

Lord, show us the Father

John 14:7-11

7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him."

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. 11 "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

NASU

In getting ready for this message, I read through the Gospel of John to this point, looking for places where one or more of the twelve said something about who Jesus was.

Apart from things that Jesus said about Himself, or things that the author, John, wrote from Jesus. Or even things that John the Baptist said.

Just the things that the twelve said about Jesus.

I was surprised that there were so few of them.

/In chapter 1, the first disciples came to follow Jesus. At that time, Andrew said He was the Messiah (John 1:41).\

/Philip said Jesus as He whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote about (John 1:45).\

/And Nathanael said He was the Son of God and the King of Israel (John 1:49).\

That was the closest anyone came to saying that Jesus is God. But there is no evidence that Nathanael had understood the implications of what He said.

/Later on, Peter said that Jesus had the words of eternal life (John 6:68).\

/And other disciples said that He was the Holy One of God (John 6:69).\

What's illuminating are the things they did not say.

Nathanael said Jesus was the Son of God. But did he or any of the others know that the Father was in Him and He was in the Father.

If they did, they kept it quiet.

The fact is that there were many things that they heard and witnessed but did not understand.

/And they wouldn't believe them or even understand them until after Jesus rose from the dead and was glorified.\

For example, look at John 2

John 2:19-22

*19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."
20 The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22 So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.*

And the explanation for why that would be is given in John 14:25-26

John 14:25-26

25 "These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. 26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

But at this point, as John 7:39 tells us, the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

OK now to our passage:

John 14:7-11

7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him."

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."

Jesus is telling Philip: When you see Jesus, you see the Father. Now that's one bold statement to make! This must have blown the minds of these first century Palestine Jews!

Yet it's the same message we have seen before in this gospel.

John 12:44-45

44 And Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but in Him who sent Me. 45 "He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me.

NASU

/Only now the Lord is teasing out what His own disciples learned and did not learn.\

John 14: 8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."

Perhaps Philip was channeling Moses because one time Moses asked the Lord for the same thing: to see the glory of the LORD God, face to face.

Ex 33:17-23

17 The Lord said to Moses, "I will also do this thing of which you have spoken; for you have found favor in My sight and I have known you by name." 18 Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!" 19 And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion." 20 But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!" 21 Then the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand there on the rock; 22 and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. 23 "Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen."

/But that all changed when the Word of God took flesh.\ Jesus is the flashing forth of the essence of God.

No one has seen God the Father at any time. /But now God has a human face, the face of Jesus.\

You know what is amazing? /We too can now see the glory of God in the face of Jesus.\ We can do this even though He is millions of miles away, in heaven. We can see this in the light of the gospel. What a tremendous blessing this is!

2 Cor 4:3-6

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

NASU

But Philip had not grasped this, even though Jesus had been revealing His Father throughout His ministry.

/We can sense the Lord's disappointment in the question He asks Philip:\

9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Philip had been with Jesus for the whole time of His public ministry. He saw His miracles. And he heard Jesus talk about His unity with His Father.

/By this point, all of His disciples **ought to have** come to know and believe that Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in Jesus.\

After all, hadn't Jesus told the Jews this during the Feast of Dedication?

/John 10:30

*30 "I and the Father are one." *

Hadn't He followed up then with the exact words He is now using with His disciples now, in chapter 14? Yes He had!

John 10:37-38

37 "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38 but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father."

NASU

What a unity we have here between the Father and the Son. Two distinct people yet mutually indwelling one another.

/ Jesus works are the Father's works. Jesus words are the Father's words. \

His works:

John 5:36

36 "But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish — the very works that I do — testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.

His words:

John 8:28

28 So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.

Then Jesus makes one additional appeal to His disciples in this matter of recognizing His unity with His Father.

/If His words aren't enough for them, they still ought to believe it on the basis of His sign miracles.\

John 14:11 "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

The works He performed testified to who He really is.

/His miracles not only demonstrated supernatural power, but more importantly were signs that pointed to the real identify of Jesus.\

John 2:11

11 This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

NASU

Matt 11:2-6

2 Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to Him, "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?" 4 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: 5 the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM. 6 "And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."

But only when Jesus goes back to the Father after His glorious death and resurrection will the disciples finally be able to understand and believe that Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in Jesus.

John 14:16-20

16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. 20 "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

NASU