

## EXPOSITION OF JOHN

Message #54

John 14:1-6

We live in a time in which people have heart trouble. Heart attacks and heart related ailments are the number one killer of our time. Cardiologists have determined if you can get the right amount of exercise and eat the right things and eliminate some of the stress, you can make your heart stronger and you can live longer.

When it comes to God we all have a serious heart disease called sin. Our hearts are deceitful and desperately wicked and if you don't do something about it, it will eternally kill you. That, of course, is why Jesus Christ came into this world. He came as the God/Savior so that He could make our hearts right with God. He came to cure the sin problem of our heart, but in order to do that He had to die, be buried, rise again and go back to heaven. That news was troubling to a small group of men who were His disciples.

So in this series of verses, Jesus specifically gives information designed to calm troubled hearts. God does not want His people troubled in their hearts. That becomes quite obvious when you read **John 14** because He repeats this twice - **14:1; 14:27**. The truth is, there were many things in this Upper Room that were very troubling to the disciples.

In fact, in this great Upper Room Discourse, Jesus will be interrupted at least five times: Peter (**13:36**); Thomas (**14:5**); Philip (**14:8**); Judas (not Iscariot) (**14:22**) and the disciples' questions (**16:19**). The primary point Jesus drives home in **John 14:1-6** is this:

It was in this context of negatives that Jesus gave them one of the most important and comforting teachings ever:

**THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST AND HIS TEMPORARY PHYSICAL ABSENCE SHOULD NEVER TROUBLE A BELIEVER BECAUSE IT OPENS THE DOOR FOR US TO BE ABLE HAVE A WONDERFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND ENABLES US TO BE ABLE TO GO AND LIVE WITH GOD BECAUSE JESUS WILL COME BACK TO GET US.**

It was just about time for Jesus to go home and the way He was going home was via the cross.

Now this section features Jesus making a series of independent statements, which of course are all contextually connected to form the whole, which are all designed to comfort a troubled heart.

**INDEPENDENT STATEMENT #1** – Do not let your hearts be troubled. **14:1a**

The disciples were very troubled in their hearts. The word “troubled” (ταρασσω) is a present tense, imperative mood, passive voice verb which means they are being given a command not to continually allow their hearts to be in a continual and habitual state of disturbance and perplexity. The passive voice indicates they aren't the cause of not having a troubled heart, but the information Christ will give them has the power to cure their troubled hearts.

In the Greek Text, there was no original chapter divisions, which means there was no break point contextually between **chapter 13** and **chapter 14**. The pronoun “your” is plural meaning Jesus is not just addressing Peter but all the disciples.

Jesus had told His disciples several things that were very troubling to them. He told them that He was going to leave (7:34; 8:21; 12:8, 35; **13:33**). He told them that He was going to die (12:31-32; **13:38**). He told them that one of them was a traitor (**13:21**). He told them that Peter, perhaps the strongest and boldest of the disciples, would deny Him three times (**13:38**). He had told them that Satan was in their midst working (**Luke 22:31-32**). He told them that all of them would fall away from Him that very night (**Matthew 26:31**). This news was not happy news and, as Dr. Edwin Blum said, “The cumulative weight of these revelations must have greatly depressed them” (*John*, p. 322).

It was in this context in which Jesus said, “Don’t allow your heart to be continually stirred up or disquieted” (Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 440). Don’t let your hearts be troubled by any of this. Don’t let this disturb you.

Now of course the big question to all of this is how do you do this? How do you sift through all of this truth, including the fact that there will be a denial and falling away by us, and not be troubled? Any one in their right mind would be disturbed by all of this. Jesus says if you understand what is happening here, if you grasp the theological ramifications of all of this, your hearts won’t be troubled. **If you will let your mind think about what I am about to say to you, your hearts will not be in a continual troubled state.**

Perhaps you are here and your heart is troubled because you know you have failed God. You have denied Him; you have not stood for right, but have done what is wrong. If you have truly trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, this is a comforting text for you. Confess your sin, come back into fellowship with Him and your heart will be troubled no more.

In the next independent statements, Jesus gives some tremendous news designed to quiet troubled hearts.

**INDEPENDENT STATEMENT #2** – Do believe in the God, also believe in Me. **14:1b**

The noun “Father” is specifically used some 53 times in John 13-17. So when Jesus mentions God, He does not mean He is not God, He is referring to God the Father. **The admonition here is to believe in God the Father and believe in Jesus Christ at the same level.** Now the faith of the disciples in God and in Christ was about to be stretched to the maximum. What would happen in the next hours right before their eyes would force them to face what they believe. **This is the key to not having a troubled heart. Heart trouble and soul trouble is relieved by faith, not works.** If the disciples believed in themselves, they would be very troubled, because in the next few hours one of them would deny Jesus three times and the rest would abandon Him. But if they placed their faith in Him their troubled hearts would be calmed and saved. Death is no threat to one who believes in Jesus Christ as the God/Savior.

The first key to not having a troubled heart is to believe totally and only in Jesus Christ as the only God/Savior who can give you a relationship with the Holy God.

**INDEPENDENT STATEMENT #3** – In the house of My Father, are many dwelling places.  
**14:2a**

I want you to notice that Jesus refers to heaven as being His “Father’s house.” What that means is that this place is only for the Father’s children. All of the Father’s children are welcomed to the Father’s home.

You may say, well in a family if children are not behaving properly, they aren’t loved or wanted at that home. I can tell you this; any father with any wits about him spends many a sleepless night worrying and praying for wayward children and the total desire of his heart is to see those children become what they ought to become so there can be wonderful fellowship in the father’s home. Heaven will be the place when all the children are in a right relationship with God.

The Father’s house is in heaven and Jesus, who is God’s Son has His home in heaven. But what about us? Jesus says to His disciples that I want you to know that in My Father’s house are many “dwelling places.” The Greek word “place” (μοναι) is a plural noun, which refers to many places. The word actually refers to a staying place or a place to abide, an abode (Smith, p. 296). In fact, it is used again in **verse 23** and there it is translated “abode.” The word simply has to do with “abiding place” and not so much to stately mansions. The word describes more like a wonderful apartment within the Father’s home rather than many mansions.

Jesus is saying your hearts do not need to be troubled because at My home, at My Father’s home, there is a room for you who have believed in Me. There are many places where those in eternity may live. There is plenty of room.

When Jesus was about to be born, Joseph and Mary stopped at an inn and asked for a room and they were told there was no room. That will never happen to you in heaven. There are “many” places and one of those places is for you and **just as there was room at the cross for you so also there is a room in heaven for you.**

**INDEPENDENT STATEMENT #4** – If this were not the case I would have told you because I am going to prepare a place for you. **14:2b**

I have heard some people refer to heaven as some state of mind. Heaven is not a state of mind, it is a real place. Jesus is bringing out the fact that heaven is a very real place. Heaven was no “pie-in-the-sky delusion” to Jesus Christ, for He came out of heaven and was dying on a cross to take us to heaven. Abraham had his faith-sights fixed on an eternal city whose architect was God (Hebrews 11:10). Jesus says I am telling you the way it is; there is a place for you in heaven and I am going specifically there to design your place.

Dr. H. A. Ironside made an interesting observation when he said that actually we have more information in the Bible on what is not in heaven rather than what is in heaven (*John*, p. 594). Ultimately there is no pain, hurt, hardship or tears. There is no more curse, no sin, no darkness. But one of the things we know is **there is a specific place prepared specifically for every . believer by Jesus Christ and it will be a wonderful place.**

The thought of Jesus actually preparing a place for us is a thrilling thought. **First** of all, He is God who created the heavens and the earth and all things in it. **Second**, while He was here on earth He was a carpenter (Mark 6:3). **Third**, now that He is back up into heaven He is building a spiritual church on earth and physical abodes for the church in heaven. **Fourth**, He is the One who sanctioned your life with your personality. **Fifth**, He is the One who saved you with your interests and likes and dislikes, and **Sixth**, He is specifically involved in actually building a new abode for you in heaven. The point is you will have your own abode in heaven that He specifically built for you that fits you and is designed for you.

When we have had guests stay in our home, Mary will often prepare a room with the guest in mind if she knows they are coming. She will actually put special things in the room so the guest will feel at home and feel comfortable. For example, one particular guest she knew liked chocolate, so she made sure there were chocolates there. Now just think of this, Jesus knows you are coming to live with Him and he knows when you are coming and He is in charge of getting your room ready. What a room it is going to be. A room specifically designed for us by the One who created us.

When the disciples would think about this, it would untrouble a heart. In fact, you could almost get to the place in which you could want Christ to go to heaven so He could get working on your room. He needed to die to take us to heaven and then He needed to go back to heaven to get our dwelling place ready.

**INDEPENDENT STATEMENT #5** – If I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again .  
Myself in order that where I am, you may be. **14:3**

This would be amazing, comforting news. In view of the fact that Jesus would be denied and abandoned by these very disciples, think of the comforting truth that He would come back to get them. **There is great comfort, knowing we have a place in heaven to live, but there is more comfort knowing that Jesus will come back and get us to take us to this place to live.**

Now there are some who believe that Jesus is specifically referring to the death of a believer when He specifically comes to get them. However, there is no place in the Bible where we are told that when we die Jesus comes to get us. In fact, there is some evidence that at death, it is His angels that are at work (Luke 16:22). I am convinced that the last ministry angels have with God's people is to usher them into heaven when the soul leaves the body. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

More than likely, **the specific reference to Christ coming is a reference to the Rapture of the Church**, which will end the Church Age and bring all believers into heaven in their glorified body. It is true that one may go to heaven by dying as a believer, or one may go at the Rapture without dying.

Some will get to go to heaven by walking through the valley of the shadow of death. Others will get to go via the Rapture of the Church. However it is the Rapture that gives the believer their final glorified body (I Corinthians 15; I Thessalonians 4).

So not only does Jesus go to prepare a place for the believer, but He will come again to get the believer to take the believer to where He is.

**INDEPENDENT STATEMENT #6** – You know the way to the place I am going. **14:4-5**

All throughout the ministry of Jesus Christ, He had been telling them that faith in Him was the key to going to live at the place He lived.

When Thomas heard these statements He said Lord we don't know where you are going and we don't know the way to get to where you are going. How sad this is. Jesus has been with these disciples for over three years and they still do not know what can take them to heaven - faith only and totally in Him. So just hours from the cross, Jesus spells this out.

**INDEPENDENT STATEMENT #7** – Jesus is the only means of entrance into heaven. **14:6**

I have heard people who say - Well we are all going to the same place but just using different roads to get there. We are all on our way to heaven, but different religions offer different routes. That is a lie out of hell. There is only one, narrow, specific way to get into heaven and it is only by faith in Jesus Christ.

The statement is another "I AM" statement, which is a statement of Deity that John records concerning Jesus Christ (6:48; 8:12; 10:9, 11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1). Now before each of the nouns is an article "the" which means God wants Jesus Christ specifically identified and pointed out as being the only means of entrance into a relationship with Him and the only means of entrance into heaven:

Jesus is the way - the one and only way to go to heaven. Notice this point carefully - **Jesus is not pointing you in the way to go to heaven, HE IS THE ONLY WAY to go to heaven.** There is no other foundation on which you may stand that can take you to heaven (I Corinthians 3:11) except Jesus Christ; there is other name that can save you except Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12) and there is no other mediator that can work out a peace settlement between God and Man except Jesus Christ (I Timothy 2:5). Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven. There is no other way. There is nothing else for you to trust to take you there.

Jesus is the truth - He is the only truthful way to go to heaven. Any other way is a lie.

Jesus is the life - He is the only way to having everlasting life.

No one comes to God the Father in heaven except through Me. The pronoun "Me" is very emphatic. To get to the Father in heaven you must go through Jesus Christ, via faith in Him. This wipes away any possibility of there being any other way to heaven. Heaven is an exclusive place and there is only one exclusive way to get in.

Salvation is not obtained through a variety of religious ways, works and opinions. Salvation is only found in Jesus Christ. He is the only way to heaven. There is no other way. To go to heaven you must go via Him.

Sometimes you will hear people say, even believers, “Well I’ll just be happy being there because I won’t deserve any more than that.” You miss the point of this - you don’t deserve to be there. We don’t deserve heaven at all. None of us deserve to go. There is only one way in for every one of us and that is through Jesus Christ.

Are you trusting totally and only in Jesus Christ to take you to heaven? Do you believe that Jesus Christ and the Father are One in Deity? Do you believe that Jesus Christ is your only Savior who can give you a relationship with God the Father? If your answer is yes - you are on your way to heaven. You are heading to a specific place which He has prepared for you.

Let not your heart be troubled any more, you are heading home.