

A Remedy for Troubled Hearts

John 14:1-6

Adopted from Patrick Morrison

Introduction:

The events of life can sometimes leave us disappointed, discouraged, and defeated.

Satan is very adept at using people and circumstances to cause us to despair.

No one is immune from having blue days.

Even the most optimistic and most enthusiastic among us pass through the doldrums from time to time.

I am thankful that we serve a God who lifts our hearts and our spirits through His precious and abiding promises!

Everyone needs encouragement because the world has a way of troubling our hearts.

The Savior knows what is weighing down upon us.

He speaks through his word to give us comfort and reassurance that he will see us through the dark valleys of life.

With the shadow of the cross looming over him, Jesus wanted to assure his disciples that God's will was being done and that His promises would remain steadfast and sure even though he would have to die a cruel death at Calvary.

He knew their hearts were hurting as they contemplated his leaving.

How would they make it?

What would they do without their Lord and Master?

How could they go on?

The disciples were anxious and bewildered.

What was about to happen was beyond their imagination and out of their control.

This was a time to trust God.

Jesus spoke, to calm their troubled hearts, the following words from John 14:1-6.

“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.’”

What words of comfort! What reassurance! What can these words do for a troubled heart?

I. These words speak of peace (v. 1).

The word translated as “troubled” comes from a Greek word that means “to roil, agitate.”

It was as if their hearts were being tossed back and forth upon a stormy sea.

Just as Jesus had stilled the storms upon the sea, he now was stilling the storms within their hearts.

As he spoke to the winds and waves, so now he says to the hearts of his disciples, “Peace, be still.”

The first words Jesus spoke to his faithful followers after his resurrection were, “Peace be unto you,” literally “Peace to you” (John 20:19).

Earlier in John 14:27-29, Jesus told His disciples, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe.”

Jesus, indeed, is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

He spoke words of peace to remedy troubled hearts.

II. These words speak of preparation (v. 2).

The purpose of his death, burial, and resurrection was so that he might go to prepare an eternal, heavenly home for his disciples.

The work of Jesus would not cease just because they nailed him to a cross!

He would live on, and so, too, would his work.

The Greek term translated “dwelling places” in the NASB, is translated as “rooms” in the ESV, and as “mansions” in the KJV and NKJV.

The term appears only two times in Scripture.

Both times in John 14:2 and 23.

The meaning is simply a dwelling place, a room, a place to stay, an abode.

The point is there is room for many people in God’s kingdom and His heavenly abode, where those who accept Jesus dwell eternally.

Jesus is allowing time for His followers to gather more followers.

If Jesus created the world in all its resplendent glory in only six days (Exodus 20:11), just think what that heavenly home will be like, some two thousand years in the making!

III. These words speak of a promise (v. 3).

Just as surely as he would be preparing a place for his faithful, he gives even greater assurance in the promise to return and take his disciples home to live forevermore!

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

The temporary separation of the Master from his followers is for the purpose of an even greater reward where they shall dwell together in God’s heavenly dwelling place.

While Jesus is gone, He is working to prepare a place for His followers who work while He is gone.

IV. These words speak of the path (vv. 4-6).

Jesus is the only way to the Father, to the promised place of peace that has been prepared for those who love him.

There is no other way!

He is the one and only way, the one and only truth, and the one and only life.

His betrayal, suffering, death, and resurrection were His way to the Father (John 12:27-36).

The person and work of Jesus serve as the believer’s path to God the Father.

“The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

Jesus is the only one to come from the Father and return to the Father.

Everything He said and did was true, thus He is “full of...truth.”
Jesus is the source and power of the believer’s resurrection to eternal life,
as He told Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he
dies” (John 11:25).

The path to heaven is clear.

The footsteps of Jesus will lead us there, through the difficulties and uncertainties
of this life to the land of fadeless day.

Jesus Himself is the channel through which people can have a relationship with
God the Father and spend eternity with Him.

Application:

Do you need peace? Jesus can provide it in this life and in the life to come.

Do you need preparation time? While the Lord is away, is the time to prepare for His
coming.

Do you need a promise of a better place, a better relationship, a better existence? Jesus
will give these things to His faithful followers.

Do you need to know the path to heaven? It is not found on a map or in a set of
directions; Jesus is the way! Jesus is the truth! Jesus is the life!

If you have a troubled heart, trust God.

May these words comfort your heart!

Conclusion:

To be right with Jesus, we must listen to Him (Luke 10:16), believe in Him (John 11:25),
repent of our sin against Him (Mark 1:15), confess Him (Matthew 10:32), be baptized (Mark
16:16), and live faithfully to Him (Galatians 2:20).

Will you make things right with Jesus tonight?