

LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED

John 14:1-18

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 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. 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. And where I go you know, and the way you know."

Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves."

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."

"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

The programming of this world is set on getting you to look at anything but Jesus. I haven't seen any contemporary movies in quite a few years but what I know of older movies where there didn't seem to be a problem with mentioning God. If good things happened in an extraordinary way, "thank God." If things didn't quite **go so well** then it might have been attributed to one not **living so well**, karma as it's called, sort of how the ancient religions were trying to at least appease the gods by honoring them by setting food and/or drink

out for them by the idol or image they constructed as a symbolic reference to their being. It's funny how God made a mockery of how the people would burn half the tree in the fire to cook their food and the other half they would make into an idol to worship. (**Isaiah 44**) Yet in the movies, whether one was a winner of the daily double or trifecta at the horse races or whether little Johnny had a last minute donor so that he could have surgery just before he draws his last breath, God has been represented in our culture, and even going all the way back to ancient cultures, as a mysterious entity that may or may not give credence and help to your cause, like the roll of the dice. That is what is called social programming or a form of brain washing. The world will try and tell us that the Bible is the tool of the powers that be to brain wash us. Who are we going to listen to, God Almighty, creator of the heavens and the earth, our Creator, or the one in power in this world who is the father of all lies as Jesus called him (John 8:44), who is only out to steal kill and destroy anything that is meaningful and precious to God. You my friends are very precious to God and He has given us a tool to deprogram us from the ways of the world, to know His ways which leads us in a victorious life in Christ Jesus!

To go along with that then is that the hope that the world promotes is to just get as much as you can out of this world with the philosophy, "eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die." (**Isaiah 22:13**) God spoke through the prophet Isaiah to the Israelites about the flaw in that foolish thinking as well. The key ingredient was missing from that choice of lifestyles. The world, in the best of times will throw food and clothing at you and say, be warm and filled and content. You've heard of bread and circuses? In the worst of times the world will just tell you to lift yourself up and do what you can to make your life more meaningful or desirable, all the while they may be stomping on you and kicking you. There's a euphemism in there if you look closely. The world will get people chasing after food, clothing, shelter, and entertainment and worthless trinkets to give us meaning to an otherwise wretched existence (without God it is). But in the end it can be as Jesus said, "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (**Matthew 16:26**) Just prior to that Jesus stated, "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." (**vs. 25**)

Praise be to God that we have His Word! For all of you familiar with the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Bible knows that speaking of the Word of God has a two-fold meaning. There is the Bible, that is the Word of God, and then there is what the Apostle John tells us at the beginning of his gospel of the origin of the Word of God (of which really has no beginning nor end). "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing

was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." (John 1:1-5) "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

When Jesus was teaching in the temple, "The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?" (John 7:15) Because JESUS IS THE WORD OF GOD. What that means for us, or should mean to us, is that you can't have the teachings of Jesus without having Jesus. Our forefathers, that is, the men who founded this country, established it on Christian principles. If the story is true that Thomas Jefferson cut out all of the miracles of Jesus so as to just have His teachings, he as well as all of us are one day going to be standing before Christ. You can't have the Word without the Word of God. The Bible in and of itself is just a book with a bunch of words. But with the Holy Spirit, He brings it to life to minister to our hearts and minds. The world will lead you on all sorts of paths but it is in Jesus who has all the answers and provision we need or should want. John wrote in his 1st epistle, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." (1 John 2:15-17) That is not to say we are living in a system of rules and laws but rather it is saying as a believer on Christ, as a child of God, it is what we should not be doing and what we should be doing, according to the will and honor of God, our Creator. It all boils down to John also saying in his first epistle, "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." (1 John 5:12) Living according to godly principles is nice but do you have Jesus? If so, praise the Lord! If not, it isn't too late. Tomorrow may be too late, who knows? None of us are guaranteed tomorrow. Let's go to our Scripture.

Jesus says to His disciples, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me." Jesus gives us shortly, in His dialogue with His disciples, what exactly we are to believe in Jesus about. I picture Jesus though when He was saying this, that He said this with the deepest compassion and love that could be shown from one person to another, or in this case as Jesus was speaking to His beloved disciples. We too are Jesus' disciples as we bear fruit for God's kingdom and glory. Bearing fruit in Christ, by the way, is not in how many people we lead to say a sinners prayer or in how many people we tell about Jesus, which is all good stuff if we are bearing the fruit of the Spirit of which the chief among them is love. We are merely sowing seeds or watering seeds that have already begun to sprout. "So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who

waters, but God who gives the increase." (1 Corinthians 3:7) The fruit of the Spirit is "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23)

So Jesus told His disciples, and He therefore is telling us, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me." Then He says that He is going to prepare a place for us. It is interesting that the disciples didn't hone in on the fact that Jesus told them "In My Father's house are many mansions (or also translated as rooms); if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 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. And where I go you know, and the way you know." The disciples had been with Jesus three to three and a half years. We can know this, by the way, according to the three annual Passover accounts in the book of John. Understandably, the disciples had grown rather fond of their Lord and Teacher. What was a concern is what Thomas then asked, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"

This leads us to the core of Jesus' teaching. "Jesus said to him, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." While Jesus was constantly prepping His disciples with the fact that He was going to suffer and die and as He said in this passage of Scripture that He was going to prepare a place for us, the bottom line to what Jesus was telling them is this: "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Can you see that? You may say that Jesus had to divert the conversation from His teaching towards the questions of His disciples but we have to ALWAYS keep in mind that God is omniscient and He always knows what we are in need of even before we ask for anything. As Jesus tells us from Matthew 6:31-34, ""Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." As He did His disciples, of which now we are His disciples (Jesus said, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed"-John 8:31), Jesus is even now telling us, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

In Jesus' teachings He not only is saying, "wait 'til you see what I am going to prepare for you!" He is also saying, "I got you my

beloved from the beginning of your faith to the end." While Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" our minds have a tendency to race ahead to be thinking, "what about tomorrow", "Lord I need a job", "Lord I need a place to stay", "Lord I'm struggling with this problem or that." Jesus is telling us, as He was telling His disciples, as Jesus knew what was in their hearts, their fears and their concerns, likewise He knows our worries and problems and concerns, He is telling us day after day, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." There is no problem known to man that can trouble God. There is no circumstance that can fluster God. Will we put our trust in Jesus? That is the question that is before us, moment by moment, day after day, week after week, year after year until He takes us home to see the glorious place that He has prepared for us. We are told by God in His Word to cast all our care upon Him for He cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7) That word cast, by the way is the same word used when the people cast their clothes on the colt for Jesus to ride triumphantly into Jerusalem. If visuals help you, consider when you cast your care upon Jesus that He is resting upon it. Therefore we then trust that Jesus has that problem covered. Amen?

Thomas' question spoke well of himself. Thomas didn't ask for Jesus to describe his beautiful and glorious mansion. The concern of the disciples was that Jesus was saying He was going away but that He was going to prepare a place for them. I have confessed before that many times I take my eyes off of Jesus down here and I'm looking for Jesus up there. Or if I am looking to Jesus down here I'm looking for the Jesus that heals, saves, and delivers, moreso the glorious and victorious Jesus than the humble and loving Jesus. I am though encouraged frequently in seeing Jesus in others in their loving God and then in loving one another. When Jesus said "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven", (Matthew 5:16) He wasn't strictly thinking of the John Wesleys or Charles Spurgeons of the world. He was and is looking to us to share and show the love and the gospel of Jesus Christ and as God sees fit, He gives the increase. Not one of us should think of ourselves as insignificant in the eyes of God. God has a plan and purpose for each of us. An exercise we did in Kairos prison ministry is something that we can do too, right now. In quoting John 3:16-17, replace "the world" with your name. It is true and it is appropriate for us all to realize that Jesus is not going to leave any of His beloved sheep behind. "For God so loved [your name] that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son [your name] to condemn [your name], but that [your name] through Him might be saved." It is personal! God wants to personally know you and you Him!

If I were to summarize the gospel of Jesus Christ it would be something like this, "God is building His eternal kingdom, bringing those who want to be in His kingdom to be one in Him and that all happens through Jesus Christ and through the penalty He paid for our sins against God." Just as John said was the purpose of his writing his gospel account, "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that **believing you may have life in His name.**" (**John 20:31**) That we may have life in Christ Jesus! When we receive Christ we become a new creation, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (**2 Corinthians 5:17**) It is being born again, born of the Spirit as Jesus told Nicodemus in **John 3**. While that may not be breaking news to most of us we can all continue to rejoice and give praise to God that He has revealed to us that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that we glorify God in living our new life in Jesus Christ our Lord!

To continue in Jesus' teaching in John 14, Jesus said, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.**" There have been a multitude of commentaries written on what Jesus meant in that passage. Some of those works that could be considered greater were recorded in Acts. People who needed a healing were being brought out into the streets so that just the shadow of Peter would heal them. (**Acts 5:15**) In Acts 19:12 we are told that handkerchiefs that were touched by Paul were healing people. A quote I've used before is from Haddon Robinson where he says, "'For Christ, perfect God, to work directly on a lost soul to quicken and bring out of death and into life is great, but for Him to do the same thing through us is greater work.'"¹ Another thing to consider is that Jesus was only in ministry some 3-3-1/2 years. Imagine if Jesus had a 40 year ministry. Unfortunately, they would have installed Jesus as the first pope or had Him as a king if He had stuck around. Yet that wasn't His mission was it? Jesus fulfilled His mission and left us to continue in the building of God's kingdom as Jesus told His disciples after He had risen from the dead, "**Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things.**" (**Luke 24:46-48**)

"For it pleased the Father that in Him [Jesus] all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in

1 Haddon Robinson, *Biblical Preaching*, pg. 56 (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014)

the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— **if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel** which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.”

(Colossians 1:19-23) That right there is the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul was confirming exactly what Jesus was telling His disciples. Yet we are to always be reminded, as Jesus tells us, **“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”** **(John 15:5)**

How does that work? We know that it is in the Holy Spirit that He gives us! **“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”** We are first led BY THE HOLY SPIRIT to believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God and then we are led to repentance to obey God. The keeping of His commandments is the Holy Spirit working in us to will and to do for His good pleasure.

(Philippians 2:13) As the Holy Spirit works in us we begin to love God and love others, just as Jesus said that was the great commandment. The new commandment that Jesus gave His disciples He gives to us, **“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”** **(John 13:34)** That means to **“love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.”** **(Matthew 5:44)** That can truly be done in only one way—IN CHRIST!

Indeed, GOD is still presently building His eternal kingdom, and using US to do so, looking for those who are lost to hear the Words of Jesus Christ our Lord, **“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”**