

The Promises of the Son: Living with the Father - Heaven

John 14 deals with encouraging the disciples to abide faithful though they did not understand many things at that time. John 14 magnifies the promises of the Son of God as their motivation to endure. Such is not without its benefits today.

John 14:1-31

ILLUSTRATION

We found ourselves without hotel accommodations while on a Gospel meeting a few weeks ago. After evening church services, a family invited us to stay the night with them at their house, to which I gladly accepted. There are 6 members in our family, and the host family was made up of 9 people! On the way to their house, one of my children asked with some anxiety, "where will we sleep?" She had calculated that 15 people would be sleeping under the same roof and possibly a pet or two. Where would we all sleep? She knew that our house has 3 bedrooms and when we have had to, people have slept in sleeping bags on the living room floor, couches, recliners, etc. Would we do the same? The young man who rode with us smiled and assured my girls all would be fine. There would be enough space to sleep and enough bathrooms.

As we pulled into the driveway, the automatic lights lit up and revealed what we would later describe as a mansion. As we walked through the house, we passed room after room after room - the young man said, "This is my father's house. There is always enough room in my father's house."

PASSAGE BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT INFORMATION

John 14 is part of a larger section that begins in John 13 (institution of the Lord's Supper) and runs through John 17:26 (Judas' betrayal kiss).

It is in this section:

- that Jesus rebukes Peter for standing in His way and saying he would never deny the Lord;
- this is where Jesus identifies Judas as his betrayer,
- promises the Holy Spirit as the Comforter,
- foretells His death and resurrection,
- speaks of the Vine and the branches,
- and prays the High priestly prayer.

This is a very impactful and world-altering section of Scripture. It is no wonder John 14 is the chapter of comfort.

1 John 14:1-3: Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled

BIBLE PASSAGE

“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 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. 3 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 14:1-3)

EXPLAIN THE TEXT

Google "Funeral Scriptures" and John 14 will show up in the top 5 along with Psalm 23, and neither have funerals as major themes. John 14 is commonly read at gravesides.

This is understandable since the Lord's words are full of comfort, especially when understood in context.

- Jesus strives to elevate man's thinking from earth to heaven.
 - For three years, the Lord has taught the disciples through signs, wonders, miracles, parables, prayers, teachings as a rabbi, debates, and by example.
 - He has said things like, "The Son of man does not have a place to lay His head" (Matthew 8:20), "render unto Caesar what is Caesar's..." (Mark 12:17), "Take up your cross and follow Me," (Matthew 16:24), "If any man come to Me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple," (Luke 14:26); "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you," (John 15:18).
 - The Lord had taught them to serve one another by washing their feet (John 13). He admonished them to have the spirit and innocence of a child if they desired to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 18:3).
 - He has warned them that one day He would leave them, dying a terrible death on the cross. (Luke 13:33)
 - **Is there any wonder why the disciples needed some comforting words?**
 - Their thinking needed to be focused on heaven and not on this world. This world is broken and cannot offer eternal peace, only heaven can give us that peace.
 - Jesus challenges His disciples to have the faith of Abraham and not consider this world as our home, but to look for a heavenly habitation where the Father lives!
 - **Hebrews 11:9-10; "By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign *land*, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God."**
- (John 14:1) **"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in **Me.**"**

- "Troubled" = agitated, to take away one's calmness
- The unique manner in how Jesus gives His disciples courage: "If you have faith in God's words, then have faith in My words, they too will give you courage and comfort!"
- (John 14:2-3) "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**. **3 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.**"
 - Even though Jesus would leave them for a while He promises to return for them after preparing a place.
 - Preparing a place means finishing the work of the Father, the plan of salvation for all mankind!
 - How comforting!
 - Earth is temporal, heaven is eternal. Jesus promises His disciples that their ultimate and eternal mansion awaits them in heaven! Comforting. Hence, "Let not your hearts be troubled, believe in God, believe also in Me."

2 John 14:4-6: "I AM the Way"

BIBLE PASSAGE

4 And you know the way where I am going.” 5 Thomas *said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” 6 Jesus *said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. (John 14:4-6)

EXPLAIN THE TEXT

Several apostles were known by their nicknames. Nicknames are interesting.

Sometimes they describe a character flaw or trait: shorty, red, curly, etc. Thomas was known then as the "Twin," but has been known throughout the ages as the "Doubter."

Maybe he deserved that nickname or maybe he did not. It stems from the time when he demanded proof of Jesus' resurrection. But this request for proof has followed Thomas even to this day, what has not is his dedication and love for the Lord.

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- vs. 4 - "And you know the 'WAY' where 'I Am' going"
 - Jesus introduced the only WAY to heaven, the only WAY to the Father, and that was through the "I AM."
 - While it may not have been evident to the 12, it is to us since we have the benefit of hindsight. the "I AM" is what God said to Moses.
- vs. 5 Thomas' claim is that he does not even know where Jesus is going, so how can he know how to get there?
 - At first glance this may seem typical Thomas - disconnected, doubting, aloof... but not so.
 - This question actually reveals quite the opposite.
 - The attitude of - "I want to make sure I have everything very clear. I don't want to suppose or guess anything. I don't want to miss getting where you are going, so I want direct and clear directions.
 - *"Thomas' question revealed his keen desire to be with Jesus (see John 11:16), "Therefore Thomas, who was called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let's also go, so that we may die with Him!"*
 - *and this meant that he had to know where the Master was going and how he himself would get there.*
 - *The Lord made it clear that He was going to the Father, and that **He was the only way to the Father.***
 - *Heaven is a real place, a loving place, **and an exclusive place.***
 - ***Not everybody is going to heaven, but rather only those who have trusted Jesus Christ (see Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:4–6).***

- **"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)**
 - **"who wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time." (1 Timothy 2:4-6)**
 - *Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). The Bible exposition commentary (Vol. 1, p. 350). Victor Books.*
- vs. 6 **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me."**
- Christianity has preached Christ for centuries but has failed to respect and cling to the Way, Truth, and Life of John 14:6.
 - Much could be expounded upon the words of the WAY (hodós - gate, road, path, etc), Truth (**alēthēia, alaytheeya**, exact, one and only, no other and absolute), Life (**zōē**, *dzo-ay* life or time), but...
 - Jesus explains to the 11
 - **"The richness of this "I am" statement is astounding. Jesus is the Way. Jesus is the Truth. Jesus is the Life. But of these, the major teaching here is that Jesus is the ONLY Way to the Father. Jesus is the true and living way to the Father."** Bryant, B. H., & Krause, M. S. (1998). John (Jn 14:6). College Press Pub. Co.
 - Why is Jesus the Only True and Living Way to the Father? Because Jesus Himself is God!
 - John 1:1-2; "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God."
 - John 1:14; "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

CONCLUSION

- Let not your hearts be troubled is not Jesus telling us how to feel but an encouragement that there is no need to be afraid forever.
- The 12 had seen Jesus persecuted, and now they were about to see the worse in the ministry of their Lord, His crucifixion.
- But it is one thing to see someone else suffer and undergo your persecution.
- This conversation Jesus had with the 11 offers them hope as the Lord promises them what the world cannot:
 - An eternal home in heaven with God (1-6)
 - Promises the Holy Spirit to comfort them and advocate for them on earth (15-27)
 - The promise of consolation in view of going to the Father (28-31)
 - It would be a rough few hours to come, a rough life to come in Christ and His mission, but "let not your hearts be troubled, believe in God, also believe in Me."
- Plan of Salvation!