

The Gospel of John

Reassurance

John 14:1-6

INTRODUCTION:

Please open your Bibles this morning to a very familiar portion of Scripture: John 14.

It has been an amazing week. Jesus came into the city to a triumphal entry on Monday and they hailed Him as the Messiah, hundreds of thousands of people no doubt. But by Friday, they're going to scream for His blood and He's going to die on the cross.

It is Thursday night. We find ourselves still in the upper room with Jesus and the eleven faithful disciples. Judas has left to betray Jesus. They have been with Him for three full years 24/7. They love Him, they believe in Him, but they are profoundly confused. Their entire sense of what was supposed to happen has disappeared. Their hopes and ambitions are collapsing around them.

Why? Because the Lord continues to tell them He is leaving!

Jesus is leaving. We have forsaken everything to follow You and now **You** are going to abandon us?

The disciples hearts are filled with a medley of emotions as they watch their hopes coming to a crushing end.

It was only a couple of days ago that everybody in Jerusalem was hailing Him as the Messiah, the Son of God, the King. Everything seemed to be going perfectly as planned. But all week Jesus continuously kept talking about His death and departure and going to the Father. Instead of winning over the people and winning over the leaders, He is just alienating the leaders. Every hour of every day their hostility and anger and murderous intentions were being elevated against Him.

Things are not going the direction they expected. How could Jesus die? Wasn't He supposed to set up His kingdom? That is what the Messiah was supposed to do according to their theology. And they would be in the primary places for elevation. Hopefully, several of them would be able to sit on His right and His left hand. They had been arguing between themselves who would be greatest in His kingdom. When this thing finally culminated it was supposed to bring glory for the Lord and for them. But now it seemed there was not even going to be one. This is not how it was supposed to happen!

It didn't help that the Lord Himself was troubled. Certainly they had picked up on that. One of them was going to betray Him and their leader (Peter) is going to deny Him three times before the rooster would crow the next morning. And we are all going to scatter.

How could this be?

They had left all to follow Him. And now He seems to be leaving all of them behind in the middle of hateful enemies who, after they have murdered Him, are going to want to do nothing but murder them. Anxiety, fear, doubt overwhelms them.

On top of that, He had told them He would be arrested, beaten, and murdered, and it was all prophesied in the Old Testament. Now they are about to experience the arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane that night and He will be tried and hung on the cross by tomorrow afternoon.

Stand and Read Scripture

John 14:1-6 (NASB)

14 “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 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. ³ 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. ⁴ And you know the way where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas *said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do 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 but through Me.

Prayer

BODY:

I. THE PLEA.

John 14:1 (NASB)

14 “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

Jesus understood their anxiety. They were continuing to see things from an earthly perspective. They did not understand the spiritual implications of what was about to happen. So He takes a break from His effort to prepare them of what was about to occur in order to comfort them.

“Do not let your heart be troubled. **You believe in God, believe also in Me.**” He knows that they are very confused. But remember, you know that I am the prophesied Messiah. I am God. You have learned to believe in what I tell you. Continue to trust and believe.

So "**You believe in God**", what’s the point of this? Well, the point is simply this: “You believe in God whom you **cannot** see.” God is invisible. No one can see God. God is a spirit; He is an invisible spirit.

None of them had ever seen God, but they believed in God. He’s declaring, “You believe in God.” And they believe in Jesus as the Son of God. That is why they had confessed that, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**”

The apostles heard Him and watched Him do His miracles. They have seen and believed. They believed in the **invisible** God. And now they also believe in the **visible** Christ. But they will need to believe in Him when He is gone in the same way they believe in the invisible God. Their faith at this point is a kind of Thomas faith.

You remember, Thomas wasn't in the room when the Lord showed up the first time after the resurrection and the disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." And he said, "I will not believe unless I," what? "Unless I see." It is a Thomas kind of faith.

Peter understood it. I love what he said in 1 Peter.

1 Peter 1:8-9 (NASB)

⁸ and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

Eternal salvation, comes to those who believe in the Christ they have never seen. You believe in God even though you have never seen Him. You are going to have to believe in Me even when you cannot see Me. That is how it is going to be for you and for all who follow after you.

Jesus is talking about going away once again. But don't be troubled. It is necessary that I go away. When I go away I will send the Holy Spirit to comfort you.

John 16:7 (NASB)

⁷ But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

Listen to this. Do you know what is better than having Jesus Christ with you in your presence? It is having the Holy Spirit dwelling within you! The Father knows what is best. We trust God.

If God is for us, we believe, who can be against us? So the **plea** then is to trust Him and believe in Him. Then He attaches a **promise** to His plea of faith.

II. THE PROMISE.

John 14:2-3 (NASB)

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. ³ 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.*

Jesus is telling the disciples about Heaven. It is where the Father lives and in His house are many "dwelling places". This would be better translated as "rooms".

"In My Father's house are many rooms." If it were not true I would never have told you so. I am leaving so I can prepare a place for you. I am coming back again and I will take you to my Father's house. And you will be able to come to where I am.

Why do you suppose He told them that?

The answer is because they are having a hard time buying anything. Their despair is so profound. He reminds them that He only tells the truth. In fact, in a few seconds He will say, "I am the truth." This is a necessary separation. I will be glorified at the cross, glorified through the resurrection, and glorified in my exaltation and coronation. This will pave the way for you to come to Me.

I am going and you cannot go for now. But I am going to prepare a place for you, and I will come again to receive you to Myself that where I am, there you may be also. And if it weren't so, do you think I would tell you it were? Of course not. I'm coming back.

Jesus appeared before them and many others for forty days after His resurrection. Just before He ascended into heaven He gathered the apostles together and told them to wait in Jerusalem and the Holy Spirit will come upon you.

Acts 1:9-11 (NASB)

⁹ And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. ¹¹ They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

I'll be back." In the meantime when any believer dies, he will be absent from the body and present with the Lord. As Paul proclaimed to the Philippians...

Philippians 1:23-24 (NASB)

²³ But I am hard-pressed from both *directions*, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better; ²⁴ yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

When a believer dies, they immediately enter into the presence of the Lord.

We have a dramatic picture of that in Acts 7. Stephen, who has just preached a great sermon and infuriated the Jewish crowd in Jerusalem, is about to be stoned to death. They are gnashing their teeth at him in violent rage. Acts 7:55 tells us that , he was full of the Holy Spirit and as he gazed intently into heaven; he saw the glory of God and Jesus **standing** at the right hand of God. Many passages talk about Him being **seated** at the right hand of God. **But here He is standing.**

Why do you suppose He is standing? He was standing to welcome Stephen. He stood up to receive one of His own; one of His family. They continued stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "**Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.**"

"I will come again and receive you to Myself that where I am, there you may be also."

What is heaven? It is the place where Christ is and where He receives a believer to Himself. It is where we will all be with Him in a perfect relationship, personally receiving each believer.

This is an incredible promise. "I'm going away, you're not going now. I'm going away to be glorified, I am going to prepare a room for you in My Father's house, and I'm going to receive you into that room when your time comes. And one day, I'm going to come and gather all of the believers." Wow, what an amazing promise!

First we are told "Let not your heart be troubled." Then He tells us that He has gone to prepare a place for us. Now He is going to tell us how to get there.

III. THE WAY.

John 14:4-6 (NASB)

⁴ And you know the way where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas *said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do 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 but through Me.

“You know the way where I’m going.” And Thomas says, “Lord, we don’t know where You’re going. How do we know the way?”

Jesus had told them many times that they knew where He was going. He is going back to the Father Who sent Him. Now He tells them “And you know the way.”

Thomas said, we do not know where Heaven is. How do we know the way?

The road to Heaven is not an earthly path. We do not need a Google map to get there. Jesus has told them many times how to get there.

John 10:9 (NASB)

⁹ I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

John 11:25b-26 (NASB)

²⁵ ...“I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”

Look, you might be able to miss a few things in theology and still get to heaven, but you can’t miss this. This is the question that any legitimate religion must answer, and none can except Christianity. Religion is worthless because it provides no way to heaven. That is “the” question that only Christianity answers: “How do I have my relationship restored back to God and go to heaven?”

Thomas has to get this right. I’m glad he asked because the answer is extremely important. “Lord, we don’t know where You’re 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. ”

Did you get that? That’s why there’s a Great Commission, folks. There has to be a Great Commission to take the Word to every creature in the world because there is no other way to saved. That is why the gospels end with those Great Commissions.

So to wrap it up with the powerful words of the apostle Paul, listen to this:

2 Thessalonians 1:7b-10a (NASB)

⁷ ...when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, ⁸ dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰ when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed...

CONCLUSION:

Many followers of Jesus Christ look for the assurance of salvation in the wrong places. We tend to seek assurance of salvation in the things God is doing in our lives, in our spiritual growth, in our good works, and obedience to God's Word that is evident in our Christian walk. While these things can be evidence of salvation, they are not what we should base the assurance of our salvation on. Rather, we should find the assurance of our salvation in the objective truth of God's Word. We should have confident trust that we are saved based on the promises God has declared, not because of our earthly experiences.

How can you have assurance of salvation? That you can live eternally in Heaven?

1 John 5:13 (NASB)

¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

God wants us to have assurance of our salvation. We should not live our Christian lives wondering and worrying each day whether or not we are truly saved. That is why the Bible makes the plan of salvation so clear.

Believe in Jesus Christ.

John 3:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **believes** in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Confess Jesus as Lord.

Romans 10:9 (NASB)

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

Repent of your sins and be immersed in baptism.

Acts 2:38 (NASB)

³⁸ Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Live a new life in Christ.

Romans 12:2 (NASB)

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Jesus makes it clear on how to get to heaven.

"I am the **way**, and the **truth**, and the **life**; no one comes to the Father but through **Me**."

This is the Day.