**May 10, 2020 John 14:1-14**

***Assurance***

**Scripture:** John 14:1-14 NRSV

*(1)"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. (2)In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (3)And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. (4)And you know the way to the place where I am going." (5)Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" (6)Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (7)If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." (8)Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." (9)Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? (10)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; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. (11)Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. (12)Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. (13)I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (14)If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.*

**Notes:**

1. Jesus’ as well as his ***disciple’s*** hearts are breaking.
   1. There is nothing wrong with a broken or troubled ***heart***.
   2. Most of us are no strangers to ***questions***.
2. *O****ur eternal home is in* Heaven *with Jesus***
   1. ***Jesus*** is what makes heaven ***HEAVEN***.
   2. My future is completely ***assured*** by Christ.
3. ***Our* privilege *to know God, through* *Jesus***.
   1. Jesus is the ***only*** ***way*** to God.
   2. God is revealed in the whole ***personality*** of Christ.
4. ***Our* opportunity *to do great things, for Jesus*.**
   1. Our motive for praying is to ***glorify*** God,
   2. Jesus gives us great ***comfort*** when our heart is broken.
5. Do not let a ***troubled*** ***heart***, keep you from Jesus, rely on him.
   1. Turn toward ***Christ***.
   2. Jesus has gone to prepare a place to spend ***eternity*** with him.
   3. Are you taking advantage of this ***opportunity***?
6. Jesus is the ***way***, Jesus is the ***truth***, and Jesus is the ***life***.
   1. It is God’s will that ***none*** are lost to sin, including each of ***us***.
   2. Jesus gives us the ***assurance***; He is with us for all of eternity.

**Transcript:**

Have you ever had to say goodbye to somebody very close to you? I have, and the pains are ever present when I think of that day. It was October 1974, I was in the sixth grade and my Aunt Eileen, Uncle Lowell, and cousins Glen, Brian, and Trina were loading all of their belongings up and moving to Colorado.

Glen and Brian were like brothers to me at that time. We spent hours upon hours together, me at their house or them at mine; Baseball, football, music, movies; we mostly experienced all of these things together, until that day. I still remember the goodbyes, the pain I felt as I supposed that I would never see them again. I had no indication if or when I would; I just knew that they were leaving and life was never going to be normal again. I would not be spending summer evenings at their house hanging out; no spur of the moment baseball games, football games, no all-nighters where we would stay up as late as we could, listening to old records, trading baseball cards, watching horror movies and listening to National Anthem as the TV station would be signing off for the day. My life as an eleven-year-old boy was over as I knew it. To me, the closest friends in my life, were leaving and I didn’t know what to do next. This event wounded me deeply as I felt like my heart was being ripped from my chest; and it would take me years to get over this anguish.

Have you ever felt that way? Have you ever suffered a loss so great that you thought you would never recover from it? Have you ever been told, “life is going to change; nothing will ever seem normal again”; “You will need to move on without me”? You get the drift of what I am talking about, don’t you? Have you ever suffered a loss so great that you never thought you would recover; a loss so great that you never thought you would be able to survive the loss?

Well in today’s sermon passage I believe the disciples are at this point; and Jesus may be as well, or at least getting very close to it. Jesus is telling them, I am going away and you cannot come with me. But someday you can come to me; you know where I am going, you know the way; I am going to prepare a place for us to spend eternity together. Most of you know the passage I am talking about; you know what Jesus is saying, but do you really understand what he is saying? Turn with me in your bibles to John chapter 14; and share with me as I read our sermon passage from verses 1-14.

*(1)"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. (2)In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (3)And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. (4)And you know the way to the place where I am going." (5)Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" (6)Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (7)If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." (8)Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." (9)Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? (10)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; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. (11)Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. (12)Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. (13)I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (14)If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.* ***John 14:1-14 NRSV***

Jesus’ as well as his disciple’s hearts are breaking, Scripture says their hearts were troubled. But this is not the first time, Jesus heart was troubled at least three times. First in John 11:33 when Jesus felt the sorrow of losing His good friend Lazarus. Again, after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem when He told Philip and Andrew that His hour had come referring to His fast-approaching death on the cross. According to John 12:27 Jesus said, 'Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.' And the third time was in John 13:21 when Jesus revealed to His disciples that one of them would betray Him. Now Jesus is telling them that He is going away; Surely his heart must be breaking, these men have become like brothers to Him and even though he knows that he will return to them, He also knows the pain and anguish they will experience over the next few days as they watch what must be done to accomplish God’s will. SO yes, I believe Jesus own heart is breaking in this moment in scripture as he shares these words with his disciples.

There is nothing wrong with a broken or should I say a troubled heart. it is part of life on this side of glory. What is important is how we deal with a troubled heart. For this, we need to make use of the right remedy which comes from the great physician Himself, our Lord Jesus Christ. And since He understands perfectly what it feels like to be troubled in His own heart, His remedy is bound to be most effective to deal with it. The words that Jesus shares made the disciples feel quite fearful and anxious. In their hearts the future seemed very uncertain. There were many questions. Why did their master have to leave them? Why could He not stay with them longer? What will become of them after He is gone?

Most of us are no strangers to questions of this nature. They tend to trouble us most when there is an unexpected turn of events. Perhaps a close friend must suddenly move away to maintain their employment. Perhaps you change careers in midlife, how will you cope in this new job market. Perhaps a member of your family is diagnosed to have an incurable disease. Perhaps a member of your family dies in a terrible accident or act of violence. Or we are asked to shelter in place, to prevent the spread of this COVID 19 virus. In all these situations the question that troubles us is 'Why must this happen? Why can't things just remain the way they have been?

Whenever you feel as if the walls of your life are closing in on you, when you feel as if there is no way out, you must apply to your troubled heart those tender words of comfort which Jesus gave to His disciples in John 14:1. “(1)Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.” Look also at v.27 where Jesus says almost the same thing, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let your hearts be afraid.”

What does it mean to “…not let your hearts be troubled”? It means that even in the midst of a broken heart, allow your heart to grieve, and then put your heart at ease. Stop being troubled in spirit. Continue believing in the Lord. Keep trusting in His word; look to Him, and don't give up hope. After saying this, Jesus gave His disciples 3 things to help them stop being troubled. And they can be a great source of encouragement to us:

First we must remember that our eternal home is in Heaven with Jesus.We see this in v 2 & 3, where Jesus said: “*(2)In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (3)And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.”*

If you feel discouraged because you have no permanent home in this world, remember Jesus has promised you a permanent home one day in His own heavenly home. He promises the disciples that He is going back to prepare places for them in the many rooms or mansions of His father's house. What makes heaven such a wonderful place is that there will be no more sorrow, nor tears; there will be no more pain, no more suffering and no more sin. But the most attractive feature of all is that we will be together with Jesus forever.

Look at v. 3 again: ‘(3)And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.’ Jesus will be there not just in Spirit, like He is now, but in Person, fully perceptible to us. And we will find our greatest delight in just being with Him and talking with Him. Jesus is what makes heaven HEAVEN. Heaven is so heavenly only because He is there.

Doesn't it comfort you now to know that no matter how bad things may be in this world, one day we will be with Jesus in a wonderful home and a better life that is waiting in heaven for you? Doesn't this give you security needed to cope with the losses you endure now? So what if I am not so well off in this world? So what if I lose everything now? My ultimate future is completely assured by Christ. I am on my way to heaven. And nothing, absolutely nothing can ever change that.’ This thought gives us assurance; it can remove fear or anxiety we have about the future. It will stop your heart from being so troubled by your circumstances, and will give you the strength to go on with life and make the best of what you have at present. But this is not the only encouragement there is. Let us go on to see the second encouraging thing that Jesus mentioned to His disciples:

It is our privilege to know God, through Jesus. It is encouraging to know someone we can turn to for help when we are having difficulties. The best person who can help us is God Himself. We who believe in Christ have the wonderful privilege of knowing God. The privilege of being helped by Him; but look at vv.5 & 6, “(5)Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" (6)Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Verse 6 is one of the most important verses in the whole Bible. Notice He did not say, 'I'll show you to way to the Father.' He said, 'I AM the Way.' He did not say, 'I'll teach you the Truth that you need.' He said, 'I AM the Truth.' And He did not say, 'I'll give you life.' He said, 'I AM the Life.' No one can make such awesome statements about himself truthfully, except our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only means of reaching the Father. There is no other way to God but through Him. There are many who claim that there are other ways to God besides Jesus, that we cannot be so narrow-minded as to say that Jesus is the ONLY way to God. To them it is extremely offensive and intolerant to make such a claim as this.

How can we come to God unless He Himself has told us how we can reach Him? In Matthew 7:14 God's Word says, 'strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.' No matter what others may claim, the truth that you and I must be fully convicted of in our hearts and minds is that there is only ONE way to God - that is through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus goes on to say, “(7)If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip responds, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” and Jesus responds, have I been with you this long and you still don’t know who I am? The Father is in me and I am in the father; could Jesus be saying, “We are one and the same.” If you know Jesus then you know God, and if you know where Jesus is there you will find God. If you do not believe this just because he said so; then believe it because of the evidence you have seen.

Jesus had been showing them the Father all along, not in His outward appearance but in His words and in His actions, and in fact in His whole personality. God is revealed in the whole personality of Christ. When you understand this, you will understand there is only one means of knowing God. There is only one way of having a personal relationship with Him. It is only through Jesus that anyone can ever know God and have access to Him.

Knowing God is the greatest source of encouragement for facing life's difficulties. He is everything that we need for every kind of need. And when you have this personal relationship with God through Christ, then you also have a new life and power within you to do great things for Him. This brings us to the third and final encouragement that Jesus mentioned to His disciples:

Knowing Jesus is Our Opportunity to Do Great Things, for Jesus. “(12)Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. (13)I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (14)If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Did you hear what Jesus just said? Those who believe in me will be able to do all that I have done, but wait; does it say you will be able to do so much more than Jesus? Yes it does, providing it brings glory to God, as long as it is within His will. Why? Because you have me to intercede on your behalf to God the Father; whatever you ask in my name, that will bring Glory to God, I will do.

When our motive for praying is to glorify God, our moments of despair and weakness are transformed into moments of strength and boldness. Listen to what Paul says in his letter to the Philippians 4:13; “I can do all things through [Christ] who strengthens me.” Jesus gives me the encouragement to keep trying when things are tough. Jesus gives me the power to moving even when I meet with great obstacles. And Jesus gives me great comfort when my heart is broken.

As we come to the end of our message what have we learned as the remedy for troubled hearts. Through the words of comfort Jesus gave His disciples, we have seen that we can be encouraged by the security we have of our eternal home in heaven with Jesus. We can also be encouraged by our personal relationship with God through Jesus, and God is the best help that anyone can have in times of need. And finally we can be encouraged through prayer to be strong and to do great things for Jesus.

I would see my cousins again over the years, but not as often as one may think. Somehow, our relationship was never as close as it was when we were kids. Perhaps the time and distance caused us to grow apart, and find different interests. Perhaps the fear of being hurt again caused me to keep my distance. No matter what the reason; I regret not making an extra effort to keep my relationship with Glen and Brian as close as it once was. I say these things to bring you to this statement; Do not ever let your broken and troubled heart, keep you from drawing close to Jesus, rely on him for your comfort, healing, and encouragement.

I invite each of you today to take a close look at your relationship with Jesus. Do you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior today? Have you asked him to forgive your sin. Have you invited him into your heart and life. Repent, turn away from your sinful self and toward the life Christ offers you today. Jesus has gone to prepare a place for you? If you are His disciple and if you are following him and his teachings. He will welcome you there when time on this earth is over. A place where you may spend eternity with him. You have been offered the privilege of knowing God, through the life and ministry of Jesus through the scriptures that tell the story of God’s love for all of his creation. Are you taking advantage of this opportunity?

We are given an opportunity to do great things for Jesus. But before we can take advantage of any of these opportunities, we must give our life to Christ. Jesus is the way, Jesus is the truth, and Jesus is the life and these things he offers are free to all, if we will only follow Him. It’s as easy as a few words spoken from our heart to the heart of God. Whatever we ask in Jesus name, if we ask with the Glory of God in mind, Jesus will do it. It is God’s will that none are lost to sin, and that includes each of us. If we ask he will do it; and we can believe in Jesus and all that he tells us, we are able to do great things in His name, even greater things than what we have read in scripture. Jesus gives us the assurance that He is with us, His disciples, now and will be with us for all of eternity; as we prepare to close our service let us share in the singing of Blessed Assurance.