

“No Separation between Jesus and Father”

St. John 14:1-14

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SERMON 1911

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The sermon text is from John 14:9, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’”

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is a common practice for children to pit one parent against another. “Mom said we couldn’t go to the park. Let’s go ask Dad.” Children learn quickly which parent is more lenient or more likely to say yes.

In today’s Holy Gospel the apostles are concerned that Jesus’ words and works may not be an accurate reflection of the heavenly Father’s words and works. Of course, they know Jesus. They have been with Him throughout the three years of His public ministry. Nevertheless, Philip says to Jesus,

“Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”

What they don’t realize is that when they have received Jesus’ words and works, they do know the Father. Jesus Christ and the heavenly Father are one in essence and in will. The work which the Son of God performed is that of which the Father said,

“This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well-pleased. Listen to Him.”

Smart parents make sure to communicate with each other in order to stay on the same page and give their children a consistent message. The heavenly Father and the Son of God and the Holy Spirit are already on the same page. They are in complete agreement concerning the forgiveness of our sins and our salvation. What our Savior taught the apostles for three years was, in fact, the desired will of the heavenly Father.

Jesus says, “Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. ¹¹Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves” (John 14:10-11).

The words which Jesus speaks are the Father’s words, too. The works which Jesus does are the works of the Father. The publication of that message by the Holy Spirit is none other than the will of both the Father and the Son.

This child’s trick of doubting the Father is a deception of the devil. The devil wants to create in us a doubt of the Father’s will and purpose for us in Jesus Christ.

--In the garden of Eden, the devil tried to drive a wedge between God’s words, and God’s real intentions. “I know He said you would die if you ate from the tree, but He really is holding back from you something which is good for you.” You can’t trust that through the words of Holy Scripture, you accurately know the Father.

--In today's text, the devil tries to drive a wedge between Jesus' teaching and the true knowledge of the Father. "I know Jesus told you stuff, but what does the Father say about all this? You may want to check with the Father, about this free gift of salvation. I think he wants you to work for your righteousness."

--And finally, the devil desires to drive a wedge between Jesus' works and the works of the heavenly Father. "Of course, you know that Jesus died and rose again, but can you really know God, from this earthly event. He may love Jesus, but He doesn't love you."

These temptation appeals to our desire to gain wisdom apart from the words and works of Jesus.

Today's reading from John 14 is taken from Jesus' sermon on the night of His betrayal. Jesus knows that He will soon be taken from them. **He is comforting and assuring the apostles, so that they cling tightly to Him in true faith.** His suffering and death is going to rock them to the core. Jesus says, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me" (Jn 14:1). That statement is an explicit proof of Jesus' divinity. The Scriptures teach that we are to believe in God and God alone. When Jesus declares that the apostles are to believe in God and Himself, Jesus is declaring that He is equal to God. He is coordinating one with the other. **Belief in God and belief in Jesus are the same action.** The Father sent the Son. The Son willingly came.

When Philip says, "Lord, show us the Father," it was a denial of everything which Jesus had done for three years.

--When Jesus preached law and gospel, He was revealing the Father's will.

--When Jesus had compassion and healed sicknesses and diseases, He was revealing the Father's merciful heart.

--When Jesus rebuked the false teachers and drove out the works-righteous money changers, He was showing us the Father's displeasure in these actions.

--When Jesus suffered and died, He was showing us the Father's desire to atone for the sins of the world.

--When Jesus would rise from the dead, He was showing us that the Father received Christ's sacrifice. The atonement was finished.

--When the risen Jesus came to the apostles and told them, "Peace be with you," He was giving out the Father's peace upon all who believe.

--When Jesus sends out the apostles to preach forgiveness through faith, He is showing us the Father's plan of salvation through the apostolic Word.

Sermon's words are the Father's words. Jesus' works are the Father's works. Our Jesus has shown us the Father. **When the New Testament presents to the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are able to know and see God.**

Now that we celebrated the death and resurrection of Jesus, it is time to cast aside these temptations to mistrust our Savior. We have the knowledge of everlasting life, because we know the Father through the words and works of His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. **Confident of our salvation, Jesus says that believers will do two things. First, Jesus promises that we will do the works which Jesus does. And second, we will ask in prayer and receive from the heavenly Father.**

Concerning **the first, we will teach our friends and neighbors that Jesus is the way and the truth and the life.** We will hold forth the Word of God as a complete and utterly reliable message from God. We will explain that the law condemns sin, but that through faith in the message of forgiveness, we have a gracious God. Through faith in Jesus we do come to the Father.

Second, believers in Jesus will pray and the Lord will hear and grant our request. Our prayers will be based on God's Word. Our Lord taught us the Our Father and those seven petitions perfectly express the free gifts which the Father wants to shower upon us.

Last of all, we have gathered this day to hear Jesus words. We have come to present our requests to God. And we have come to drive out any lingering doubt. Why is that? Because we believe in God and we believe Jesus. We trust in Jesus' words and work. We know where Jesus is going. He was going to the cross to take away our sin. The Father's greatest desire is to bring us to the place which Jesus has prepared for us. We believe that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. We come to the Father through Jesus, the only God appointed way.