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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. Jesus’ answer is **Jn. 14-16**, “A manual for troubled times.” Let’s listen to Jesus as He deals with these troubled apostles (and us when we’re fearful, pressured, guilty).

Faith in God the Father and the Biblical Jesus is the cure for a troubled heart. How did Jesus answer their fears?

Read 13:12-4:7. 14:1 “Do not let your (plural) heart be troubled (:27, stirred up, agitated); believe in [trust] God, believe also in Me.” So, when He said, **Let not your heart be troubled**, He took all Eleven in, including Peter! “Believe in God, believe also in Me. Have faith in the Father; have faith in Me.” Because He Himself had become troubled before (11:33, 13:21), He knows how it feels. Jesus cares, and, Jesus understands! Also see **Heb. 4:15-16**.

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. Who we believe determines how we respond when our hearts are troubled. “Take your eyes off of yourselves, Judas’ betrayal, Peter’s denial, and the fact that I’m leaving, and put them back on My Father and Me.” The present tense: 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!

What is one reason He’s 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) & 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! If there was nothing beyond, I would have told you. There’s room for you and there’s a dwelling place for you! We’re going to be home, forever, with the Father!

“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 dwelling places for them. Without His resurrection and ascension and the sending forth of the Spirit, they would not be made ready for the place. So how do we deal with the fear which lies in the unknown? “Stop being troubled! Believe in the Father! Believe in Jesus!”

:3 “**If I go and prepare a place for you (all), I will come again & receive you to Myself, that where I am, you may be also** [so that you may be where I am]!” He’s letting them know His separation from them will not be permanent. Just think, Jesus is coming back for His own. We’ll have our own dwelling places in the Father’s house. We’ll be at home there because we’ll find our Lord Jesus and the loving Father there. **Read Dt. 31:8**. Practice His presence, even now!

Physical death, the thing so many dread, will merely be a transition. The Lord will gather us into the Father’s house. His return for us is the very event which every believer will experience when his/her body dies. For the believer, 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 being with Jesus and the Father. We’re safe, here & there!

Home is with the Father (:1-3); the way home (to our prepared dwelling places) is Jesus (:4-9). :4 “**And you [fully] know (3609a) where I am going.**”

:5 **Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not [fully] know where You are going, how do 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, and 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! The Way: 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! 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 & eternal life!” My focus, my trust is in You, Lord: the way, the truth, the life!

:6b “**No one [not even one] comes to the Father but through Me.**” **Salvation is found in no one else (Acts 4:12)**. Jesus is the only way to the Father. He alone is the truth of God. In Him alone is found life! Our destination is a Person: the Father. The only way to Him is through Jesus.

:7 “**If you [plural] had known (1097 come to know) Me, you would have [fully] known (3609a) My Father also; from now on you (have come to) know 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 (and the Father)!!

Don’t let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

They felt Jesus was abandoning them and death was near. They were fearful. They had daily problems: How are we going to handle life—pressure, job, pay bills, suffer pain, endure sickness—without Jesus? There would be guilt, shame, regret, self-condemnation, self-pity, dread of repentance. Charles Swindoll offers 3 practical techniques: (1) To dispel fear, meditate on truth. (2) To reduce anxiety, allow divine truth to guide every decision. (3) To release shame, regret, and guilt, choose to love Jesus and serve His body.

Read 14:8-14. :8 **Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us [we’ll be satisfied].”** :9 **Jesus said to him, “Have I been so long with you [all], and yet you [singular] have not come to know (1097) Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’”** Just think, these apostles had lived daily with the image of the invisible God (Col. 1:15, 2:9, 2 Cor. 4:4, Heb. 1:1-3). They had already seen the Father’s glory through Jesus. The Father in His Son had made Himself known (1:14,18, 12:45). Both the words and works of Jesus were the words and works of the Father. Whoever has seen and heard the incarnate Word has seen and heard the Father. Jesus is the Father’s final and complete revelation.

:10 **“Do you (singular) not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words (rhēma) that I say to you (plural) I do not speak on My own initiative (pertaining to Myself), but the Father abiding in Me does His works [through Me]. Philip, don’t you believe?”** He expects a positive answer. “I’m in the Father and He is in Me!” When He became flesh, Jesus was utterly dependent upon and obedient to His Father (4:34, 5:19,30; 7:16, 8:28-29, 12:49,50, 17:4). Remember, on this earth, He wasn’t operating as God but as a human totally dependent on God. “Philip and you others: Faith in Me is the answer to fear: fear of Me leaving you, fear of the future, fear of death.” Same for us. As we see, “Faith is not only the means of appropriating salvation; it is also the very essence of sustaining the Christian life.” ACT template.

:11 **“Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise [or at least] believe because of the works themselves [you have seen Me do].”** Yes, it is belief that Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in Him, but it also includes believing that what Jesus has taught is true. “Philip, listen to My words; what I say is truth, reality, the way things are. And if that isn’t enough, keep on believing because of the works you have seen Me do!” “The truth of God filled Jesus’ words; the power of God produced His works.” The 7 signs were “gracious pointers to faith” (5:36, 10:25,38, 20:30-31).

:12 **“Truly, truly, I say to you (plural) [I tell you the truth], he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.”** He/she who is continually believing in Jesus is learning the secret of His life. That secret lies in His relationship to and fellowship with His Father, the same Father we Christians have! This is “the unique secret of Christianity, the exchanged life, the new covenant.” The Father was displaying His life through His Son. And, the indwelling Holy Spirit will live the life of Jesus through us! Because Jesus has this special intimacy with His Father, we see Him doing the works the Father wants Him to do. And, Jesus says we’ll do the works of the Father also, even greater ones, because He is going to the Father and is the power source to do them.

Greater works than these: Obviously there were no greater miracles in the physical realm than Jesus did: turning water into wine, healing a without-strength man, from a distance healing a man’s son, feeding 1000s of people with a little boy’s lunch, walking on water, giving sight to a blind man, raising a man from the dead. Who can top those physical miracles? Yet the work of

“the Word become flesh” was, at its end of His earthly ministry, if based on numbers, not a ‘success.’ “Reduced to a comparative handful, and even these, in the hour of His capture and appearance before Pilate, forsook Him and fled.” The value of the works! Yet what are the greater works?

The greatest miracle is the changing of lives permanently. Through Peter, 3000 Jews became followers of Jesus all in one day. The apostle Paul and other apostles would take the Good News to places Jesus never went. Other greater works include sharing how the fruit of the Spirit can become evident through us, sharing the life-changing message of the New Covenant and what happens when you become a Christian—forgiveness of sins, a new heart, an intimate relationship with God as Father, direct access to God, God writing His law on our hearts and minds, and the Holy Spirit coming to permanently indwell our bodies. These are the “greater works.” Notice, these are ‘spiritual’ accomplishments, rather than physical. Listen carefully. Anything done to the spirit of a person is far more significant than something done to a person’s physical body. Anything done to the spirit of a person is permanent, eternal; that which is done to the flesh is merely temporary. These greater works were works done in the strength of the Holy Spirit whom Jesus would send from the Father (14:16-17, 15:26). The essence of who His Father is would be on display through the works of the disciples done in the name of the Son by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. He would send the Holy Spirit and empower them for ministry. But these greater works wouldn’t be seen until Jesus had finished His saving work on earth and returned to His Father. Until Jesus did His work on the cross and returned to His Father and sent the Holy Spirit, everything was still incomplete. And, we can share the life-changing Jesus with others. May we do so boldly. We’ll be doing the ‘greater works’!

:13-14 **“Whatever you ask [the Father] in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son [that the Son may bring glory to the Father]. :14 If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.”** Those who believe will pick up where Jesus left off and extend His ministry even further. **In My name** means “What do You want, Father? What do You want me to do and say?” This is what Jesus Himself always did. The test of any prayer is: Can I make it in the name of Jesus? Am I making it so God will be on display? If we’re praying for His will, that prayer is always answered in ways that are best. **Read 1 Jn. 5:14-15.** Let’s be saints of prayer, with the anticipation that Jesus & His words, the Spirit & His power, will change lives permanently, eternally.

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.” 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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NOTES

INTRO “They could bear to die with Him; they could not bear to live or die without Him.”

:2 Someone wrote “The base of the New Jerusalem alone is over 2 million square miles (**Rev. 21:16**).”

:6 the 6th of Jesus’ I AM statements (**6:48, 8:12, 10:9,11, 11:25, 14:6, 15:1**)!

:6 I like **2 Cor. 4:10-11**: “...that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal bodies.”

CONCL And, it won’t only last throughout the rest of our earthly lives, but for all eternity.