**Comfort to Troubled Hearts**

**(Jesus: the *Way, Truth,* and *Life*)**

**John 14:1-6**

In these last hours, the collective *heart* of the disciples is greatly *troubled* (*tarassestho, to be troubled,* refers to the tossing and agitation of the sea, driven by the wind). The reasons for this *agitated disquiet* is evident from the context:

* Though the multitude provided a triumphant entrance into Jerusalem (12:12-13), and His enemies seemed defeated (12:19), Jesus is *troubled,* and makes *troubling statements* (12:27-28,32-33,35-36), what neither His disciples nor the multitude can comprehend, 12:16,34;
* The continuing *troubled spirit* of Jesus regarding a coming *betrayal* by one of them, 13:21-30;
* The revelation of His *imminent departure* from them, 13:31-33, and a *new command-* the gravity of which surely was not understood, 13:34-35;
* The now-present *inability to follow Him,* despite their having *left all* to do just that for the past three and a half years, 13:36; and,
* The forecast of *Peter’s three-fold denial,* despite his being Jesus’ most ardent follower (cf. Matt.14:29) and confessor (cf. Matt.16:16), 13:37-38.

It is likely impossible for us to comprehend or fully appreciate just how *troubled* the *heart* of His disciples were at that moment. The confusion surrounding the Cause with which they have heretofore associated themselves must have surely been most unsettling when compounded by their own personal uncertainties. They were expecting- especially since the *triumphal entry to Jerusalem* (12:12-13), the long-awaited crowning of the Messiah/King, but Jesus is *troubled* and saying *troubling things.* They were confused, fearful, and doubting- and needed their minds set at ease, their fears allayed, and their hearts strengthened… they needed Jesus, and increased faith in Him!

**So what did Jesus provide to allay their fears and calm their confusion and doubts? Four things:**

**v.1, Faith in *Him.*** There is a slight but important distinction in the translations in this verse. The KJV reads, *“Ye believe in God, believe also in Me.”*  But the NASB says, *“believe in God, believe also in Me.”* Greek is usually one of the most precise of all languages, but has an ambiguity that is highlighted here. It has to do with verb tenses. Are the verbs present active *indicative,* or present active *imperative,* or a mixture of the two in these phrases? There is no real way to be certain. Thus, the translators had to choose based on context. The KJV chose *indicative* for the first phrase (*“Ye believe in God”*), and *imperative* for the second (*“believe also in Me”*); whereas the NASB thought both phrases to be *imperative* (*“believe in God, believe also in Me”*). The KJV affirms faith in God and implores subsequent faith in Jesus. The NASB implores faith in God and faith in Jesus because you can’t have one without the other. The latter, according to scholars and commentators, seems to be Jesus’ meaning based on the context, cf. vv.7-11a.

But here’s the point: when *one* (including *us- you* or *me*) has confusion, doubts, fears, and are thus *troubled in heart,* the prescription is to *believe in Jesus!*  Believe in His: *divinity, power, concern* and *eternal provision* for you as His disciple…. IF you have *faith in* Him!

**v.2, Faith in His *Provision.*** The word *mone* refers to *dwelling/abiding places* (rather than the Latin *mansiones-* mansions). The emphasis is on the *permanence* rather than the size or extravagance. Why is this significant? Think about to whom Jesus is speaking. His disciples have, as Peter earlier said, *“left everything and followed you”* (Matt.19:27). But they have just heard that now He is *leaving,* and that they can *no longer follow* Him, 13:33-36. What is to become of them? What about the *earthly kingdom* they were expecting and had so long anticipated (and in which they hoped to have prominent places cf. Matt.19:28; 20:20ff). They were assured of *permanent dwellings!*

Do these *dwelling places* refer to *heaven* or the *church?* Consider: 1) they *then existed* (*“are,”* v.2a), while the *church* was yet to be formed, cf. Matt.16:18; and, 2) Jesus *left earth* to *go to prepare a place* in His *Father’s house-* the *church* exists *on earth.* Such seems to settle the issue.

When we’re feeling that we have nothing in this life, we must *know* (have *faith in*) that the *glories of heaven* await us!

**v.3a, Faith in His *Return.*** They’ve just been told that their *Leader* is leaving, and they can no longer *follow.* Though He assures them that they are not be left *alone,* cf. vv.16-17,25-26; they are being *left!*  As much as the Spirit would *comfort* them, the fact that Jesus would *return* is of even greater comfort, cf.v.18! Being *left alone* (even with provided *comforts*) is only bearable with the assurance that the situation is not permanent- Jesus *would* and *will* return. Practically anything is bearable if we know it has an end. Hopelessness is the greatest of all despairs. But Jesus will *return* to end their isolation and loneliness. His departure is necessary for three important reasons: 1) that they could understand the *true nature* of His kingdom and their own roles within it, cf. v.20; 16:12; 2) that they could be guided into *all truth by the Spirit,* cf.vv.25-26; 16:13-16; 3) to *prepare a place for them/us,* v.2.

If/when we feel *isolated* or *alone,* we must *know* (have *faith*) that Jesus has not left us *alone-* we have the Spirit’s words to guide us; and that He *will return* for us, 1Thess.4:16-18!

**v.3b, Faith in Eternity with Jesus.** Jesus told His disciples (and us!) that: 1) He was leaving; 2) they could no longer follow as they had previously; 3) He would not leave them alone- the Spirit would *guide* and *comfort* them; 4) He was going to *prepare a place;* 5) that He would *return for them;* and now, 6) that *then* and *there* they (and we!) could *ever be with Him* in the *glories of His Father’s house!*

Whatever we face *here,* and *however* bad it becomes, we must *know* (have *faith in*) that the *eternal glories* and *presence of Jesus* await us in the *Father’s house,* cf. 2Cor.4:17; Phil.2:20. The *death* and *decay* of our lives here will be replaced with the *no tears, no night,* and *eternal joys* of heaven, Rev.21:1-7!

**Conclusion: v.6, Jesus is *the* (definitive, the *one* and *only*)…**

1. ***Way-*** There is no other *way, path, door* or *gate,* cf. Matt.7:13-14; John 10:1,9.
2. ***Truth-*** There is no other *truth* or *plan* by which heaven can be attained, Acts 4:12; Eph.1:3-14; 1Tim.2:5.
3. ***Life-*** There is no one else that provides *life* to the *dead, immortality* to the *mortal,* and *eternity* to the *finite,* Eph.2:1-10.

**Now, if you’re feeling *confused, fearful, doubtful,* and/or *troubled,* recall and be assured with the same things Jesus told His disciples*…***

***Believe* in *Him, His provision, His return,* and *Your eternity in His presence with the Father!***