

RCMI L-Path Teaching
December 4, 2022

TITLE: Greater Things!

TEXT: John 14: 12-14, CEV

BIG IDEA: The believers of Jesus are called to carry on the same things Jesus did, do even greater things than He did, and expect their prayers answered as they ask and act in His name.

INTRO:

- Expect to do even “**GREATER THINGS!**”
- Jesus gave one of the most beautiful promises in the Scriptures because He said He would be going to the Father, and when He goes to the Father, He will send the Holy Spirit to dwell in us.
- Jesus’ words in John 14: 12-14 bear directly on your life and our life together in these exciting days. “**I tell you for certain that if you have faith in me....**” Jesus encouraged the disciples to trust in, rely on, and cling to Him in faith because of who He is, His words, and the miracles He has done. Now Jesus described the benefit or blessing to this one who believes.

BODY: THREE ASSURANCES FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN JESUS:

I. EXPECT TO CARRY ON THE SAME THINGS JESUS DID.

John 14:12a, *“I tell you for certain that if you have faith in me, you will do the same things I am doing.”*

Jesus expected those who believe in Him to carry on His work in the world.

A. It’s a promise to all believers.

- There’s no exclusion here if you’re a Christian. All believers will do the things Jesus did.
- Doing what Jesus has done because you believe in Him is normal Christianity.

B. All believers will do His work.

It is promised that all believers will do Jesus’ works. It’s not a promise that we will do greater works, just Jesus’s works.

- When Jesus said, “If you have faith in me, you will do the same things I am doing,” Jesus talked about sharing faith.

1. Works to Believe

- The words “believe” and “works” occur together in verse 11, just like they come together in verse 12. Jesus’ works are designed to help people believe.
- To summarize, the connection between verses goes like this:
- Believe me, because of my works — let my works lead you to faith (v. 11) because whoever believes in me (v. 12a) will also do works that lead people to believe in me.

2. Works That Point to Jesus

- His works are a witness to Jesus' words that lead people to faith which means that all believers' works do the same thing. *"Whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing."* — the works that point people to faith. If you are a believer in Jesus, your works and your life display the trustworthiness of Jesus.
- Christians are defined by works or life which flow from faith in Jesus and point to the glory of Jesus.

II. EXPECT THAT WE CAN DO EVEN GREATER THINGS THAN WHAT JESUS DID.

"You will do even greater things, now that I am going back to the Father." – John 14:12b

- This means that when Jesus said, "If you have faith in me. . . you will do even greater things now that I am going back to the Father," he did not mean that every Christian was expected to do things more miraculous than Him.

A. Two Clues for Clarity

- We are given two clues to understand this Scripture fully. First is the phrase at the end of v.12, *"now that I am going back to the Father."* The second clue is found in John 20:21-23.
- What is greater is that never before had anyone been forgiven by faith in already crucified, already risen, already reigning, already indwelling Christ.
- Now that Jesus has gone to the Father, he had been crucified, buried, raised, exalted, and sent in the person of the Holy Spirit — the significant purchase of forgiveness by substitution was finished once and for all.
- The message you preach will be the message of not of a promised ransom but a paid ransom, a complete payment, a finished propitiation."

B. Your Greater Things

- What are the "greater things" that all of us will do? You will receive the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of the crucified and risen Christ.
- You will be the instrument of their forgiveness based on the finished work of Christ.

III. EXPECT JESUS TO ANSWER THE PRAYERS OF THOSE WHO ASKED AND ACTED IN HIS NAME.

"13Ask me, and I will do whatever you ask. This way, the Son will bring honor to the Father. 14 I will do whatever you ask me to do." – John 14:13-14, CEV

- Jesus further explained how greater things would be possible for His followers because he would do His work through His prayerful people, who asked and acted in His name.
- He promised to do anything all in the name of this mission.
- This way, the Son will bring honor to the Father: These greater things Jesus promised would bring glory to both the Father and the Son. Prayers prayed with a passion for the glory of Jesus and God the Father will indeed be in the name of Jesus and be the kind of prayer God will answer.

CHALLENGE: I exhort you, dear Radiance family, to take the challenge for those who believe in Jesus can expect to carry on the same things Jesus did, to do even greater

things than what He did, and finally, they can expect their prayers answered as they ask and act in His name. Let's do the work Jesus commissioned us to do: win souls and make disciples!

DISCUSSION:

- As we enter our 37th year as a church, discuss the three assurances awaiting the true believers of Jesus Christ as we obey His calling.
- Share practical applications on how we can carry on the works of Jesus here and now.
- What are the greater things you want to accomplish for the Kingdom of God?