' anticipates the need for enabling power, the manifestation of God himself by his Spirit. This verse is moving the discussion toward vv. 16-17. (2) The obedience theme is of a piece with asking for things in Jesus' name (vv. 13-14). None of the promised fruitfulness will come to those who think they can manipulate the exalted Christ, or use him for their own ends.

Greater Things. The HS will allow us to live Righteously and to act in power.

"The Bible tells of a number of things that the Spirit does for and in believers. He is the Agent in our inner transformation toward Christlikeness (2 Cor. 3:17-18; Gal. 5:22-23). His presence provides the power we need to live a righteous life (Rom. 8:2-11; Gal. 5:5-6). He is the Source of our gifts and abilities to minister to others and enrich them spiritually (1 Cor. 12). How important that we learn to live in harmony with the Spirit, thus letting Him produce in us the fruit of love, joy, peace, and true goodness."- Larry Richards

"What the one who loves Jesus will observe is not simply an array of discrete ethical injunctions, but the entire revelation from the Father, revelation holistically conceived"- D. A. Carson

III- All of ME, we don't need more of the HS, he needs more of us! We have to surrender our lives on a moment by moment basis to allow his working in our life to become apparent.

The forever counsellor-

"The Greek term *paraklētos*, rendered 'Counsellor' in the niv, is the verbal adjective of *parakaleō*, lit. 'to call alongside', and hence 'to encourage', 'to exhort'. The verbal adjective has passive force, and is roughly equivalent to *ho parakeklēmenos*, 'one who is called alongside'. In secular Greek, *paraklētos* primarily means 'legal assistant, advocate' (LSJ, s.v.) i.e. someone who helps another in court, whether as an advocate, a witness, or a representative."- D. A. Carson

III- The Castle. Darryl Kerrigan and Lawrence Hammill

In the great Australian film "the Castle", Darryl Kerrigan is going to lose his house, until he meets Queens Counsel, Lawrence Hammill, who volunteered to represent him at the high court. Having an experienced Advocate turns the case around, and also established a life long friendship for the two characters.

The HS will give strength, to be a comfort to us.

"One who strengthens, "give succour to, to encourage, to aid' (from Latin *confortare*, 'to strengthen')"— D. A. Carson

"The Spirit of God had dwelt *with* the disciples in the person of Jesus Christ. Now He would dwell *in* them."- Warren W. Wiersbe

The world cannot receive the Spirit because the world lives "by sight" and not by faith. Furthermore, the world does not know

Jesus Christ; and you cannot have knowledge of the Spirit apart from the Son. The presence of the Spirit in this world is actually an indictment against the world, for the world rejected Jesus Christ.”-Warren W. Wiersbe

III- seeing the balloon fill with hot air, reveals it's true dimensions, shapes and purpose. It always was that but needed the Air to allow it's purpose to become apparent.

"When the sinner trusts Christ, he is born again and the Spirit immediately enters his body and bears witness that he is a child of God. The Spirit is resident and will not depart. But as the believer yields to the Father, loves the Word, prays, and obeys, there is a deeper relationship with the Father, Son, and Spirit. Salvation means we are going to heaven, but submission means that heaven comes to us!"-Warren W. Wiersbe

III - The Tour Guide of Melbourne

While walking around Melbourne, I overheard a tour guide describing a bit of the city I live in. This guide knew the area in a detailed fashion that I had never heard of. The HS in a similar fashion, introduces the believer to their new reality and as a person who is to live life to the full in this lifetime, not just wait for heaven!

"In New Testament times the normal way to say good-bye was **Peace** (*šālôm* in Heb.). In His death Jesus provided a legacy for His disciples: **My peace I give you**. They would have “peace with God” (Rom. 5:1) because their sins were forgiven and the “peace of God” (Phil. 4:7) would guard their lives. **The world** is unable to **give** this kind of peace. Fear of death (Heb. 2:14–15) and fear of the future are removed as Jesus’ followers trust in Him. Thus they need not **be troubled** (cf. John 11:33; 13:21; 14:1).”- Edwin A. Blum

"*Shalom*—peace—is a precious word to the Jewish people. It means much more than just the absence of war or distress. *Shalom* means wholeness, completeness, health, security, even prosperity in the best sense. When you are enjoying God’s peace,

there is joy and contentment. But God's peace is not like the "peace" that the world offers. The world bases its peace on its *resources*, while God's peace depends on *relationships*."- Warren W. Wiersbe

"To be right with God means to enjoy the peace of God. The world depends on personal ability, but the Christian depends on spiritual adequacy in Christ. In the world, peace is something you hope for or work for; but to the Christian, peace is God's wonderful gift, received by faith. Unsaved people enjoy peace when there is an absence of trouble; Christians enjoy peace *in spite of trials* because of the presence of power, the Holy Spirit."- Warren W. Wiersbe

Through the ministry of the HS Jesus promise another advocate, who will allow us to chart the undiscovered country of life as it always was intended before the fall.

Challenge, you to can be a guide!

Invite people to church and come with them, pick them up, walk them in the door, explain what is going on, and introduce them to people.