

**Life in His Name – Part 34**  
**Do Not Be Troubled - John 14:1-14**  
Crosspoint – Dave Spooner – Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Intro:**

- We are returning back to our text this morning. Please turn in your Bible to John chapter fourteen. The eleven remaining disciples are gathered with Jesus in an upper room, sharing the Passover together. Tensions are high with the anticipation of the betrayal of Jesus and what was to follow.
- Jesus washed their feet and told them to do the same for each other and that they must love one another, and He had loved them. This is the proof that they are truly a disciple of Jesus. This band of brothers had been following Jesus over the last three years, and now Jesus told them that they would not be able to follow with Him in these final steps that would end His ministry and His life.
- Jesus was “troubled in spirit” about the one who was to betray him (John 13:21), and now this news of His imminent departure from them to His final tortuous suffering and crucifixion was overwhelming them, including Jesus telling Peter that before the dawn of the morning, he would deny knowing Jesus, not just once, but three times. All of this deeply troubled them.
- Their hearts were troubled about being separated from Jesus. He was the one they turned to, He was the one they followed, He was the one who guided them, and He was the one who changed their lives and the one they had given their lives to. He was the one they believed could be or was the Messiah. What would happen not only to Him but to them for following Him? What did the death of Jesus mean, how would they serve, how would they be able to continue to follow Him, what would happen to them, and what would happen next?
- All of us, at times, are troubled in heart about the future. We are afraid of what the future may hold and get tied up in knots and become fearfully preoccupied and emotionally paralyzed about our thoughts about the future. We become afraid of so much and choose to not trust or love in our hyperventilating efforts for self-preservation.
- And into this context, Jesus says to you:

**John 14:1a NIV**

**Do not let your hearts be troubled.**

- Now Jesus gives us the reasons why and then what we are to do. But before we get to that part, it is important that this sentence sinks into our soul. Who is responsible for your heart not to be troubled? You are. We are all responsible for not letting our hearts be troubled. So, if your heart is troubled right now, especially for what will happen in the future, you are the one who is responsible and able to “untrouble” your heart. No one can do this for you. And this is something you can choose.
- In order to “untrouble” our heart, we have to first focus it on believing in Jesus and some very specific things He told us that will help to give us peace.

**Believe in Jesus**

**John 14:1b-4 NIV**

**You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3**

**And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.**

- Do you believe in God? This is the good and right starting place. That all of creation has a creator and that there is more to life than what is material. Now, with that belief, believe in Jesus, who He is, and what He promised. Here are the three specific things that Jesus wants you to know and hold true. You are to personalize these things.
- *Jesus has prepared a place for me* – by believing in Jesus, you have a place in the house of God. This is your final and eternal dwelling place. No matter what happens in this life, your end is secure. You will dwell in your Father’s house forever. This gives us peace. He has prepared this place by being there. This kingdom has been prepared for you since the foundation of the world (see Matt. 25:34).
- *Jesus is going to come and get me* – this is also a guarantee based upon the promise of one that can always be trusted. This will happen at the moment of your death or when He comes in His glory (whichever comes first). You will not enter eternity alone. Jesus will meet you and bring you into His kingdom of all those who love Him.
- *I will dwell with Jesus forever* – where He is, we will also be. We will and are never alone. He will be with us forever, and we will be with Him. Death does not have the final word; Jesus has overcome death, and His word and rule is final.
- Choose to focus on these things, and this will put your mind and heart at ease and give you peace. Your final destiny is secure, your story will have the happiest of endings, and it will all be put right in the end.
- Now, with that reality firmly in mind, we have things that we are to do. This “untroubled heart” is a means to an end, not the final end in itself. We now have very important things to do, and Jesus shows us how we must live.
- When Jesus said these things to His disciples, they had some questions, and the answer to their questions instructed them as it instructs us.

## **Walk in Jesus**

**John 14:5-7 NIV**

**Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”**

**6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”**

- Thomas, who was a man who needed verified evidence and concrete plans, told Jesus that he did not know what the Father’s house was, and because of this, he did not know the way to go there. Then Jesus gave this clear and concrete statement that reverberates with meaning **“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”** Thomas, if you want to go to the Father’s house, you have to follow me because I am the way to the Father. I am the truth of the Father. I am the life of the Father. And if you are to come to the Father and His house, you can only do so through me.
- This means a few things:
  - We have to continue to walk in the way of Jesus. We must continue to follow Him until our very end. There is no other way to the Father, and all who follow Jesus can enter the

Father's house. No one can get in without going through Him. So, continue to walk in Him! Walk in His way, follow Him!

- What Jesus says is the truth; what He says about the nature of the cosmos, what is yet to come, who God is, who He is, what we are in light of Him, and who He has made us to be. Everything that Jesus says is the truth because He is the truth. He is the standard by which all things are measured. What He says is the truth because He is the truth.
- Jesus is the life. There is no life without Him, and there will only be eternal life in Him. He created all things, and all things hold together in Him. If you want life and life abundantly, you can only find life in Jesus. (see John 10:10, 12:25, Col. 1:15-20).
- To know Jesus is to know God. Jesus is the image of the Father (2 Cor. 4:4). He is the very face of the Father if you want to know the Father, know Him through what you see, know, and hear through and in Jesus. If you want to know what God is like, look to Jesus. And this, by the way, is yet another claim of Jesus being God, the "I AM."
- As we continue to walk in the way of Jesus, we must also "work in Jesus" – that is, to continue to do the work that He was doing as He lives in us.

## Work in Jesus

### **John 14:8-10 NIV**

**Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." 9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.**

- If you have seen Jesus, you have seen the Father. Jesus was here to show us the Father and in us seeing and understanding the Father. We would know Him and give Him praise and glory for who He is.
- As evidence that Jesus is one with the Father, He said that the words that He spoke is the work of the Father. So, the Father's work, Jesus's words are the evidence that He and the Father are one. God's work is the words of Jesus, and the words of Jesus give evidence that He and the Father are one. The work is to give evidence of the identity of Jesus.

### **John 14:11-14 NIV**

**Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. 12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.**

- Alright, we have to break this down so we understand what Jesus said. He said that "**whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing.**" So, we have to ask the question, what are the "works" that Jesus had been doing, and what was their purpose? The purpose of the works was to provide evidence that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God so that people would believe in Him. The works provided evidence of the identity of Jesus. This was the purpose of the works. So then, the "work" that we do is to provide evidence that Jesus is the Christ, and

every believer will be doing these works. We must do the good works that God has prepared beforehand for us to do (See Eph. 2:10).

- Each believer has been uniquely gifted by God to do what God has prepared for them to do. Not everyone is called nor equipped to do the same things, and God gifts us according to His will (see Rom. 12:3-8, I Cor. 12:7-10,29-30). No one can do what Jesus was uniquely gifted and called to do, but each one must do what we are uniquely called and gifted to do so that what we do gives evidence to who Jesus is. This is the work that Jesus was doing, and we are all called to do this work as well.
- And we will do greater works, in the sense that we will have a greater time and greater reach to do these works, and in places in our time as an extension of the work of Jesus in the world through us – because He went to the Father – Jesus has sent His Spirit (as we will see in the next section of John) so that the work that He is doing will be spread to the entire earth.
- And when we pray for what we need to do these works that will give evidence that Jesus is the Christ, and to glorify God, God will give us everything we need to accomplish this task. This is what it means to “ask in His Name.” It is for His namesake that we ask so that He may be seen for who He is and that God will be glorified. This promise is not a blank check to get anything and everything our heart desires. It is a promise that God will give us everything we need to do the work that He has given us to do so that Jesus will be glorified. (See the conditions that Jesus put on prayer that are implied in this verse, which are specified in these places. John 15:7, I John 4:14-15, Mark 11:24)

## **Conclusion**

- So, we are going to put this all together. Don't let your heart be troubled about what is going to happen in the future. You and I have a responsibility to do this. We do this by focusing in on the promises of Jesus, that He has prepared a place for me, He will come and get me, and that I will be with Him for eternity. All things and your life will end well.
- Don't be paralyzed by being frozen by fixating on your fears. Believe in Jesus, walk in His way, follow Him. Do the work that He has called you to do. Live by faith in the Son of God and do the Good works that He has asked you to do so that people will see from your life that Jesus is who He says He is. Make a difference by the power of the Spirit working in you to give honor to Jesus and glory to God. Do these things with devotion to your Savior and Lord until you see Him face to face.