

“PRAYING IN THE NAME OF JESUS”

Kailua Christian Church
Pastor Rick Bartosik
Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023

SCRIPTURE READING:

John 14:1-14 New International Version

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God^[a]; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ 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. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.”

⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know^[b] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”⁸ Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”⁹ 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’? ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

INTRODUCTION:

Today we celebrate PALM SUNDAY, the first day of the final week in the earthly life of Jesus Christ. This week has also been known through the centuries as PASSION WEEK. It’s been called “THE WEEK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD” because the three most important events in human history took place this week: the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

For the Jewish people this week was Passover Week – the week they celebrated their deliverance from their BONDAGE IN EGYPT through the death of the Passover Lamb, to become the people of God. As Jesus entered Jerusalem that week, thousands of lambs were being brought into the city, to be killed and eaten as part of the Passover celebration. Little did they know that Jesus had come as the LAMB OF GOD to give his life on the cross and set us free from our BONDAGE TO SIN.

This morning let’s fast-forward to THURSDAY EVENING OF PASSION WEEK. In John 14 Jesus and his disciples are together in the UPPER ROOM for their LAST SUPPER.

Later that Thursday evening, Jesus will go to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Judas will come with a cohort of Roman soldiers to betray him. Jesus will be brought before the Sanhedrin – the Jewish Supreme Court. They will condemn him to death. The following morning, he will stand before Pilate, the Roman Governor, who will order him to be crucified.

The promise of John 14:13-14 was made by Jesus as one part of his attempt to comfort His disciples during that Last Supper together. It is one of the greatest promises in the Bible

concerning God's willingness to answer prayer.

In John 14 Jesus made three promises to calm their troubled hearts:

FIRST PROMISE: John 14:1-3

SECOND PROMISE: John 14:12

THIRD PROMISE: John 14:13-14 "And whatsoever you shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you shall ask anything in my name, I will do it."

There is tremendous comfort in this promise. But what is really striking is the SCOPE OF THE PROMISE. Because it is not just that those to whom He was speaking would have the privilege of prayer, or even that Jesus would hear their prayers. But Jesus said WHATSOEVER you shall ask in my name, that will I do...and if you shall ask anything in my name, I will do it. He promises to hear their prayers and ALWAYS grant what they asked for IN HIS NAME!

But there is a CONDITION to be met. And the condition is contained in the words, "IN MY NAME" mentioned twice in the passage – verse 13 and verse 14.

QUESTION: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ASK SOMETHING FROM GOD IN JESUS' NAME?

1. FIRST, it means that when we come to God in prayer we come as someone who has a RELATIONSHIP with Jesus – someone who is IDENTIFIED with Him by faith.
2. SECOND, to pray "in my name" means that we have to approach God on the basis of Christ's merit and not any merit of our own.
3. THIRD, when we pray in the name of Jesus – it means that we pray as JESUS would pray and seeking what JESUS seeks – not simply what WE desire.
4. FOURTH, to pray in the Name of Jesus means that our deepest desire is that God would be glorified.

To Summarize: To ask in the name of Jesus means:

- (1) that we must know Jesus as our Savior and Lord.
- (2) that we must approach God on the basis of Christ's merit not any merit of our own.
- (3) that we must pray as Jesus would pray, seeking what he would seek and living a life consistent with His desires.
- (4) that we set aside our own will, bow to the perfect will of God – and seek that God might be glorified through our lives.