**Jesus the Way to the Father**

 John 14:1-14

 There are two words: Worrier and Warrior. A worrier lives a defeated life but a warrior lives a life of victory. When you worry, you can’t sleep sleep well. You also spread anxiety to people around you. According to the latest information, between 50 and 70 million Americans suffer from sleep deprivation, with increasing numbers relying on prescription sleep aids. Nearly 9 million U.S. adults resort to prescription sleeping pills (NY Daily News: Aug 30, 2013). In our text, the disciples were filled with worries for Jesus kept on talking about His sufferings and departure. Jesus said to them, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me” (1). Who should have worried more between the disciples and Jesus? Definitely Jesus for He had to face His arrest, Peter denial. He would be beaten, crucified and even be forsaken by His Father. Yet He was not overcome by His own sorrow but He comforted the disciples, saying, “Don’t worry! I am with you!” Jesus also tells us not to worry but to trust in Him.

1. **Jesus leads us to God’s kingdom (1-6)**

After saying, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me”, Jesus said, “My Father’s house has many rooms (mansions); if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am” (2-3). The disciples were anxious because of their uncertain future after Jesus’ departure. Jesus told them that their future is secure for God prepared His beautiful kingdom for them. Jesus’ departure was to open the way for the disciples and us. He would come back and take us to His kingdom. Jesus had been saying to the Jews and the disciples, “Where I go, you can’t come” (Jn 8:21; 13:36). Now Jesus tells that He will take the disciples and they will be in His kingdom with Him. Pastor Ko family arrived Madison on September 1st. Seeing the church housing, Esther said, “This house is weird.” I heard that Daniel said on that day, “Dad, when are we moving?” John said to me when he came to my house, “Pastor, your house is beautiful.” Revelations 21:18-21 tell about the kingdom of heaven Jesus prepared for us: “The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.” Among all, we fear death the most. Even in the time of death, we have no fear for we transfer from this mundane world to the glorious kingdom of heaven. Yes, we have nothing to worry about. There was an auto accident and 32 people died. A pastor visited hospital and said to doctors and nurses, “Among these, 7 were Christians.” Doctors and nurses laughed at him. The pastor told them to check their life history. Surprisingly, seven of them lived a faithful Christian life. When the doctor asked him, “How did you know about it?”, the pastor told him, “When people die, their face become dark. Christians’ face become bright even brighter than before.” Recognizing it, doctors and nurses came to the church in the following Sunday. Yes, the assurance of salvation frees us from life’s worries and fears.

 Jesus then said, “You know the way to the place where I am going” (4). Thomas said to Jesus, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” (5). Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (6). Jesus didn’t say, “I am a guide” but “I am the way.” Jesus is the way to the salvation. Jesus didn’t say, “I am a teacher of the truth” but “I am the truth.” The truth is God’s intrinsic nature in the Bible (Ps 86:11). Jesus is the truth for He is the exact representation of God (Heb 1:3). Jesus said, “I am the life.” 1 John 5:12 says, “Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” Only in Jesus can we have true life. We live in a pluralistic society. People say all religions are the same; if you truthfully believe one of them, you are saved. Christianity is not a religion but a relationship with the living God. It is a life relationship. Acts 4:12 says, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” Only Jesus, the Son of God who paid the price of our sins through His death, gives us salvation.

**2. Jesus leads us to know God (7-11)**

We Christians are not the people who just put hope in heaven. Jesus says in verse 7, “If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him.” We come to know God the Father more and more and walk with Him. We live under the wings of the Father God. Thus we are safe and secure and we do not worry. At that time, Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us” (8). Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing His work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves” (9-11). Here, Jesus tells Philip to see the Father through Himself. He also tells that the Father and Him are equal. Here, the word, “in” is repeated 5 times. Jesus is in the Father and the Father lives in Jesus. Only thing that is different is that Jesus came to this world in flesh. Jesus became flesh to show us the Father. No one who sees the face of God can remain alive. So God showed Moses only His back as He passed by (Ex 33:23). We can’t see the sun directly for it is too bright. How can we see God who is in complete brightness in His glory? So Jesus came in a human form. Yet He is God; not that He is like God but He is God (1:1). We not only have hope of going to heaven but to know God intimately and live an abundant and victorious life in Him. How great it is to know that the Lord of heaven and earth and have intimacy with Him!

**3. Jesus leads us to do great things (12-14)**

Jesus says, “Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father” (12). Jesus planted a great hope to His worrying disciples that they will do the works He had been doing. They will do even greater things that that. Wow! How on earth is this possible? The key to open this mystery is the phrase, “because I am going to the Father.” This phrase refers to Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension. After accomplished His redemptive work on earth, He went up to heaven and sat at the right hand of the throne of God. He then poured the Holy Spirit from there (Ac 2:33). So the great works were done through the disciples in the book of Acts; the works of Jesus was duplicated in it through the apostles. What is the practical way to accomplish Jesus’ vision in us? It is prayer. If we ask anything in Jesus’ name, He answers it. He, who loved us so much that He gave His life on the cross, hears our prayer and answers us. Jesus was limited when He was in flesh on earth. Yet He is now everywhere. Through prayer, we are clothed by the power of the Holy Spirit and we do the works Jesus had done. In this sense, the poverty of our life is due to the poverty of prayer. We are weary and burdened not because life situations are hard but prayer has been dried and parched. On the other hand, the abundant prayer leads us to the abundance of our life. The victory of prayer is the victory of our life. When you pray, you realize that there is nothing you need to worry about for Jesus answers and takes care of us. Hebrews 7:25 tells us that Jesus always lives and intercedes for us in heaven. He is able save completely those who come to God through Him. Jesus prays for our complete salvation. Jesus prays for our complete victory. Will the Father God hear Jesus or not? Of course, He hears Jesus’ prayer. So Jesus will leads us to His victories while we face many challenging situations. He will help us till we safely reach His heavenly kingdom where there are many mansions. It will be the true Homecoming Day. Therefore, let us change our worries into prayer, confessing, “Lord, now uninvited guests have come. O Lord, help me through your love and through your power!”