

## For the Love of an Imperative Verb

### John 14:1-14

The Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A, RCL

<sup>1</sup> **Do** not let your hearts **be troubled** [παρασσέσθω, **parassésthō**]. **Believe** [πιστεύετε, **pisteúete**] in God, **believe** [πιστεύετε, **pisteúete**] also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, "Lord, **show** [δείξον, **deîxon**] us the Father and we will be satisfied." <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, '**Show** [δείξον, **deîxon**] me the Father'? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>**Believe** [πιστεύετε, **pisteúete**] me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, **believe** [πιστεύετε, **pisteúete**] me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it." [NRSV89]

#### 14:1

παρασσέσθω, **tarassésthō**; *vb*: *pres pass imperative 3<sup>rd</sup> pers sg* from *ταράσσω*

translations: **do** [not] **let . . . be troubled** [NRSV89, NAB, NIV11, NJB, NRSVue; Brown],

**let** [not] . . . **be troubled** [ESV, NGEINT, NKJV], also **se turbe** [IAAdNT]

Barrett: "[Jesus] is about to leave the disciples, but they must not be afraid; the separation is a temporary one, and ultimately for their benefit. The distress they now feel will lead to more adequate faith. [p. 456.]

Brown: Cf. 11:33 and 13:21. [p. 618.]

πιστεύετε, **pisteúete**; *vb*: *pres act imperative 2<sup>nd</sup> pers pl* from *πιστεύω*

Two instances in this vs. Cf. also vs. 11.

translations: **believe** [NRSV89, ESV, NGEINT, NIV11, NKJV, NRSVue], also **have faith**

[NAB; Brown], **trust** [NJB], **creed** [IAAdNT]

Barrett: “. . . We may take both verbs to be imperatives, or both to be indicatives; or we may take the former to be an indicative and the latter to be an imperative; or the former to be an imperative, the latter an indicative.” [p. 456.]

Brown: “The Hebrew word for ‘faith’, from the root ‘**mn**, has the concept of firmness; to have faith in God is to participate in His firmness . . . .” [p. 618.]

Crossett: Note that NAB uses two different translations for this verb in this pericope. Cf. vs. 11.

#### 14:8

δείξον, **deîxon**; *vb: aor act imperative 2<sup>nd</sup> pers sg* from δείκνυμι

Also vs. 9.

translations: **show** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Brown], also **muestra** [IAdNT]

Barrett: The form of the sentence is that of the imperatival condition; it is equivalent to ‘If you will show . . . it will suffice’.” [p. 459.]

#### 14:9

δείξον, **deîxon**; *vb: aor act imperative 2<sup>nd</sup> pers sg* from δείκνυμι

Also vs. 8.

translations: **show** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Brown], also **muestra** [IAdNT]

#### 14:11

πιστεύετε, **pisteúete**; *vb: pres act imperative 2<sup>nd</sup> pers pl* from πιστεύω

Two instances in this vs. Cf. also vs. 1.

translations: **believe** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NKJV, NRSVue; Brown], **must believe** [NJB], also **creed** [IAdNT]

Barrett: “. . . Not ‘believe in me’ but ‘accept the following statement as true’.” [p. 460.]

Levine & Brettler: “To ‘see’ Jesus is not a visual experience, but one of personal knowledge; therefore to know Jesus and his works is to understand and know God.” [p. 207.]

**John 14:1-14, continued**

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