

Truth for Troubled Times

John 14:1-11

Upper Room Discourse: Troubling times lay ahead, therefore:

1. Counsel your hearts (14:1)

(14:1) “Let not your hearts be *troubled* (agitated).”

The disciples would be troubled by a traitor, the promise of Peter’s denial and Christ’s announcement that He would die.

“**Let not**” = Stop allowing your hearts to be troubled.

It’s not that a Christian never feels troubled, but that we do not allow our hearts to remain troubled. We counsel our hearts to truth:

Ps 42:11 Why, my soul, are you downcast...put your hope in God

Anxiety is the belief that God is not in control. Truth counters this.

Jesus’ prescription to a troubled heart is to believe in Him.

Believe = to be persuaded that someone is worthy of your trust

2. Focus on your destination (14:2-3)

(14:2) “In my Father’s house are many rooms...”

Note: These are not stand-alone mansions as we think of them.

Preparing a place is not an indication of how long it takes God to make Heaven, but a reference to a wedding custom commonly associated with the return of Christ.

This pictures the Jewish wedding customs: The couple is betrothed (**2 Cor 11:2**). The man goes to His Father’s house to prepare Himself and the dwelling (**John 14:2**). He would return around a year later, no one knowing exactly when (**Mt 24:36**), to retrieve His bride and then they live together (**1 Thess. 4:17**).

“**Take you unto myself**” refers to Christ’s coming for his Bride as seen in **1 Thes. 4:16-18**. We are to be comforted by these words.

Christ is the reward of Heaven. The longing of our heart is to be with and live with our God. If our desire for heaven is the comfort, the mansion, the reunion with pets or loved ones exceeds our desire for Christ, we are spiritual gold-diggers.

3. Know where you’re going (14:4-6)

(14:4-5) Jesus and Thomas discuss that they should know the way.

(14:6) Jesus is the WAY, Truth, Life:

“**The Way**” A way is a path that leads to a destination.

Matthew 7:13-14 We are all on either the wide or narrow path.

Each path (wide, narrow) has a specific destination.



Q: How can you tell which path you are taking? There will be signs:
Wide path: The path is wide and broad--most people take this path. The wide path is an easy path, allowing you to do what you want. The wide path ends in Hell (destruction).

Narrow path: It’s narrow, it’s only by Christ and few in number take this road. The path is hard, difficult, pressing (**2 Tim 3:12**). The narrow path leads to eternal life.

The road of suffering is encouraging because it reminds us of our destination: Life. See **Acts 5:40-41**; after a beating, the disciples rejoiced that they were worthy to suffer for Christ.

Matthew 5:11-12 Those reviled/persecuted are told to rejoice.

That was the path of the prophets of God.

The narrow, rough path is the one that leads to HOME.

Illus: Old country road.

“**The Truth**” Truth corresponds to reality (as God defines it).

John 1:17 Grace and truth is through Christ

John 17:17 Sanctify them in truth, your Word is truth.

Truth is not chosen but discovered and affirmed. Truth is the Bible.

“**The Life**” **John 1:4** Jesus is the life and light of men.

Life is the state of being “in Christ.” There is only one life—Christ.

4. Know Theology (14:7-11)

What you believe to be true of God determines how you endure.

(14:7) “If you had known me, you would have known my Father.”

(14:8) (In ignorance) Philip asks to see the Father.

(14:9) Philip’s problem is an inaccurate theology of Christ.

To see Christ is to see Father—this speaks of a Godhead/Trinity.

John 1:1-2 The Word (Christ) is God and is with God.

Jesus is equal to God in all ways, yet distinct.

We cannot fully grasp the transcendent nature of God (**Isa 55:8-9**).

Illus: Describe your life to a paramecium (single-celled organism).

(14:10) All we can do with a trinitarian concept is to believe it.

These words Christ speaks are in accordance with the Father.

(14:11) Christ’s works prove His deity.

No one can do what Christ did without being God.