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"Yes, I'm leaving for another place and it's really important that you love each other! My love for you is vital and so is your love for each other!"

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Lit. "**Stop letting your heart be troubled!**" Instead, "**Continue to trust, both the Father and Me. Trust in God, trust also in Me**"—all 3 commands. Troubled = to shake, stir up, agitate. Who we believe determines how we respond when our hearts are troubled. "Take your eyes off of Judas' betrayal, Peter's denial, and the fact that I'm leaving, and put them back on My Father and Me." The third command is they are to believe also in Him. The present tense of an ongoing trust in Him. There are going to be times when we're troubled; how should we respond? Jesus gives us the way; in fact, He is the way!

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Lit. "**Stop letting your heart be troubled!**" Instead, "**Continue to trust, both the Father and Me. Trust in God, trust also in Me**"—all 3 commands. Troubled = to shake, stir up, agitate. Who we believe determines how we respond when our hearts are troubled. "Take your eyes off of Judas' betrayal, Peter's denial, and the fact that I'm leaving, and put them back on My Father and Me." The third command is they are to believe also in Him. The present tense of an ongoing trust in Him. There are going to be times when we're troubled; how should we respond? Jesus gives us the way; in fact, He is the way!

Why is He going to leave? **: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.**" Jesus provides some content for His followers to believe (**:2-7**) and provides a lesson for slow learners concerning who He really is (**:8-14**)."

There is something beyond physical death: There are many permanent dwelling places in the very presence of My Father! It's His house; there is room for all. "If there was nothing beyond," said Jesus, "I would have told you." We're going to be home, forever, with the Father! Someone wrote "The base of the New Jerusalem alone is over 2 million square miles (**Rev. 21:16**)."

There's room for all!

"I'm going to prepare a place for you! But first I'm going to prepare you for the place." That's what He'll do in **chapters 14-16**. He'll tell them that without His death, there would be no place for them. Without His ascension and the sending forth of the Spirit, they would not be made ready for the place.

So what do we do with the fear which lies in the unknown?

27:3-10, Acts 1:18-19 for the future for Judas). Peter's denial? He never meant to do it; he was swept away by a moment of weakness, operating by the flesh. His flesh was weak, but his heart/spirit was right. Peter had already been bathed. In his denial, Peter would have dirty feet but a clean heart.

Now we've got a room full of stunned silence! They had just been told that one of their company was a traitor. They had heard Peter warned that he would deny his Master. Then Jesus told them He's going to leave. So it is to a deeply troubled group that Jesus says: "**Let not your hearts be troubled.**" How could they fail to be troubled? Their world was about to be shattered. Their greatest concern was they feared losing Jesus. "They could bear to die with Him; they could not bear to live or die without Him." Jesus' answer was "A manual for stress management!" (**Jn. 14-16**)

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Heaven is a reality. There is security, safety, and belonging there. He's also letting them know their separation from Him would not be permanent. **3 If I go and prepare a place for you (all), I will come again & receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also** [so that you may be where I am]!

Just think, Jesus is coming back for His own. We'll have our own dwelling places in the Father's house, and, we'll be at home there because we'll find our Lord Jesus and the loving Father there. We'll be home! We'll belong!

Death, the thing so many dread, will merely be a transition (see **Heb. 2:14**). The Lord will gather us into the Father's house. His return for us is the very event which every believer will experience when he/she physically dies. For the Christian, heaven is where Jesus and the Father are. Jesus isn't abandoning them; He'll prepare a place for them and return for them. As we can see, home is not so much a place as it is a Person.

Home is with the Father (**:1-3**); the way home (to our prepared dwelling places) is Jesus (**:4-9**). **:4 And you know (3609a) where I am going.**" He had previously revealed Himself as the way to the Father (**10:1**).

:5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know (3609a) where You are going, how do we know the way [we have no idea where You're going, so how can we know the way]?" Their knowledge stopped at death. If they did not know where the Lord was going, how could they know the way to get there?

Look at Jesus' profound answer: **:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, & the life; no one (not even one) comes to the Father but through Me."** What an amazing claim, the 6th of Jesus' I AM statements (**6:48, 8:12, 10:9,11, 11:25, 14:6, 15:1**)! **The Way:** "The way of Jesus is the cross. The way of the disciples is Jesus." To join Jesus in the Father's house demands the recognition that Jesus Himself is the way, the only way. He doesn't merely show the way; He is the way! Christianity was later called "The Way!" (**Acts 9:2, 19:9,23**)

The Truth: "I claim more than just I'm the way; I'm also the truth." We read about "The truth as it is in Jesus (**Eph. 4:21**)." He is the truth as opposed to error or falsehood. He spoke the truth, and, He also embodied it!

The Life: Jesus had earlier claimed (**11:25-26**) that He was the Resurrection and the Life. In fact, **1 Jn. 5:20** says "Jesus is the true God and eternal life!" He is the life (**1:4**). I like **2 Cor. 4:10-11**: "...that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our bodies, our mortal flesh."

:6b "No one (not even one) comes to the Father but through Me." Salvation is found in no one else (**Acts 4:12**). **Read 1 Tim. 2:5.** Jesus is the only way to the Father. He alone is the truth of God, only saying what the Father wanted Him to say. In Him alone is found life! So Jesus alone is the way to God, the truth of God; in Him alone is found life! Our destination is a Person: the Father. The way to Him is only through Jesus, His unique, one-of-a-kind Son.

:7 "If you [plural] had known (1097 come to know) Me, you would have known (3609a) My Father also; from now on you (have come to) know (1097), Him, and have seen Him." A progression of knowledge of Jesus leads to full knowledge of the Father. If by faith we have come to know Jesus, we know the Father also! Wow, what truth! Let's get to know Jesus!!

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Jesus is still saying today: “Stop worrying and start trusting. Get beyond your fear of the present and the future. I’m going to deal with all that needs to be dealt with. Believe the Father, believe Me. I understand, I care, I will do the necessary work needed for your salvation and provide for you in far greater ways than you can imagine.” And, it won’t only last throughout the rest of our earthly lives, but for all eternity. C.S. Lewis in The Last Battle: “All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia have only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter 1 of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever; in which every chapter is better than the one before.” Let’s be fellow trust-ers and pray-ers. Joel

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