

## A Tall Order

### Introduction:

- Big jobs can look and feel daunting. Beyond our power and ability.
- When faced with the impossible, when faces with a big job, we basically have two choices. We can say things like, *its impossible, can't be done, no way, no how.*
- **OR** we can pick up a hammer, shovel, broom, pen, or what ever tool the job requires and begin.
- When we decide to just do it, to take that first forward, pick up a piece of trash, mow a lawn, drive a nail, do a kind deed something interesting happens. The impossible becomes possible.
- I would suggest to you that if you feel as if you are not getting anywhere, if it seems like you are not accomplishing anything, that you are just standing still it is more than likely because of one of three things.
- 1) You are doing the wrong thing. You are not doing what God has called you to do
- 2) It is not time yet. God is not ready for what ever it is to happen yet.
- 3) You are measuring progress and success by the wrong standards.
- Tell the story of the man God called to push the rock. P.U.S.H = Pray Until Something Happens
- God is able – even and especially when we are unable
- But even so, God has a habit of challenging us and pushing us ever onward with one tall order after the next. So it is with our text from John 14 this morning.

### P1 John 14:1-7 ( )

- In this passage Jesus is talking to his disciples – but it is well worth our time to listen in
- V-1 (***"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me."***)
  - This is some good advice. It (or a variation) is how Jesus often greeted people.
  - He knew/knows that things are hard, that there are many challenges and dangers – and yet knowing all that we face Jesus bids us – let not your hearts be troubled.
  - Remember high school? Remember the things that were important back then? Can you name the three things that were life and death issues to you in the 10<sup>th</sup> (11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup>) grade? Probably not. That is not to say that they were not important then – only that now, looking back with a much wider, more mature world view you realize they were not as serious or important as we thought at the time.
  - Jesus – being God- has seen the end. He knows and knew what issues we were facing – and at the same time he understands (and has seen) the bigger picture in which our momentary mortal fears and troubles are – or can be – replaced with eternal bliss and glory.
  - Jesus said fear not, or let not your hearts be troubled because he didn't care, or because they didn't apply to him – he said those things to give us peace, hope, and courage because he has seen what we can only glimpse.
  - We live in troubled times -(there is the looming threat of inflation, the un-settled economic situation, the impending presidential election, the war in Iraq just to name a few)-
  - At first Christ's suggestion/direction/command sounds more than a little Pollyannaish to our worried ears. Don't worry – be happy!
  - But there is more to what he said in this first verse. He starts off offering hope, offering a glimpse of how things could be, and then adds to them by reminding us how we get there from here: Believe in God, and believe in him.
  - When we actively seek to believe in, trust, and follow God's will then we are talking about a hope and a faith that is built on solid rock.
- V-2 (***In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you***)
  - I like this passage and am glad it is included in the bible. Jesus is telling his disciples and telling us not only that there is room enough for everyone in Heaven, but also that there is a place for me, for

you, for all those you have known and loved. Not only is there room, we have been invited and are expected. Christ himself issues the invitation, Christ paid the price, and Christ assures us that there is a place just for us.

## P2 John 14:8-15 ( )

- V-8 (*Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."*)
  - Don't you just love Philip and his question? Perhaps that is because he is so much like us.
  - Jesus has just told the disciples – and us – that there are many rooms in his father's house. Room enough for **EVERYONE** who wants to go. And even better when Jesus says everyone he means what he says, he knows each and **EVERYONE** by name. There was no small print at the bottom of that offer. That offer did not come tagged with the words "some conditions and exclusions may apply" The offer was, is, and always will be just exactly what he said – There is a place in my father's house, there is a place in heaven, there is a place in my heart for **EVERYONE** who chooses to accept the offer.
  - Been a sinner? Jesus says its ok, everyone was.
  - Remember the woman at the well – been married four times already and is now living with a man who is not her husband. There is a sinner for you. Jesus says, its ok, I forgive you. Jesus says there is room, there is a place for you.
  - What about Moses? He murdered a man. God said I forgive you.
  - What about King David. Now there is a sinner for you. He lied, he coveted, he committed, he murdered. God said I forgive.
  - Each of these three examples has several things in common. The sinned, the encountered God and were forgiven, and they were given a mission. The woman at the well was sent to spread the news, Moses was sent to free God's people, King David's task was to repent and be the kind of King God wanted and the people deserved.
  - They also had one other thing in common with each other and with Philip – and with us for that matter – Each of them sinned and fell short of the mark because they wanted more.
  - Philip wanted more – he wanted to see GOD. *Show us the father and we will be satisfied.* The truth of the matter is that he, they, and we probably will never be satisfied.
- V-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'?"*)
  - There is/was a good reason why Philip and so many others wanted more. Why we want more. Why we say show us a sign, perform another miracle, answer another question, show us the face of God.
  - Because at some level we know that something is missing. That something is not right. We make the mistake of thinking that if we had more money, more stuff, greater power, greater wisdom that everything would be good.
  - When all along what we really need is more Jesus. More Jesus in our hearts. More Jesus in our thoughts. More Jesus in our actions. More Jesus in our lives. Jesus was go, Jesus is the answer,

## Conclusion ( A call to action )

- V-15 (*If you love me, you will obey what I command.*)
- Jesus said, love thy neighbor as you love yourself
- Jesus said, feed my lambs
- Jesus said, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- Now there is a tall order.
- Jesus knows we are never going to manage all of that. Jesus knows that we are never going to be perfect. Jesus knows that we are never going to conquer sin on our own.
- Remember the man and the rock? His job was not to move the rock but to push.
- Our job is not to conquer sin or become perfect – Jesus will see to that in due time. Our job is to try, to do our best. Our job is to seek to do better every day and to P.U.S.H.