

Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

Text: John 14:1-14

Introduction: “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.”

I have read those words by the bedside of many people who were nearing the end of their life. I have stood at countless funerals and by many gravesides and read those words. This passage often forms the textual basis for the homily that I share at funerals.

Our Lord Jesus first spoke these words as He was nearing His own death. In just a few short hours, He would be arrested. In less than 24 hours, He would be crucified. In less than 72 hours, He would be raised from the dead. And in just over 40 days, He would ascend into heaven.

So, it's very appropriate that we would connect these words with death. But when Jesus spoke them, He wasn't preparing His disciples for their own death. He was preparing them for His death.

We're in a sermon series on what is known as the Farewell Discourse. It's the portion of Scripture in John's Gospel from chapter 13 to chapter 17. Where Jesus, on the night that He was arrested, spent His last hours with His disciples preparing them for all that was about to transpire.

There was much to trouble their hearts. They had left everything to follow Jesus. They had witnessed His amazing miracles. They had heard His powerful teaching. They had come to believe that He was Israel's Messiah. They were ready. Ready for Jesus to establish His kingdom.

They didn't understand that first He had to die. You can see why their hearts might be troubled as Jesus was arrested in Gethsemane. You can see why their hearts might be troubled as He was wrongly accused and put on trial facing false charges. You can see why their hearts might be troubled as He was sentenced to death. You can understand why their hearts might be troubled as He was crucified between two criminals. You can see why their hearts might be troubled as His dead body lay in a cold tomb from Friday evening to Sunday morning.

There was much to trouble their hearts. But Jesus said, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.”

Maybe you're here this morning and your heart is troubled. Likely for a different reason than Jesus' disciples, but troubled, nonetheless. In John 14, Jesus offers gospel hope to the troubled hearts of His disciples. He offers this same gospel hope to you this morning.

So, let's read John 14. I'm going to read verses 1-14. If you haven't already turned there in your Bible, please go ahead and do so. If you need a Bible, you can use the one in the pew rack in front of you. You'll find John 14 on page 847 there.

(Read John 14:1-14...pray)

In John 14, the Lord Jesus makes you three promises that should comfort your troubled heart.

I. Jesus promises you a place called heaven (John 14:1-2).

A. Jesus speaks to His disciples and says, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me” (vs. 1).

- 1. It's hard to know exactly what the disciples were thinking at this point. They seem to have been mostly just confused.**
 - a. Jesus had washed their feet. They didn't really understand why He was doing that. We know because Peter initially told Jesus, “You shall never wash my feet.” Once he came around, he exclaimed, “Not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”**
 - b. We probably shouldn't assume that the other disciples had any better grasp of what was happening than Peter did. They just weren't as outspoken with their lack of understanding.**
 - c. Then when Jesus told them that one of them would betray Him, Peter put John up to asking Jesus who it was who would betray him.**

- d. But even after Jesus told them in a veiled way who it was, they still didn't get it. They thought Jesus was sending Judas out for some other reason.
 - e. The disciples seem to have been mostly just confused at this point in the night.
2. But their confusion would soon give way to fear.
 - a. We know because Mark's Gospel tells us that after Jesus was arrested, all the disciples left Him and fled.
 - b. We also know that Peter denied Jesus three times just as Jesus told him he would. The primary reason for Peter's denial was fear. What would people think of him and do to him if they knew of his relationship to Jesus?
 3. So, it's in that context that Jesus says to His disciples, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me."
 4. I wonder what may have your heart troubled this morning. Maybe it's your health. Maybe it's the health of someone you love. Maybe it's your finances. Maybe it's your marriage. Maybe it's a wayward child. Maybe it's something no one else knows but you.
 5. I want you to know that Jesus speaks to you this morning and says, "Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me."
 6. Notice what Jesus doesn't do. He doesn't tell His disciples that it's really not that bad. It's bad. He's getting ready to be arrested. He's innocent, but He's going to be convicted anyway. And then He's going to be crucified on a cross. It's bad.
 7. So, my message to you this morning is not that your circumstances are really not as bad as you think they are. Cancer is bad. Death is bad. Job loss is bad. Divorce is bad. Apostasy is bad. I'm not trying to convince you that your circumstances aren't bad.
 8. I'm trying to convince you that God is good. Jesus says, "Believe in God; believe also in me.
 9. The way to have an untroubled heart even in the midst of terrible circumstances is to believe in God and believe in Jesus.
 10. Now, maybe you need to believe in God and trust in Jesus for the very first time. But that wasn't the case for Jesus' disciples. They had left everything to follow Jesus. They believed in Him.
 11. What Jesus is saying is "Keep on believing in God. Keep on trusting in me. Despite all that is getting ready to happen. No matter how bad it gets. Do not be troubled. Believe in God. Believe in me."
 12. Goshen, no matter what you're facing. In the midst of the worst circumstances of your life. Keep believing God. Keep trusting Jesus.
- B. Jesus could have stopped there. But He doesn't. He goes on. And He gives His disciples the hope of heaven (vs. 2). (Read vs. 2)
 1. When Jesus talks about His Father's house, He's talking about heaven.
 2. And He says that in His Father's house, there are many rooms. What He means is that there is plenty of room for all who will come after Him.
 3. As they faced all that lay ahead of them in the coming hours, Jesus' disciples needed to know that this world is not all that there is.
 4. And in the midst of your circumstances this morning, you need to know that this world is not all that there is.
 5. There is a real place called heaven. A real place created by God for His people to dwell with Him forever. A place that John later describes in Revelation 21 as free of death, and mourning, and crying, and pain. So very different from this world in which we find ourselves now.
 6. But what does Jesus mean that He's going "to prepare a place" for them? Jesus doesn't mean that He's going to strap on His toolbelt and get to work. The preparation that Jesus is talking about is not done with a hammer and nails. It's done with a cross and a tomb.

7. **The way that Jesus would prepare a place for His disciples was through His death and resurrection. It's the same way that He has prepared a place for you and for me.**
8. **He gave His life for us. He came to this earth. Took on flesh. Lived a sinless life. And then gave His life on Calvary's cross to pay for our sin. That's how He prepared a place for you.**
9. **Believe in God. Believe also in Jesus.**

We've seen that Jesus promises a place called heaven. Now I want you to see that...

II. Jesus promises you a path to heaven (John 14:3-11).

A. Listen to the hope-giving words of Jesus in verse 3. (Read vs. 3)

1. **The hope of heaven is Jesus.**
2. **Jesus is getting ready to die. He's going to be resurrected. But then He's going to ascend into heaven.**
3. **But He promises His disciples here in verse 3 that He's going to return. He's going to return to take them to Himself. He says, "That where I am you may be also."**
4. **The promise Jesus makes to His disciples is that they will be with Him.**
5. **There are other places in the Bible where we are given descriptions of heaven. But here, there's no description of heaven because the focus isn't the place. The focus is the person. The person of Jesus Christ.**
6. **The disciples have been following Jesus for three years. He's getting ready to be taken from them. But before He goes, Jesus promises them, "You will be with me where I am."**
7. **I wonder what you think about when you think about heaven. I'll tell you what I hear about most when people talk about heaven: "I'm just so happy that Grandpa is now up there in heaven with Grandma. I bet they're up there having a good old time together."**

8. **WHAT ABOUT JESUS? The hope of heaven is Jesus! The hope of heaven is that we will be with God!**
9. **I believe we will know one another in heaven, and being reunited with loved ones who were also followers of Jesus will be one of the many joys of heaven. But it's not even close to the primary joy of heaven. The primary joy of heaven is that we will be with God! We will be with Jesus!**

B. But how do we get there?

1. **Jesus tells the disciples, "And you know the way to where I am going" (vs. 4).**
 - a. **Notice that Jesus doesn't say, "You WILL know the way to where I am going."**
 - b. **He says, "You KNOW."**
2. **But they're not so sure. This time it's not Peter who speaks up. Or even Peter urging John to speak up. It's Thomas. And Thomas says, "Lord, we do not know WHERE you are going. How can we know the way?" (vs. 5).**
3. **Thomas' words reveal that he, and likely the other disciples, still don't get it. They're understanding Jesus' words in a very wooden manner. They think Jesus is talking primarily about a place. They think they need to know the location where Jesus is going and a map to show them how to get there.**
4. **But listen to Jesus' response in verse 6. (Read vs. 6)**
5. **Jesus says, "I am the way!" The disciples know the way because they know Jesus. Jesus isn't talking about a location or a destination. He's talking about a person. Himself! He is the way!**
6. **Jesus is the way to God because He is the truth of God and the life of God.**
7. **How do you get to God? Only through Jesus. Only through His sinless life and sacrificial death on the cross to pay for your sin. Only through turning from your sin and clinging to Jesus in faith. He is the way!**

C. I want you to see very clearly the exclusivity of Jesus' statement in verse 6.

- 1. Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME."**
- 2. We live in a pluralistic culture of many ways to God.**
 - a. Many religious people think that the way to relationship with God is through good works. You have to do all the right things and avoid all the bad things. And if you do enough good things and don't do too many bad things, then you'll go to heaven with God.**
 - b. Many others argues that all religions are the same. Everyone just has to find their own path to God. The illustration that is sometimes given for this is the idea that God is at the top of a mountain. You might climb the mountain one way. Someone else might climb the mountain another way. Still someone else another way. It doesn't matter how you get there. It just matters that you get to the top of the mountain.**
 - c. But Jesus is saying here in John 14:6 that there's no way possible for you to get to the top of the mountain on your own. There's no way for you to get to God by yourself. But the good news of the gospel is that Jesus came down the mountain for us, and He brings us to God.**
 - d. See, every other religion gives you a list of things you have to do in order for you to climb the mountain and get to God. The problem is that you'll always fall short. You'll never make it. But Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**
- 3. The message of the gospel is inclusive in the sense that anyone who turns from their sin and places their trust in Jesus will be saved. But it is exclusive in the sense that Jesus is the only way. Jesus does not say that He is A way. He says that He is THE way.**

- 4. Goshen family, it's essential that we hold fast to this truth. This truth is what motivates our missions and evangelism. We believe that the only way for anyone to be made right with God is for them to turn from their sin and trust in Jesus. Maybe you know someone who is a good person. Or someone who is very devoted to their religion. The truth is that they need to be saved. Their only hope for a right relationship with God is to turn from their sin and place their trust in Jesus. Let's not talk ourselves into thinking that there's any other way. There isn't. Jesus is the way. So, we must commit ourselves to pointing people to Him.**
- 5. Christianity makes a lot of claims about what is true in the world, but this is the most offensive and controversial of them all. The world doesn't understand this claim that Jesus is the only way. But we didn't make it up. We got it directly from Jesus when He said very clearly, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**

D. If you look at verse 7, you'll see that Jesus makes another staggering claim about Himself. (Read vs. 7)

- 1. Jesus says that to know Him is to know the Father. So much so that to see Him is to see the Father.**
- 2. This is not unlike what John writes about Jesus in the prologue when He says in 1:18, "No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known."**
- 3. But we know that the disciples still don't get it at this point because Philip speaks up and says, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us" (vs. 8).**
 - a. Perhaps you can relate to Philip a little bit. Maybe there have been times in your life when you have wished for some kind of sign of God's presence and reality.**
 - b. God, if you do this or that, then I'll believe that you're really there.**

- c. **The truth is that God has already revealed Himself to us in Jesus. And He has given us His Word so that we can truly know Him.**
4. **Jesus' response to Philip indicates a degree of sadness and disappointment (vs. 9). (Read vs. 9)**
 - a. **The disciples have been following Jesus for three years at this point. They've seen His miracles. They've heard His teaching. And yet they still do not fully grasp who He is.**
 - b. **Perhaps this is a warning to those of us who have spent our entire lives in church and around the things of God. It is possible for you to have heard all the Bible stories. It is possible for you to know all the religious lingo. It is possible for you to spend your entire life in close proximity to God and the things of God and yet not truly know God.**
 5. **Jesus asks you the same question that He asked Philip, "Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?" (vs. 10a).**
 6. **Then Jesus says... (Read vs. 10b)**
 7. **Jesus highlights the doctrine of the Trinity in His response to Philip. He says that He is in the Father and the Father is in Him. Along with the Holy Spirit (whom Jesus will talk about in the second half of chapter 14), they are one. But they are also distinct, as Jesus says, "I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works." God is one. But He is three persons. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**
 8. **Jesus then urges His disciples to believe Him (vs. 11). (Read vs. 11)**
 9. **Here Jesus isn't simply urging them to trust Him. He's urging them to believe that what He has just said is true. He is in the Father and the Father is in him.**
 10. **If they need proof that what He says is true, they should remember His miracles. They were there when He turned water into wine. They were there when He fed the 5,000. They were there when He raised Lazarus**

from the dead. Those miracles and many more should be all the proof they need that Jesus is who He says He is.

We've seen that Jesus promises you a place called heaven. We've seen that Jesus promises you a path to heaven. And finally, we see that...

III. Jesus promises you power from heaven (John 14:12-14).

A. Listen to what Jesus says in verse 12. (Read vs. 12)

1. **We've already mentioned some of the works that Jesus did. He turned water into wine. He fed 5,000. He raised Lazarus from the dead. He healed blind and lame people. He did some pretty amazing miracles, didn't He?**
2. **But here in verse 12, He tells His disciples that whoever believes in Him will do these works AND even greater works.**
3. **What in the world does Jesus mean by this? Can you think of any greater works than healing people who've been blind or lame their whole life? Can you think of anything greater than raising someone from the dead?**
4. **Jesus doesn't mean that those who believe in Him will do more spectacular or more supernatural works than Him. Because nothing could be done that's more spectacular than what Jesus did.**
5. **But what if we consider Jesus' words in the larger context of God's plan of redemption? The works of Jesus' disciples and those believers who would come after them would be greater in extent.**
 - a. **Think geographically. The work of Jesus during His time on earth was pretty limited geographically to one small part of the world. But today, there are believers all over the world continuing the work that Jesus started.**
 - b. **What about ethnically? Jesus focused His ministry almost entirely on the Jews. Yet now, Jesus' followers are both Jew and Gentile. There will one**

day be followers of Jesus from every tribe, tongue, and nation gathered around the throne of God.

c. What about numerically? The book of Acts begins with a few dozen followers of Jesus. But on the Day of Pentecost, 3,000 people turned from their sin and placed their trust in Jesus. And today, there are millions of people on the planet who are followers of Jesus.

6. But let's be clear. The distinction here is not between works done by Jesus and works done by His disciples. The distinction is between works Jesus did while on earth and works Jesus is still accomplishing from heaven through His people here on earth. The work still belongs to Jesus.

B. We see this very clearly in verses 13-14. (Read vs. 13-14)

- 1. These verses are sometimes stripped from their context to support a name-it-claim-it approach to prayer.**
- 2. But in their context, we can see very clearly that this is not what Jesus has in mind here.**
- 3. When Jesus promises to do anything we ask in His name, Jesus is not talking about things we might ask for ourselves like a lucrative job or a new car. Rather, He's talking about works done for the kingdom so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**
- 4. This is why I try to focus our times of corporate prayer on things we know Jesus desires to do. Like protecting the unborn. Standing for justice. Advancing the gospel.**
- 5. Praying in Jesus name isn't tacking "In Jesus name, amen" on to the end of our prayers. Praying in Jesus' name is praying in accord with His will as revealed in Scripture.**
- 6. Isn't it good to know that Jesus hasn't left us on our own. He didn't ascend into heaven and say, "Good luck!" No, He has promised to be with us. To empower us as we advance His kingdom for His glory.**

Conclusion: We started out the sermon talking about verse 1. Jesus says, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me."

We've seen three promises that provide comfort to our troubled hearts.

- Jesus promises a place called heaven.
- Jesus promises a path to heaven.
- Jesus promises power from heaven.

The challenge now for us is to believe the promises of Jesus. That was a challenge for the disciples as well.

Jesus was getting ready to be arrested. He was getting ready to be put on trial. And He was getting ready to be crucified. A lot of uncertainty surrounded their lives and all that was about to transpire. But Jesus said to them, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me."

He says the same thing to you this morning. No matter what you're going through. No matter what difficulties you're facing. No matter how bleak your circumstances appear. Jesus says, "Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me."