

John 14:1-6 | Your Forever Home

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“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 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. 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 you know the way where I am going.”
Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?”
Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

Job 5:7 ‘as surely as the sparks fly upward, man is inclined to trouble’

Trouble is a regular part of this life. Yet Christ tells us to not let our hearts be troubled.

Just looking at current events over the past few weeks there are many things that you can be troubled about.

A devastating earthquake in the middle east with nearly 20k dead.

War in eastern Europe.

Chinese military equipment shot down over US territory.

Our personal health suspended by speculations about the COVID viruses long-term effects.

Even the Seahawks didn’t make it to the Super Bowl.

In our world, **trouble abounds**. But the words of Jesus remain the same, **‘let not your hearts be troubled.’**

Let not your internal state be shaken or stirred up.

At the end of these Upper Room discourses, Jesus tells us that He has spoken these things so that we would not be troubled.

John 16:33 ‘These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.’

Trouble is a constant in our world. It is all around us. But what Jesus is speaking to, is not, the world all around us, but the world that is inside of us, and the world that is to come.

‘do not let your hearts be troubled’ – He gives us 5 reasons here to not let your heart be troubled.

5 Reasons to not be troubled.

1. Believe in God. 2. Believe in Christ. 3. Christ prepares a place for you. 4. You know the way to this place. 5. Christ is coming back to take you to this place.

In the negative, there is one thing that troubles us, and it troubles us in 3 ways. Sin is the thing that troubles all people and it can trouble us in 3 ways; by **the World, the Flesh, and the Devil.**

Trouble abounds, but we should remember that **'the LORD is a stronghold in the time of trouble' Ps. 37:39**

But in the positive, we should realize that **we can overcome trouble** by trusting in God, trusting in Christ, trusting that He is preparing a place for us, trusting that He has revealed the way to this place and trusting that He is returning to take us to this place.

I. Trust in God.

Christ gives us three imperatives in 1 verse.

'do not let your heart be troubled' 'believe in God' 'believe also in Me'

Q: How can believing in God solve your trouble?

In overcoming trouble, it helps to know the character of God. This is called Theology. The character of God and the work of God.

So much of what people consider about God today, if they do at all, is error.

The only thing worse than watching a non-Christian succeed is watching a Christian fail to succeed at the very things God has promised them to succeed in.

God has not promised for us to succeed in this world, but that we would overcome this world. God has not promised us a forever home in our hometown, but a place to dwell forever in Heaven.

Is. 12:2 'God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for the LORD God is my strength and my song. And He has become my salvation.'

Is. 26:2-4 'The one that remains faithful. The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, for in God the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock.'

'the fool has said in his heart there is no God' Ps. 14:1

God promises to be a deliverer from trouble. God promises to be a refuge. God promises to save us from the trouble of this world.

The characteristics of God's salvation is expressed in our affections.

Ps. 73:1-9 'Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart! But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling. My steps had almost slipped. For I was envious of the arrogant as I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For there are no pains in their death, and their body is fat. They are not in trouble as other men, nor are they plagued like mankind. Therefore pride is their necklace; the garment of violence covers them. Their eye bulges from fatness; the imaginations of their heart run riot, they mock and wickedly speak of oppression; they speak from on high. They have set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue parades through the earth. Therefore, his people return to this place, and waters of abundance are drunk by them. They say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge with the Most High?" Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they have increased in wealth...surely You set them in slippery places."

Why would the disciples be troubled? What would cause them to be unsettled inside? Why would the disciples have such a keen interest in who would be greatest in the kingdom? These men that are left their families. Their professions. Their synagogues. There's no going back now. They want to know that there is some kind of benefit for leaving everything to follow Christ.

They cannot go back to Galilee. They cannot go back and have a thriving business. The entire country is in an uproar over Christ.

Now in single evening they are told that one is a betrayer, one will deny Him, and He is going away.

But 'don't let that trouble you' – It's not that you don't have trouble, you will have trouble, but

Sovereign Providence.

Eph. 1:11-14 'we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. In Him, you also after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory. '

Eph. 3:14-21 'For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may

I don't believe there is anything more comforting and reassuring than to know that **God is in control of all things. We need to regularly remind ourselves that God is in control and to trust God.**

The fact that evil and trouble exists in the world is not a reproof to the goodness or existence of God. It is a simple recognition of the evil existence against God.

Despite the trouble in the world it is a great benefit to us to Trust God.

II. Trust in Christ.

v. 1 'believe in God, believe also in Me'

Q: How can believing in Christ solve your trouble?

v. 27 'do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful' – Apparently, we have the ability to not be troubled internally. Apparently we have the ability to not be fearful.

As I am often strong on the Sovereignty of God, but we cannot forget of the responsibility of man.

God has recreated us with responsibilities. Chief among our responsibilities is obey His commands.

Commands are given in the imperative. We have 3 of them in this first verse.

“Do not be troubled” “believe in God” ‘Believe in Christ’ – these are imperative commands.

These are commands. Commands that have an effect on our internal life. The commands that Christ gives us are commands that solve our troubles internally.

Jeremiah and Ezekial are known as the **Prophets of Personal Responsibility. Jer. 31, Ez. 18**

Ancient Jewish proverb, Ez.18/Jer. 31 'the fathers eat the sour grapes, but the children's teeth are set on edge?' – it was a proverb that deferred individual responsibility. Father's blaming their children, and children blaming their fathers. No one accepting responsibility for their position before God.

Ez. 18:3-4 'As I live, declares the Lord God, you are surely not going to use this proverb in Israel anymore. Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die. But if a man is righteous and practices justice and righteousness...he will live'

Believe in God. Believe also in Christ. Do not let your heart be troubled.

Jesus was troubled.

John 12:27 'Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour.'

John 13:21 'After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in His spirit, and testified and said, 'truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.'

ταρασσω – it's the same word used. There are about 12 different words in the Greek NT to identify trouble, affliction, distress, anxiety. But John uses the same word that troubled both Jesus and the disciples. But the reasons are different.

Jesus wasn't troubled because of the situation set before Him. Jesus wasn't troubled because of the circumstances. He wasn't troubled because

There is a big difference between being troubled by the sins of the world and being troubled by your own. But, even if we are troubled by the sins of the world, we should not be pre-occupied mentally by the ways of the world.

In a troubling world, where should our focus be?

In a troubling world, should we place our primary focus on the sins of the age? Well, we do owe it to both God and man to preach righteousness. We shouldn't shy away from that.

In a troubling world, should we cave and cater to all of the progressive trends? No.

But our distinctions from the world shouldn't primarily come from what we are avoiding, but instead by what we are pursuing.

Our focus should be on Heaven.

Jonathan Edwards stated, "I have resolved to stamp eternity on my eye balls." - in other words, to see everything through the lens of eternity.

Is this **heavenly OR is this hellish**? What is the direction that this action, this word, this thought takes?

One of the great **schemes of the devil** is to limit your focus on eternity. To get you caught up on focusing on temporal concerns. To have you overwhelmed by circumstances.

Another scheme of the devil is to make you think all determining is up to you or up to some arbitrary world circumstance.

Gas prices go up and we complain. Relationships fail and we cry.

One of my favorite passages on God's Sovereign determining.

The meaning of discipleship. Turn to **Matt. 10:24-31**

'Are not two sparrows sold for a cent?'

Who determines all things? Do you determine your health? Did you determine that you would live here and be here today? Did you determine the children you would have? Did you determine your abilities and their abilities?

Christ tells us that God determined the death of the sparrow and the purchase price. Christ tells us that God determined each hair on your head.

His Eye is On the Sparrow

Why should I feel discouraged,
Why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely,
And long for heaven, heaven and home,
When, when Jesus is my portion,
My constant Friend is He;
Oh, oh-oh, his eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watched, watched it over me.
I sing because I'm happy (happy)
I sing because I'm free (free free free)
For His eye, his eye is on the sparrow,
And I know, I know He watches over me.

God is watching you. And for the righteous that is ample reason to not be troubled.

There are any **number of simple reasons** for why we are troubled.

First we live in a troubled world. Why wouldn't we be.
The longer we live the more worthless things we accumulate and more loved ones we lose.
We gather more things into our attics all will losing activity in our personal health.
Second, we buy into the lie that we have no control or responsibility over our internal state.
Third, we lack faith in what God has instructed us.

We all lack faith, but our common inability should not lead to a common acceptance of it.

We should work to be more faithful. We should wait to believe more broadly. We should watch to see His promises applied more comprehensively.

God is true. He cannot lie.

If God tells us in His word to not be troubled, He gives us good reason to do so.

Knowing God and knowing Christ leads us away from trouble. It leads us away from discouragement.

Knowing God and knowing Christ leads to something other than trouble. At least internally.

Christ never says you won't have trouble, He says don't be troubled. Oh, you'll have trouble, but don't be bothered about it.

Are you troubled about worldly trouble? Why. Jesus told us not to be. And if we are Christians we better do what He says to do.

III. Trust in the place prepared for you.

v. 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.'

The KJV/NKJV says mansions, but that's probably not the best English translation because it gives us the connotation of an enormous home. Many dwelling places is a better understanding.

In ancient Israel, the Father would have a home, and when the son was looking to get married, a add-on room was often added to the original building.

In John 19 there is the place of a Skull, Golgotha where Christ is crucified. In John 19 there is the place of the Stone Pavement, where Jesus was sat down on the Judgment seat. In John 18, Judas lead the Sanhedrin to the place of Gethsamem to arrest Jesus.

In John 4, Jesus mets with the woman at the well near Mount Gerazim, wehre the woman confesses that it is believed that Jerusalem is the proper place that believers would worship God.

There are a lot of places in the Bible. Even in this one week discourse, there are numerous important places.

But that is not what Jesus is talking about here. There are two dwelling places. And God the Father is preparing both of them.

There is the dwelling place being prepared for your arrival in heaven. AND there is the dwelling place of your heart.

Q: Do you believe that Christ has a place prepared for you?

IV. Trust in the way to the place prepared for you.

V. Trust that Christ is coming back for you.

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"Jesus tells the disciples in His Upper Room Discourses; do not let your heart be troubled. Jesus gives five specific reasons why our hearts as Christian disciples should not be troubled. Follow along as Pastor David outlines Jesus' instruction for a troubled heart."

Small Group/Kids

- 1. Why would the disciples be troubled?**
- 2. What are the 5 reasons Jesus gives for not being troubled?**
- 3. How regularly do you meditate on Heaven?**
- 4. What does the Bible tell us about Heaven?**

5. Is it sinful to persist in having a troubled heart or is Jesus commanding us to discipline ourselves and is giving us ample reason to not be troubled despite our world circumstances.