

Changes that take place in the heart of a Kingdom servant

Lesson for November 23 – Jim Grushon

Introduction:

Throughout most of our study, we have emphasized the existence of the Kingdom of God across history. Recognizing that God has always been King is an important fact. However, that knowledge does not help us understand the change in our hearts that God brings when we commit our lives to the Kingdom of Heaven, God's eternal Kingdom, and the restoration of what was lost in the garden etc.

In John 14, Jesus begins giving his final instructions to his disciples. He is just days away from the crucifixion, and his time on earth will be less than 55 days. He will be leaving these men in a world dominated by Satan and his influence, and Jesus expresses to them the only thing that will sustain them through the trials ahead. We read this passage and quote it, but do we understand that it is the only source where man can find peace in this world? Look closely at this passage and comprehend what Jesus, the Lord, is saying.

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye 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 unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

What can we learn about God's dwelling place and the promise that Jesus is sharing with these disciples, and what does this promise mean to us? The entire mission of God's purpose from the fall of man to the end of this world is outlined in this passage. How do we understand this promise, and how do we allow it to influence our lives?

Thoughts on John 14:

- A. "Let not your heart be troubled" is not a command; it is Jesus stating that those who belong to Him should not be troubled by earthly concerns. We should examine the conflicts we experience and the power we give them over our hearts, hopes, and God's promises.
 1. Peace: This word is translated 104 times in the New Testament. Two Greek words are translated into the word peace:
 - i. *Eirene*: (quietness, rest)
 - ii. *Siopao*: (silence, i.e., a hush; properly, muteness, instead of a voluntary refusal or indisposition to speak).

2. The idea expressed is not feeling compelled to react to what the world has done to you, or what it will do to you. The surrender of our emotions and thoughts based upon the promise of what is to come. Jesus expressed these thoughts in his teaching and encouragement.
 - i. John 14:27: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
 - ii. John 16:33: These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
 - iii. John 20:21: Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.
- B. The Apostles of Jesus taught this same concept of peace.
 1. Acts 10:36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) Peter's sermon to Cornelius' house.
 2. In Paul's writing to Roman Christians:
 - a. Romans 5:1: Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
 - b. Romans 8:6: For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
 - c. Romans 14:17: For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.
 - d. Romans 14:19: Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.
 - e. Romans 15:13: Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.
 3. Through the Epistles, Paul emphasizes that God's nature is to bring us peace, and that this peace should live within us.
 - a. Galatians 5:22: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness; faith
 - b. Ephesians 2:17: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.
 - c. Philippians 4:7: And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
 - d. Colossians 3:15: And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

A. The idea that God provides peace the world cannot offer is the beginning of John 14, but that peace depends on trusting in God and in Jesus, whom He sent to bring us ultimate peace. The choice to let the world's conflicts control our lives is up to each of us. The assurance of a place where conflict never exists

1. Jesus continues in John 14 by stating that there is a place prepared by God where conflict does not exist. We understood this verse with the idea that Jesus was going to heaven to prepare something for the future.
2. As to context, let's consider another possibility of what he is saying. His death is imminent, and he is telling them he is going to die.
3. The focus is not on heaven itself being built, but on the way and the means to reach heaven being completed through the death of Christ. He was going to the cross to make peace so that we might be with him. John 14:2 states that the mansions are already there, but the way to that dwelling had not yet been established, and Jesus was going to the cross to secure peace and confirm our position for the future eternity.

B. The way is clearly Christ.

1. John 14:6: I am the way; no one comes to the Father except through me.
2. Hebrews 9:11-14: But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
3. 1 Peter 1:19: but with precious blood, as of a lamb without spot, even the blood of Christ:
4. Ephesians 5:2: and walk in love, even as Christ also loved you, and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for an odor of a sweet smell.

C. The assurance of our salvation is the hope of heaven made possible through Jesus.

- a. Heaven has always existed, but after sin, access to eternal life was lost. Just as the tree of life was removed, man was left hopeless and separated from God in this world. Through Christ, access was regained, along with the promise of life restored.
- b. As Paul stated in Romans 7: *Thanks be to God who has given us the victory in Jesus.*

D. Regardless of how we view John 14, Jesus provides the assurance of life, and as He stated, "No one comes to the Father except by Me." Our assurance is in His blood.