

“In My Father's house are many dwelling places; ***if it were not so, I would have told you***; for I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:2

“So God, waddya think?”

- I really like the turn of phrase in John 14:2 “if it were not so I would have told you.” The scripture reflects Jesus’ thoughts for his disciples in the days leading up to His crucifixion, and points to His preparations for us. It is familiar, and illustrative of what awaits us, and is a promise we cling to; and we can easily read past this section of the verse.

But the turn of phrase “if it were not so, I would have told you” places a different focus on what we’re used to in the realm of promises. Usually, we rely on promises that comfort us and offer assurance when we are in need. For instance the assurance of -

- God’s presence - “I will be with you; I will not fail you, or forsake you.” Joshua 1:5b. I need courage. He says, “I’ll be with you.”
- God’s provision – “I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.” Psalm 37:25. I worry about how I will pay my bills, He says, “I’ll provide for you.”
- God’s guidance “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go: I will counsel you with my eye upon you.” Psalm 32:8. I don’t know what to do next, He says, “I’ll show you the way.”

I need; He delivers.

However, I got to thinking about these words from Jesus. *If it were not so, I would have told you*. To know when something is *not* so requires that I first ASK Him whether something *is*, which of course means that I overcome my pride (again) or my belief that I’m already right.

The closest I can remember asking the LORD whether something was *not* so, was several years ago. It’s lame, but it’s the closest I can come to resolving this for myself. I was in a new job I did not know how to perform and I had no one to turn to for help. Before I distributed a task or an email I would ask the LORD “Is there anything wrong with this?” Then I would wait

for the “thumbs up” or “thumbs down” settling in my spirit. Peace meant I could proceed; no peace meant go back and find the error. There were times when I moved forward regardless, resulting in a panic to recall the email. We've all been there. (BTW, some good things came out of this - I grew confident knowing God will answer when I ask Him for help, I learned to trust His word to my heart, and I learned to recognize His voice.)

But ... back to the scripture.

*If it were not so, I would have told you*, expands His help into those moments when we plow ahead under our own steam; moments that might spare us a bunch of pain had we asked, “So, God, waddya think? Is there anything wrong with this?” - then trusting His thumbs-up or thumbs-down answer. He loves us enough to tell us either way, if we are willing to ask for a definitive answer.

I had a hard time writing this devotional, but I kept at it anyway. If someone has a different view of this passage, I would love to hear it. Here's my email: [rjhughes006@gmail.com](mailto:rjhughes006@gmail.com)

Blessings