

Sunday Morning Message

October 16, 2022

Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

The Gospel According to John

Text – John 14

Congregational Reading – John 14:1 - 6

Introduction

In the last message from our study of the Gospel of John, we were in the Upper Room with the Lord Jesus and His Apostles. They had eaten the Last Supper, and Jesus had washed the disciples' feet. Judas has already left the room and gone out to betray the Lord to the chief priest and the Sanhedrin.

Chronologically, the only thing that we are missing in the narrative is the warning that Jesus gave His disciples regarding the persecution that they were going to be facing once He was gone, after He ascended back into Heaven:

"And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing. Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one. For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end. And they said, Lord, behold, here are two swords. And he said unto them, It is enough."

(Luke 22:35-38)

This week we will be looking into John 14 where Jesus brings comfort to His disciples just prior to His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. The scene for this chapter is still in the Upper Room. He will soon leave with the Twelve to the Garden of Gethsemane where the betrayal of Judas will be complete, and He will be arrested.

In this chapter, we will hear Jesus as He comforts and prepares them for the difficult days that were ahead for them. Perhaps the most important comment that we can make about this text is that Jesus takes the time to comfort them, even though it was He that was about to go through the worst ordeal of suffering that any human being had ever gone through. Even in His passion, He was focused on the needs of others.

Transition – In chapter fourteen, Jesus provides three sources of comfort to His Apostles, which are all applicable to believers today.

I. He Comforts the Disciples by Telling Them That He Would Be Coming Back for Them (vs. 1 – 11)

A. The Comfort of a Forever Home (vs. 1 – 4)

I won't be gone forever.

I won't leave you here forever.

Note from v. 1 – “believe also in me” – here Christ is reminding the disciples that they had always believed in a God who they could not see, and they had also believed in the Son whom they could see; but now they would have to continue to trust in the Son even though they would no longer see him.

Note from v. 2 - my Father's House:

One commentator said this regarding what awaits believers in Heaven: “The glories and blessedness of Heaven are brought before us in the New Testament under a variety of representations. Heaven is called a "country" (Luke 19:12; Hebrews 11:16); this tells of its vastness. It is called a "city" (Heb. 11:10; Revelation 21; this intimates the large number of its inhabitants. It is called a "kingdom" (2 Pet. 1:11); this suggests its orderliness. It is called "paradise" (Luke 23:43; Revelation 2:7); this emphasizes its delights. It is called the "Father's house," which bespeaks its permanency.” (A. W. Pink)

“many mansions” – The word is $\mu\omicron\nu\alpha\iota$ from $\mu\omicron\nu\eta$ - *monē*. In the original it is actually an adjective describing the Father's house. There has always been the argument between King James Bible believers and those that use the modern versions. They typically translate the word, “ $\mu\omicron\nu\alpha\iota$,” into something smaller than a mansion. The NIV, ESV, and CSB Bibles all say that there are “many rooms.” The New Living Translation, which is really a paraphrase says, “there is more than enough room in my Father's home.” The King James obviously states it the best. A mansion is much more glorious than a room. However, I think you still need to broaden your idea of what Heaven will be. Is it just a big house, like we see here on earth, or is it much more than that. Paul said:

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Jesus said that He is preparing a place for you. It is a prepared place; it is custom made, just for you. Think of the possibilities.

B. His Correction to Some Confused Followers (vs. 5 – 11)

1. Thomas (vs. 5 – 7)

2. Phillip (vs. 8 – 11)

Jesus corrects both men because they still had not connected the Lord Jesus to the Father. Jesus had already stated in John 10 that He and the Father are one (John 10:30). After He made that statement, they tried to kill Him, because they knew they He was claiming equality with God:

"Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him. Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand," (John 10:31-39)

Everything the Father is, Jesus is.

*"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, **and the express image of his person**, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;" (Hebrews 1:1-3)*

Jesus is the "express image" of the Father.

He is reminding both Thomas and Phillip here that Jesus and the Father were equally God. Everything that Jesus said and everything that He did was in complete agreement with the Father. The Father was actually doing and speaking through the Son.

II. **He Comforts Them by Telling Them About His Confidence in Their Commission (vs. 12 – 14)**

He tells the disciples that they will go beyond what He did. Jesus is stating this as a fact. He is not stating what He thought they should do or what they might do. He was prophesying what they would do.

Jesus called, qualified, and commissioned these apostles. They were to take what Christ had given them, and then they were going to go beyond what the Lord did. Jesus' ministry was within the borders of Israel. These disciples were going to take the gospel of Christ and bring it to the uttermost parts of the earth. Jesus wrote nothing physically, but these disciples and others that would become His disciples later would record His words and distribute them so that they could impact the whole world.

III. He Comforts the Disciples by Telling Them About the Comforter (vs. 15 – 31)

But, the disciples could do nothing apart from Jesus. Jesus said: “without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:5). So, how were they going to be able to do all this great stuff if Jesus was not going to be with them. Jesus tells them that He was going to give them a secret weapon – the Holy Spirit, who is just as much God as He and His Father are.

The Holy Spirit is not just any person, however - He is God. He is co-eternal, co-existent, and co-equal with both the Son and the Father. He possesses all the attributes that the other Persons within the Trinity possess. Several Scripture passages point to His deity. He is called “God” in Acts 5:3 & 4. He is called “Lord” in 2 Corinthians 3:17. He also possesses all the attributes of deity, including: omnipresence (Psalm 139:7); omnipotence (Luke 1:35; Genesis 1:1 - 3); omniscience (1 Corinthians 2:9 – 12; John 14:26; Isaiah 40:13); eternity (Hebrews 9:14); and love (Romans 15:30). The Holy Spirit was active with both the Father and the Son in Creation (Genesis 1:1 – 3; Psalm 104:30). Job said, “*The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life*” (Job 33:4). The Spirit of God was the agent involved in the incarnation of Christ (Luke 1:35). He is responsible for the inspiration of the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20 – 21). Inspiration (θεόπνευστος – theopneustos) not only implies the “breath” of God, but also the “Spirit of God.” The Holy Spirit is also the One who regenerates and renews believers (John 3:5 – 6; Titus 3:5). Finally, the miracles of Christ and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead were all done in the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:28; Romans 8:11). [From Doctrinal Synopsis Paper]

In v. 18, He tells them that He will come to them. This is different from what he meant in v. 3, when He said that He will come again. There, He was talking about His physical return. Here, He is referring to His coming to them through the Person of the Holy Spirit.

We will learn much about the Holy Spirit in the remainder of this Gospel, but here we see that the Holy Spirit will teach us (v. 26). The Holy Spirit is responsible for writing the Word of God.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The Holy Spirit also gives us His peace (v. 27). This world does not know peace, but Christians should have the peace that passes knowledge and understanding in their hearts through the Person of the indwelling Holy Spirit of God.

When you got saved, God, the Holy Spirit came to live inside of you. The Bible states that you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of Promise until the day of redemption (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30). He is your comforter when you are troubled, your teacher and guide when you need direction. He also brings conviction when you get out of God's will. Perhaps the greatest evidence of a genuine salvation is the conviction that we feel when we do wrong.

Read also – John 15:26 – 27; John 16:5 – 16

Notice what Jesus says in v. 15 and in vs. 21, 23, & 24 – compare this with the modern-day ideology that Christians can do whatever they want.

Conclusion

Jesus told his twelve disciples, and He is telling us today that we can be greatly comforted, even though we live in a world that hates us and will often try to hurt us.

1. He reminds us that He is coming back for us. The troubles and trials that we face in this life are only temporary, and what awaits us in Heaven is absolutely awesome.
2. He also tells us that he is confident that we will fulfill His purpose in our lives, and that we will, through Him, do even greater works than He did when He was here on the earth.
3. Finally, He gave us the secret weapon – His Holy Spirit that indwells us, fills us, comforts us, teaches us, guides us, and empowers us to do the work of God.

These are great sources of comfort. Jesus did not leave us comfortless. He supplies everything that we need to do our jobs here on the earth, and then, hopefully very soon, He is coming back for us to bring us to Heaven.