**Why is your Heart Troubled?**

**John 14: 1-14**

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe[a] in God; believe also in me. 2 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? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can 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 except through me. 7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” 9 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 us the Father’? 10 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. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe[e] because of the works themselves. 12 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. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

As we have been working our way through the Gospel of John, we have encountered several different I am statements and scenes. Let me remind you of some of these: I am the bread of life, I am the light of the World, I am the door of the sheep, I am the good shepherd, I am the resurrection and life, and today we hear I am the way the truth and the life. The scenes include: the wedding at Cana, Jesus's conversation with Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman at the well, the raising of Lazarus, and the washing of the disciples' feet. We really have to look back at John 11, 12, and 13 to really understand today’s readings.

It is always a shock when we or someone has to leave, and go away for a period of time. Maybe it’s going away to college, or moving out of state, or maybe losing a love one. I get it.

When I was young, I remember our family taking family vacations to visit relatives in Florida, Mississippi, and Indiana. It seemed that we just got there and we were already planning to leave. You could say that our hearts were troubled, there was sadness, there were those thoughts of not seeing our love ones, ever again.

Today we see Jesus continuing to prepare his disciples for his leaving. They are confused, uncertain, angry, in doubt. They had been with him for over 3 years. Wherever he went, they went. They had put everything they had into the Messiah. They were hoping that he was going to be that one who would rule over all of the nations. They had loved him and trusted him and they thought that he was the one to bring new breath that they needed.

The scene is set! Jesus has entered Jerusalem. The place is in a room big enough for his disciples and himself. Jesus lays it out, all on the table for them. Jesus predicted His death, he washed the feet of the disciples, he predicted the betrayal of Judas and the denial of Peter, and given the disciples His command to love one another. Now, He speaks words of comfort.

If you ever wanted to be a fly on the wall, it would have been that night, in that upper room on the night of the last supper, the last night that he would be with his disciples, Jesus knew that when he went to the cross, and as he hung on the cross, and died their hearts were going to be troubled. He tells them he is leaving them. But, he will return, and he says to them I will not leave you alone.

The disciples had every reason to have a troubled heart! Jesus, had just told them that one of them was a traitor, that all of them would deny Him, and that He would leave them that night. All of this would legitimately trouble the disciples, yet Jesus told them,

“Do not let not your hearts be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me.”

An Alberta man left the snow-filled streets of Calgary for a vacation in Florida. His wife was on a business trip and was planning to meet him there the next day. When he reached his hotel, he decided to send his wife a quick E-mail message. Unable to find the scrap of paper on which he had written her E-mail address, he did his best to type it from memory. Unfortunately, he missed one letter in the E-mail address and his note was directed instead to an elderly preacher's wife, whose husband had passed away only the day before. When the grieving widow checked her E-mail, she took one look at the computer monitor and let out a scream; and fell to the floor in a dead faint. At the sound, her family rushed into the room and saw this note on the screen: Dearest Wife, Just got checked in. Everything prepared for your arrival tomorrow. P.S. Sure is hot down here!

Jesus’ connection to the Father is of paramount importance in the Gospel reading. Convincing His disciples of this connection is one of our Savior’s goals in John 14:1–14. The other is that although He is leaving, He will return. And what is more, He will not leave them alone. This is so apparent In verses 2&3. 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? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

Jesus never wanted us to have life without trouble, but He promised that we could have an untroubled heart even in a troubled life. This was in some sense a command. “The form of the imperative implies that they should ‘stop being troubled.’ ‘Set your heart at ease’ would be a good translation.” Jesus didn’t say, “I’m happy you men are troubled and filled with doubts. Your doubts are wonderful.” “He takes no delight in the doubt and disquietude of his people. When he saw that because of what he had said to them sorrow had filled the hearts of his disciples, he pleaded with them in great love, and reassured them to be comfort.

I am sure that the disciples felt that Jesus’ departure was like a torture. But he consoled them with such simple and glorious words. You believe in God, believe also in Me: Instead of giving in to a troubled heart, Jesus told them to firmly put their trust in God and in Jesus Himself. This was a call to trust in Jesus just as one would trust in God the Father, and a promise that doing so would bring comfort and peace to a troubled heart. Jesus is urging His followers to continue to believe in the Father and to continue to believe also in Him.

My friends, Jesus is urging us to be reminded of these words, and to have that special relationship with him. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places, mansions, rooms; Jesus spoke with complete confidence about heaven, here spoken of as His Father’s house. Jesus didn’t wonder about the life beyond this earth; He knew it and told His disciples that there was room for all in heaven. That’s the good news of the Gospel, we are reassured of a room in the kingdom of God. Whatever dwelling place God has for us in heaven, it will be as glorious as a mansion. Jesus prepares a place for His people because He loves them and is confident of their arrival.

James Barrie was the man who wrote Peter Pan, among other works. One of his books was about his mother, Margaret Ogilvy, and his growing up in Scotland. His mother endured a lot of misery in life, including the tragic death of one of her sons. According to Morrison, Barrie wrote that his mother’s favorite Bible chapter was John 14. She read it so much that when her Bible was opened and set down, the pages naturally fell open to this place. Barrie said that when she was old and could no longer read these words, she would stoop down to her Bible and kiss the page where the words were printed.

 In closing, I would like to touch on the two disciples, Thomas and Phillip. First, Thomas the doubter. In verse 4, Jesus says: 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can 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 except through me. 7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” I believe that Jesus is reminding Thomas and us that we can only get to that mansion through him. More reassurance of a place of comforting peace and joy. Finally, Phillip, 8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” 9 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 us the Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The disciples certainly had learned and known much about God in their three years of apprenticeship under Jesus. Yet Jesus understood that since they had not yet seen the full revelation of God’s love at the cross and His power at the resurrection, there was a sense in which they would only now know and see God. Philip had seen and experienced much in following Jesus, but had not yet seen God the Father with his physical eyes. Perhaps he thought that such an experience would bring life-changing assurance and courage. Once again Jesus is reminding a disciple of his doubts, and uncertainty.

There was once an absent-minded professor who became so absorbed in his work that he forgot the simplest details. One morning his wife said, "Now Henry, remember, we are moving today. Here, I'm putting this note in your pocket. Don't forget." The day passed by and the man came home to his house. He entered the front door, and found the place empty. Distraught, he walked out to the curb and sat down. A young boy walked up to him, and he asked him, "Little boy, do you know the people who used to live here?" The boy replied, "Sure, Dad, mother told me you'd forget." How often do we become so absorbed in "the little things of this world" that we forget who we are and whose we are and where we are going...

My friends, I don’t know where you are today in your Christian life. But I can reassure you that if your heart is troubled. Let it go! Jesus has this and he is reassuring you and I that we will have a place in his father’s kingdom. The Christian faith will receive anyone who comes through Jesus. Jesus said, through Me Let not your hearts be troubled, Believe in God Believe also in me! A-Men