

John 14:1-6 - Let not your heart be troubled

Introduction: There beats in the heart of every human being a desire to belong somewhere. There's a nagging need for security, safety, community, and a place to call "home." We long for permanence. There are often places we go when we are troubled or anxious. For some it may be your room. For some it may be a special park, or place, a garden, a hiking trail, or anyplace that is special to us.

Many of the Psalms are very passionate complaints about circumstances the Psalmist does not understand - many are cries for relief from pain and uncertainty.

Psalm 119:143 Trouble and anguish have overtaken me, Yet Your commandments are my delights.

Psalm 42:7-10 Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me. [8] The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, And in the night His song shall be with me-- A prayer to the God of my life. [9] I will say to God my Rock, "Why have You forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?" [10] As with a breaking of my bones, My enemies reproach me, While they say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"

Last week I emphasized that no one becomes a Christian except for the reason that they see their sin before the holy God, repent of it, and put their hope solely in Jesus Christ for salvation from the wrath of God - and reconciliation with God. **When we speak of the good news**, that good news is that there is a way of salvation, a way to be forgiven, a way to know that one's sins will no longer be charged to their account on the day of judgment, and a way to stand perfectly just and righteous before the holy tribunal of God's judgment.

Living the Christian life is indeed at times very difficult - although in comparison to the tyranny and merciless oppression of our sinful nature from which we have been delivered it is, as Jesus promised us, "easy and light," it is nonetheless often very difficult. **Life still happens to us.** Incredible trials often take place, we experience periods of great testing or spiritual draughts, God brings us into circumstances that test our faith in God's goodness. And although we may always rest in the providential goodness of our covenant-keeping, promise-keeping God who loved us so much that He sent His dear Son to suffer and die for us, we are still often in need of comfort and encouragement when life goes against us and when our circumstances break our hearts and try us.

The precious passage before us is just such a passage - intended to administer peace, comfort, and the highest level of encouragement to those who sit here now with troubled hearts.

1. A Prepared Place - v1-2; 2. Received by Jesus - v3-4; 3. The Way - v5-6

1. A Prepared Place - v1-2

[1] "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

Point: It is a remarkable thing to consider that this is the night before Jesus was crucified and bore the wrath of God against the sins of all His people. With all of this facing Him - as troubled as He was in His spirit - as much as he was in desperate need of encouragement from others, notice where His thoughts are confined. He is thinking only of His band of doubtful, confused followers who would soon abandon Him - one of whom was about to betray Him - and one of whom would that very evening deny that he even knew Him three separate times.

Application: How patient, loving, and gracious is our God to us? Here the Lord Jesus is about to face the righteous anger of God the Holy Father - and be treated by the Father as if He was us and had committed all of our sins Himself - *and He is comforting His disciples.*

Application 2: We know from this passage that our God delights in being near His people - and, in fact, part of the glorification of His grace in saving is Jesus' bringing us to be *with Him*.

Point 2: It is difficult to know for sure exactly what the mood is of the verb translated here in v1 as "believe." The form of the indicative and imperative are *identical* in the original language. It is probably saying:

- You **do** believe in God (i.e. the Father), (imperative) **believe** also in me.

Remember one of the focal points of Christ's teaching and claims is that no one knows God or is rightly related to God if they do not love Him and believe in Him:

John 5:22-23 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, [23] that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

1 John 2:23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Illustration: Even when we recite the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed - we affirm our belief and trust in each of the members of the Triune God - "I believe in God the Father... I believe in Jesus Christ... I believe in the Holy Spirit." God is tri-personal and our faith rests in all three persons of the Godhead.

Application: This teaching is only going to become more and more scandalous in America as time goes on the more we stand for it.

Point 3: Why are Jesus' disciples so troubled?

- They had been hearing Jesus predict his suffering, crucifixion, and coming death
- They had just heard that one of them would betray Jesus - Judas, who just left the scene.
- Peter was just informed that he would deny Christ three times *before the rooster crowed*.
- And remember that John 14:1-6 comes right after the following passage:

John 13:33-38 Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you. [34] A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. [35] By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." [36] Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward." [37] Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake." [38] Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times.

[2] In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Point: Jesus here gives His disciples and indeed all who have come to faith in Him through their testimony over the centuries an incredible comfort and assurance. When the disciples heard Jesus' words that He was departing from them, their confusion could only have escalated. Their conception of what the kingdom of God would be *surely included Jesus remaining on the earth as an earthly king*. After leaving everything to follow Him, after seeing His incredible miracles, after hearing all that He taught, they are now being told that He will be leaving - and that "**Where I am going, you cannot come...**"

Point 2: Jesus is preparing a place for us - a permanent abiding place - it will be our eternal home - and He calls it "My Father's house." Not a temple or a tabernacle, but a house. We will "live" with God.

The book of Revelation describes the age of the New Heavens and the New Earth with

these stirring words: Rev. 21:2-3 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. [3] And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

Illustration: Throughout your life, what have you seen as "home?" When you are troubled and things do not make sense in your life - when you feel like an outsider or lost, *is there a place you think about where there is acceptance and safety - love and understanding?* Everyone wants this in their life, and yet it is the thing which often eludes us - **a sense of permanence, a sense of unending security.**

Illustration 2: If you are an adult, think back over all the changes you've gone through - all the things that have been dramatically altered throughout your life. Consider all the locations you have lived, the ground you have trod upon, the places you've slept... If any word could be used to adequately describe our lives in this world, it would be: **transitory** - things are always changing. We are changing - our relationships change - the seasons of our lives change.

Application: And yet, what is the thing that nags the very center of our being? To lay hold of that which will never change - *security, a permanent home, a place in which we will abide forever - free from fear, pain, turmoil, anxiety, rejection, and loss.*

Application 2: Jesus left this world to go and prepare such a place for us - our very own place to live - *to be - to exist forever.*

Jesus says here: "if it were not so, I would have told you."

- The doubter in all of us struggles to find true peace in this - but Jesus gives us this profound assurance - His own promise - so that we would never be ashamed or humiliated by our hope of heaven, and so that we will be spared from being profoundly disappointed after we close our eyes in death. [reread it]
- Keith Green once said at a concert: "I look around and see all the beauty that God made - the forests, the trees, and all the things... and it says in the Bible that He made them in six days. But I also know that Jesus Christ has been preparing a home for me and some of you for 2000 years. And if this world took six days and that home has taken 2000 years... then this must be living in a garbage can compared to what's going up there."

2. Received by Jesus - v3-4

[3] And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

John 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world."

Point: What a remarkable truth to ponder that our Lord and Savior **desires** to be *with us - to be near us - and to "receive us to Himself!"*

Illustration: 1 Thes. 4:16-18 [16] For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always **be with the Lord**. [18] Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Application: It is something every true Christian longs for - to finally be with the Lord who loved us, died specifically for our sins, who is our righteousness, our brother, and our friend - *and yet all of us struggle to even imagine such a thing.*

- **Imagine** - a home you will never leave, a place of pure joy, a place of life and peace, a place where all our tears will be wiped away. A place where we will actually look upon Jesus - we will look upon His very face ourselves. We will see God ourselves.

This has been the great hope and heart-cry of all true believers of all ages:

Rev. 22:3-5 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. [4] They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. [5] There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Job 19:25-27 For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; [26] And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, [27] Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

Application: Has God given us the task of dominion - subduing the earth to His glory? Yes. Has He given us a mission - to love one another, to love our spouses if we are married, to fulfill the Great Commission, to disciple our children if we have them? Yes. But our final *home* will be the place that Jesus has gone to prepare for us. **This is why Scripture refers to us as “sojourners” and “pilgrims”**

1 Peter 2:11-12 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, [12] having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Even at the end of the great hall of faith from Hebrews 11, listen to how the Word of God describes these great men and women of faith:

Hebrews 11:13-16 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were **strangers and pilgrims** on the earth. [14] For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek **a homeland**. [15] And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. [16] But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has **prepared a city for them**.

Question: Is *that* city your home? Is that the place you long for in your heart of hearts - *more than anything on earth?*

[4] And where I go you know, and the way you know."

Point: At this point in Jesus' life with these particular men, they "knew" where Jesus was going and they "knew" the way in the sense that He *had already told them many, many times*.

Consider what Jesus had told them already: "I am the bread of life," "I am the light of the world," "I am the door," "I am the good shepherd," and even at the tomb of Lazarus, when Lazarus came out alive even after he had begun to rot, Jesus said:

John 11:25 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

Application: Having seen all these things and heard all these things, the disciples "knew" the way - It was Jesus Himself.

3. The Way - v5-6

Point: Blinded by our sin and rebellion, man still longs to be in a permanent place of joy and happiness, security and love. And because of this sinful blindness, this attachment to that which will destroy him, man refuses to seek the only way to his ultimate happiness. It is only when God breaks the tight hold we all once had upon our sin - only when God opens our blind eyes and unstops our deaf ears and shows us just how grave the danger is that we are in that *He* then **convinces us of our sin and misery** and He shows us the way and puts us on it!

[5] Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" [6] Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Point: Thomas' question betrays his own profound confusion. Knowing him - the one who said he'd refuse to believe in Christ's resurrection unless he could put his hands into the scars - Thomas was probably wanting directions to where Jesus was going - i.e. "take a left on Jerusalem ave and go 3 miles, then go right on Judah parkway .4 miles, etc..."

Point 2: But Jesus turns Thomas confused question into a question of: *What is the way to this place you are preparing for us?*

Jesus' answer for the ages: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

- **way** - **Isaiah 53:6** "All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to **his own way**; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."
- **truth** - There is nothing more deadly than falsehood. To believe that a bridge is strong enough to hold you when, in fact, *it is not is deadly*. To believe things about spiritual reality that are false is the most dangerous part of being a human. Since the eyes and hearts of men are blinded by their sin to the truth - *what a remarkable revelation it is indeed to know that the truth has been revealed to us - it is a person: Jesus.*
- **life** - Jesus once told his hearers: **John 8:24** "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

Application: Before the Lord Jesus found us, we were lost - on the path of destruction - we had turned, each of us, to our own way. We had also been deceived and believed that which was false. And every moment of our existence was simply lived in the throws of death and inching ever closer to permanent and eternal death.

Application 2: But when Jesus Christ shined His saving mercy into our hearts, He embodied the way, the truth, and the life.

Question: if you are a Christian - if you have seen your sin and having become convinced of it and have been granted repentance and saving faith - ask yourself *why?* It is because the Lord Jesus - the very one who said the words in John 14:1-6, **desires that you would be with Him**. It is His desire to "received you to Himself" that where He is you may be also.

Therefore - whatever troubles you brought with you today into this sanctuary dear Christian, listen to the words of the One who has become to you: **the way, the truth, and the life:**

John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. [2] In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. [3] And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

Jude 1:24-25 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, [25] To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.