

“The Father is greater than I.”

*John 14:28-31*

*28 "You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. 29 "Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe. 30 "I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; 31 but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.*

*NASU*

Jesus is still comforting His disciples, who remain anxious about the fact that He will soon be leaving them.

Last Sunday, He gave them the gift of His peace.

/Today, He is going to gently rebuke them for being selfish and short-sighted.\

*John 14:28*

*28 "You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.*

He begins by reminding them that He will in fact come back to them. He has told them that several times already.

/But this time He is also challenging them to think of Someone besides themselves. And that Someone is Him!\

In verse 28, He is essentially saying this: Be happy for Me. I am about to return to My Father. This is a far better thing than remaining here on earth. My Father is greater than I am.

/What does Jesus mean when He says that the Father is GREATER than He is?\

After all, hadn't He told them earlier that He and the Father were one?

At first glance, we can see Him speaking about His humanity.

/ And certainly God the Father is greater than the humanity of Jesus.\

But we need to go further.

Look at John 17:4-5. Jesus is speaking with His Father here in chapter 17. Notice what He says to His Father in this passage.

*John 17:4-5*

*4 "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*

What is He saying? He is saying that He voluntarily left the glory of heaven to accomplish the will of His Father.

/He came to earth, and thereby He humbled Himself.\

*Phil 2:5-8*

*5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

*6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

*KJV*

But soon He will return to His Father. The Father will glorify Jesus with Himself. It is the glory that the Son of God had with the Father before the world was created.

/What the Father has waiting for Him is far greater than what Jesus had in His earthly existence.\

Jesus will no longer have the limitations that He placed on Himself in obedience to the plan of His Father.

/And when Jesus returns to His Father, the disciples will have a share in greater things as well.\

*John 14:12-14*

*12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. 13*

*"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.*

*/The glory that Jesus will receive as the Son who returns to the Father will be far greater than His earthly glory.\*

*And He will pray that His disciples would see this glory.*

*John 17:22-24*

*22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. 24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

OK. Back to our main passage.

*John 14:29*

*"Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe.*

He is saying: I am going to leave you, but I will return with greater glory. I have told you in advance so that when I leave, you may recall and believe this promise.

Remember, He will come back to them after His resurrection. Then He will leave them for a while. He will prepare a place for them and receive them to Himself. They will be with Him forever.

*John 14:30 "I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; 31 but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.*

/The ruler of the world is the devil: Satan. He deceives the whole world (Rev 12:9).\

*Luke 4:5-6*

*5 And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.*

*John 12:31-32*

*"Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. 32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."*

*/When Jesus says the ruler of the world has nothing in Him, He means that He is sinless.\*

*John 8:46*

*"Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?"*

*1 Peter 1:18-19*

*18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.*

So satan cannot get a hold on Him.

/But satan does have something in fallen man.\

He has a hold on him because of sin. Satan has an ally in the fallen human body.

/That ally is the flesh – the manifestation of sin in the fallen human body.\

*Rom 7:18-21*

*For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. 19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.*

*21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.*

Thank God that believers are no longer slaves to sin. We have Christ in us. We have the Spirit in our hearts. The Spirit makes war on the flesh.



*John 14:30 "I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; 31 but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.*

/Jesus now explains how His love for the Father will be shown by His obedience to His Father's will – all the way to death, the death of the cross.\

*Phil 2:8*

*8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

*KJV*

/Jesus had already taught the disciples that love for Him is expressed in obedience to Him.\ Now He applies this to His love for the Father.

*John 14:31 but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.*

/The world is the embodiment of the power of unbelief and opposition to God.\

Jesus will overcome the world and defeat its ruler. Not by might or violence, but by hanging on a cross. He will defeat satan by the power of love: His love for His Father, and His Father's love for Him.

And the world will come to know this - one way or another. /They either will know it by believing in Christ , or they will know it at the last judgement.\

*Phil 2:9-11*

*9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;*

*11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

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Back to John 14:31.

*John 14:31 but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.*

Jesus has set His face like flint and move closer and closer to His agony, arrest, trial, beating and crucifixion.

/When He says “let us go from here”, this is a literal change of location.\

At this point, Jesus and His disciples left the Upper Room. Jesus would continue His teaching as they moved along the streets of the old city of Jerusalem. After that, Jesus would pray to His Father. That’s recorded as John 17.

And then they would be on the move again. This time they will end up in the garden of Gethsemane.

*John 18:1*

*1 When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden, in which He entered with His disciples.*

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As we close, let's look at a map of Jerusalem in Jesus' day. <map>.

/ We find (1) the path from the Upper Room to the west side of the Kidron, leading to (2) the path that crossed the Kidron and ended up at the Garden of Gethsemane. \

There, He would face His own private agony. Then He would face the soldiers whom Judas had brought to this garden. The final die had been cast.

/Then, the hour and the power of darkness would arrive. (Luke 22:53)\