

w/b 10th September 2017 **HOW TO STIR THE MOVE OF GOD**

INTRODUCTION: As Desmond was speaking powerfully on the move of the Spirit he also turned our attention to a critical passage in John's gospel in which Jesus prepares his disciples for his own death (and indeed resurrection). A number of vital teaching themes are introduced including the imminent arrival of the Spirit. It's a perfect introduction to our teaching series on Acts

PASSAGE: John 14: 1-21

LAUNCH

Can you think of a film, play, historical incident or even personal example where there was immense pressure and one person was the hero and everyone else buckled?

How do you respond under pressure?

Why was Jesus so calm when he knew a massive ordeal awaited him?

DISCOVERY

Identify the key teaching themes that Jesus introduces in this passage.

What does this passage say about

- a) Jesus and what he was trying to achieve
- b) The disciples and their current state of mind
- c) The importance and role of the Father
- d) The future work of the Spirit

What verse or truth in this passage do I find encouraging or strengthening?

What verse do I find difficult to understand or confusing?

UNDERSTANDING

What causes you to fear or fuss or fret or stress? (v1) Why do you tend to respond in this way? What could have been a more faith inspired response?

What do you need to do to have peace and contentment, even when your situation does not offer or have it?

How do you feel about the fact that there is only One True God and only one right way to Him? (v6) How does a true understanding of this verse affect our attitude to witnessing? Why is this verse massively counter-cultural?

How would a glimpse of what Heaven will be like give you hope (v2-3)?

What else gives you hope?

What are the many rooms in the Father's house (v2) that Jesus is referring to?

Why is it important that the disciples should know this?

How has Jesus comforted, encouraged, admonished, or coached you in recent times?
What key recent truths have you learnt that you can share with the group?
Do you feel a calling to coach others in some way?

Verses 11&12 are immensely challenging. Jesus is not just speaking to his disciples, he is speaking to us too (remember we are not Cessationists). What are the key principles for doing 'greater things'? What great things do you want to do in the Spirit as a result of being challenged by these verses?

Did you know that Jesus is not just preparing a place for you in Heaven; He is preparing you first by your journey of faith now too? How can this help you overcome fears and doubts?

What do you lack to have more wholehearted commitment to faith?
What gets in your way of follow-through and obedience?

How would you express the importance of our connectivity to Christ to produce faith and fruit? How can you do this more even in times of harassment and/or doubt?
What do you need more of to be comforted and empowered in Him?

APPLICATION

Pray for one another to be filled with the Spirit so that you can share your faith with greater confidence and so you can pray for amazing things to happen with greater confidence too

Questions in part sourced or amended from an excellent set of questions by:

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