

**John 14:1-14**  
*Troubled Hearts*

**Main idea:** We search for all kinds of things to calm our troubled hearts. But only Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

It seems like there are an insane number of unknowns in life. Let me know in the comments. What's something that you wish you knew, but you know that you don't know? One of the things that we've been reminded of lately is that we really don't know what today holds, much less tomorrow.<sup>1</sup> We don't know what politicians are going to say, or how public life is going to look in a month, or if we're ever going to find toilet paper at the store ever again. We just don't know!

I wish I knew if we'll be able to have VBS this summer. I wish I knew when we'll be able to come back together as a church family again, and what that will look like.

And even outside of our current situation, I wish I knew even more things. I wish I knew that my kids will be happy, healthy adults. I wish I knew how to best care for all of Raelynn's needs. I wish I knew how to best help all of you to grow in your faith and glorify God. But I just don't know it all. In fact, I find more and more just how little I do know.

So what is it that you know that you don't know, but you wish you knew?

*[get responses]*

It's easy to get consumed with all the unknowns. We can dwell on them so much that our hearts become troubled, and we worry about all sorts of things, but that really doesn't seem to accomplish anything.<sup>2</sup>

So what should we do when our hearts are troubled?

To answer that question, we're going to read Jesus's words in John 14. Starting in verse 1, Jesus said:

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me." (John 14:1)

**The word of God for the people of God. *Thanks be to God.***

So Jesus told His disciples to believe. No matter what troubles your heart, the simple solution is to believe in God and His Son Jesus Christ. Let me know. Is it easy to believe in God when your heart is troubled?

I've counseled with a few people over the years that seem to think that that sounds overly simplistic. People deal with some pretty heavy issues. Some of the things that often most confuse and worry people are death, heaven, and hell. But no matter what it is, Jesus tells us to just believe. Is that really going to solve the problems that we face?

Let me ask it like this: can faith in Jesus really give you peace like a river?

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<sup>1</sup> James 4:13-14

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 6:27

In 1555, a man named Nicholas Ridley was burned at the stake because of his witness for Christ. On the night before Ridley's execution, his brother offered to remain with him in the prison chamber to be of assistance and comfort. Nicholas declined the offer and replied that he meant to go to bed and sleep as quietly as ever he did in his life. Because he knew the peace of God, he could rest in the strength of the everlasting arms of his Lord to meet his need.

Jesus can give you that kind of peace. He calmed the storms on the sea, and He can just as easily calm your heart in the midst of the storm.<sup>3</sup>

Verse 2.

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. (John 14:2-3)

It's interesting that a lot of people are troubled by the thought of heaven. Why do you think that is?

We ought to have peace about heaven, but a lot of people are troubled about heaven because they worry about whether or not they'll go there, or about whether their loved ones will go there. But Jesus told His disciples, "Hey, just trust Me. In my Father's house are many rooms, and I'm preparing a place for you."

Jesus gave us an enormous promise! By grace, through faith in Him, we don't have to worry at all about eternal home.<sup>4</sup> Jesus wants us to be absolutely certain about our eternal home, so He told us, "Don't worry, I'm coming back, and when I come again, I'll take you back to be with Me forever." And He does that not because we earned it in some way, but simply because He loves us, and loves to show us His grace.<sup>5</sup>

Maybe you're insecure about your worth before God. It's true that we've all sinned and we don't deserve forgiveness,<sup>6</sup> and yet, God forgives. He forgives freely and without favoritism.<sup>7</sup> He loves the unlovable and gives grace to the undeserving.<sup>8</sup> Therefore, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.<sup>9</sup>

We're saved from ourselves. We're saved from our sin. We're saved from hell, and we're saved unto heaven. And it's all because Jesus paved the way for us. He went to the cross, died for our sin, rose from the grave, and would ascend to heaven.<sup>10</sup>

So we can have absolute certainty that we have a place in heaven, too, because it doesn't depend on our ability to earn it, but on Jesus, who earned it for us.

And yet, so often we still doubt. Verse 4. Jesus said to His disciples:

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<sup>3</sup> Matthew 8:23-27

<sup>4</sup> Ephesians 2:8-9

<sup>5</sup> John 3:16-17, Romans 5:8

<sup>6</sup> Romans 6:23

<sup>7</sup> Romans 2:11, Colossians 3:13

<sup>8</sup> Luke 6:35

<sup>9</sup> Romans 10:13

<sup>10</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

“And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

It's interesting that Jesus was speaking to His disciples in a very comforting way, telling them that they would have a place in heaven waiting for them, and yet they seemed to be troubled by His words. They didn't know what He was talking about. Or maybe they were still too earthly-minded so that they weren't even yet capable of understanding Him. And yet Jesus told them, “You know the way to where I'm going.”

Did they? Well, they must have. Jesus said it, and Jesus is God, and God doesn't lie.<sup>11</sup> They must have known it, and yet it seems that they were suppressing the truth in unrighteousness.<sup>12</sup> They wanted a savior who would free them from the Romans, and who would bring peace to their country, and who would conquer their enemies. They certainly didn't want a Savior who would die on a cross.

And so I wonder how many people reject Jesus because He's just not what they want Him to be. But if Jesus is the Lord, and He is, then we don't have the right to define who Jesus is for ourselves. We need to come humbly to the Jesus revealed in Scripture, and allow Him to mold us into His image, not the other way around.

I'm becoming more and more convinced that people reject Jesus not because they don't know He's the way, but because they don't want Him to be the way. They want to make their own way. And when I say, “people,” I really mean you and me.

So often, I go my own way because I want to make something of myself. But what's interesting about that is that after I find I can't do it, because I fall short, I get troubled and I have to be reminded that Jesus says to me, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.” So I'm not to believe in myself, as if I'm my savior, but in Jesus, because only He is the savior.

Well, that's actually pretty easy to do once I see that I fail. But it's much harder to do when I succeed. But even then, I get troubled. I get troubled that maybe I can't sustain the success. That it'll all come crashing down.

Before we started meeting online only 8 weeks ago, you may have noticed our church was actually experiencing some amazingly consistent growth. We grew by about 10% per year for the last 3 years, and we baptized 15 people. That might not sound like a lot, but that's actually considered to be excellent growth by people who study these things. But then covid-19 forced us to meet online only, and I've just been discouraged by so many things. I worry that when we're finally able to come back together again, we'll all be so used to staying in that all of the growth that we've had over the last 3 years will be undone. But even more than that, I worry that we're not effectively making the most of this time in discipling one another and sharing the gospel with our lost neighbors right now.

But once again, in the midst of all my worries and unknowns, Jesus says to me, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.”

Listen, no matter what troubles your heart, whether it's failure or success or unknowns, the answer is to believe. Trust in God and His Son Jesus Christ. He alone is the way, and truth, and the life.

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<sup>11</sup> John 1:1-2, John 1:14, Numbers 23:19

<sup>12</sup> Romans 1:18

Jesus is the way. There is no other way.

Jesus is the truth. There is no other truth.

And Jesus is the life. All life comes from Him. And all life is through Him. He is the only way to experience eternal life with the Father in heaven.<sup>13</sup>

So then Philip had a question. Verse 8.

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. (John 14:8-11)

Jesus said in another place, "I and the Father are One."<sup>14</sup> If you want to see God, look no further than Jesus.

Keep that in mind when we read what Jesus says next.

Verse 12.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. (John 14:12-14)

Jesus told His disciples that they would do greater works than Himself, which means that He was saying that they, and maybe we, would do greater things than God!

And when I first read that, I thought, how is that possible? How can we do greater things than God?

But when you start to think about it, it only makes sense, at least when you look at it the way Jesus was talking about it. I mean, Jesus is God. He and the Father are One. It only makes sense that Jesus could do what He did, because God can do anything!

But who are we? We don't have any miraculous powers. We're not omnipotent. And yet, when Jesus works through us, when we ask something in His name and He does it, that's a miracle!

So is your heart sometimes troubled? Believe in Jesus. He can do the miraculous in you. He can forgive you of your sin and give you peace, and do absolutely amazing things through your life.

Listen, we don't know what's going to happen today, or tomorrow, or next month. Life is full of unknowns. But we do know this: throughout it all, we can trust Jesus. He is the way.

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<sup>13</sup> Romans 11:36, Colossians 1:16-20

<sup>14</sup> John 10:30

That means, of course, that we shouldn't try to go our own way. Our way leads to troubled hearts. But Jesus is the truth, and his way leads to life and peace.

Faith in Jesus really can give you that kind of peace. So put your faith in Him.