

Untroubled Hearts

John 14:1-3, 6

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FOCAL Read Responsively John 14:1-3, 6 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. {2} In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. {3} And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. {6} **Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

I was standing in line at the local Chinese Restaurant last Sunday trying to pay for my meal. Brother Marty Comer from Sand Ridge was just in front of me. Joking with me he handed me a “fortune cookie” and when I opened it the message was:

“No obstacles will stand in the way of your success this month”

Considering that the month was nearly over I didn't receive a whole lot of assurance from that little slip of paper. But I did think about that phrase for just a moment. **“Nothing will stand in the way of my success”**. What is “My Way”? What is the “Way of success”?

A little boy's mother asked him to go and get her broom. The little boy asked **“where is it Mama?”**, to which she replied, **“It's on the back porch”**. The sun had just gone down and the child was afraid to step out into the dark, moonless night. His momma realized what was bothering him and said, **“Son, don't you remember when I told you that Jesus would always be with you? He'll be**

with you when you step on to the back porch – you just have to trust Him.” The child replied, **“Is Jesus really on the back porch, Mama?”** **“Yes, honey, now go get my broom”.** The child went to the door, opened it a crack, and whispered through the opening, **“Jesus, if You're there, will you bring me my Mamma's broom?”**

It's a terrible thing to have a perpetually troubled heart. The Lord knows that we as humans are often troubled, often worry, and are sometimes too consumed with worry. Most of the time the things we worry about really shouldn't worry us, because we can't do anything about it. There are things we need to be concerned about. For instance, you need to be concerned about whether you are **in Christ or out of Christ**. If you are **in Christ by faith** then you are saved and secure, a cherished possession of God. If you are **out of Christ** then you still own your life and your eternity – and you have cause to worry. So many people today believe that *entrance to God's Heaven is automatic*. If you ask some 80% of those who live in this country if they're going to Heaven or not they reply **“Of course I'm going to Heaven. I'm a good person”**. What they mean by this is that they've not done any of the BIG sins like murder or adultery. This attitude is reflected in our newspapers – particularly in the political cartoons. Recently two men – Tim Russert and George Carlin – passed away. Immediately the political cartoonists began to portray these men as if they were standing before God. Frankly I don not know whether either of these men were **in Christ or out of Christ** at the moment of their deaths, but I do know that George Carlin at one time professed *absolutely no belief*

in God. If he died in that state then, dear friends, he is *absolutely not* in Heaven.

There is but **one Way unto spiritual success, and that Way is through faith in Christ Jesus**. There is but One Path to God the Father, and that Way is through faith in Christ Jesus. There is but Way that leads to a high quality life *now* and eternal life *later*, and that Way is through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1. Jesus Went To Prepare A Place For You

FOCAL John 14:1-2 **Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. {2} In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.**

Jesus went to extreme measures so your heart would not be troubled. All of us want to go to Heaven – at least sane people do – but how to get there? If it is true that **“Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people”**, then how can I prepare myself so as to be assured I will enter that glorious place?

I can't. I cannot prepare myself, I cannot be *good* enough to get into Heaven – and neither can you. The Bible tells us that a young man came to Jesus one day and asked Him:

Matthew 19:16 ... Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

This is the attitude of most of the world. **“Good Master, what good thing can I do to get to Heaven?”**

How did Jesus reply?

Matthew 19:17 ... Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God ...

When the rich young ruler called Jesus **“Good Master”**, he assumed goodness on Him as a mortal. **“You are Good, Jesus, you are a Good Teacher”**. Jesus refused such a title. He said **“there is none good but God”**. If the ruler had called Jesus **“Good Lord”** then I'm sure He would have accepted the appellation. **“God is good” (Psalm 73:1)** to His people. He gives of His goodness to all whether we deserve it or not. **He does good, and gave us rain from Heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness” (Acts 14:17)**. God is good, He alone is good. He is holy, righteous, pure, free from all sin.

And this Holy God, of Whom Joshua said:

Joshua 24:19 “... He is a holy God; He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins”

God is Holy and His Heaven is His Throne, earth is His footstool.

Isaiah 66:1 Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my

throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?

Who among mortal men would dare to go into the Throne room of God and **prepare a place for we who are lesser creatures?** We are all sinners. We are all fallen. We are all short of His glory. And God, Who alone is Holy and Pure, sees our sin:

Romans 3:10-12 ... There is none righteous, no, not one: {11} There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. {12} They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Who will go? Who will go to prepare a place for us? Who will go forth into God's Heaven and make a way for us – undeserved as we are?

FOCAL John 14:1-2 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. {2} In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Jesus alone will go – and did go – for us all. He went to prepare a place for us because *He has the right to do so.*

Jesus said **“in My Father's House are many mansions”**. Jesus, God's Only Begotten Son, was sent by

the Father to become a Redeemer for all who believe in Him. **God sent His Son into the world so that we might live through Him (1 John 4:9). God loved us, and sent His Son to be the payment for our sins (1 John 4:10).** He alone came from Heaven – and returned to that place – to prepare a place for us.

God's Throne is Heaven, and Jesus Christ is the **King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 19:16)**. Jesus is the **Blessed and only Potentate, King of Kings and Lord of Lords (1 Timothy 6:15)**. As the Only Begotten Son and God Himself He has every right to **prepare a place for us in His Father's House**. He has the right, and exercises that right for us. No angel of God prepared you a place, but the Only Begotten, the Beloved of the Father. He is both Holy God and Perfect Man, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Furthermore, Jesus **went to prepare a place for you** because He was alone Chosen of God to redeem His people. Jesus prayed as He approached the Way of the Cross:

John 12:27-28 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. {28} Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

Jesus did not want to go to the Cross, but there was no other way by which we could be redeemed. God is

holy, just, and pure, and we are unholy, unjust, and impure.

How can God allow that which is separated from Him into His Heaven? He cannot, unless He makes a way. He made that Way through Christ. Jesus Christ alone is God's Chosen, the **Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world (John 1:29)**. He Who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the greatest High Priest Who has ever been, Almighty God Incarnate, glorified the Father by allowing Himself to be used for our salvation.

John 17:1-3 ... Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: {2} As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. {3} And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Jesus stood before **Caiaphas (Matthew 26:57)** and was repeatedly beaten and mocked. Jesus was dragged before **Pilate**, who, finding no fault in Him (**John 19:6**), had Him scourged and beaten. Jesus Christ, pure and holy Redeemer, unblemished Lamb, was **scourged**, His flesh torn from His back, and His **beard torn from His face**. As the Word prophesied, Jesus ...

Isaiah 50:6 I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

Jesus had nothing but the clothes on His back. He had no place on this earth to call His own. Herod and the Priests took away His homespun robe, and dressed Him in a gorgeous robe (Luke 23:11), and sent Him to Pilate to be further mocked and brutalized. Though He had done nothing to be guilty of Jesus heard the crowd cry out “Crucify Him! Release the murderer Barabbas, and Crucify Jesus!” Herod's robe was removed from His bleeding back, a Pilate's soldiers put a crown of thorns and a purple robe on His frame (John 19:1-3) while they beat Him with their hard, soldiers hands. He drug His instrument of torture down the Via Delarosa, and when He reached Calvary - a garbage dump – He was stripped bare and hung, bleeding and dying, for you and for I. When Jesus said:

FOCAL John 14:2 ... **I go to prepare a place for you.**

What a terrible road He took. Jesus made “**peace between God and man through the Blood of His Cross**” (Colossians 1:20). Jesus alone “**blotted out the handwriting of ordinances – offenses against God – for us** (Colossians 2:14). Look at His bloody footprints, the terrible price He paid. Look at Him hanging between two thieves at the “**Place of the Skull**”.

What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, willing to hang between two thieves for you and for me. Cursed be every person who will say that there is another Way unto God the Father. So many pastors and preachers today compromise with this present age and say that there are *may ways unto God*. Beloved,

Galatians 1:8-9 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. {9} As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Christ alone has prepared a place for us. Christ alone has invited us – by faith – into His Father's House, so that

John 3:15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

2. Jesus Christ Will Return For You

FOCAL John 14:3 ... **And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.**

On what basis does one enter into the Kingdom of Heaven? Do we retain our right to enter in based on our *performance*? Absolutely not! Your works did not save you. **You did not prepare a place for yourself – He prepared the place for you.** Jesus continues His statement of fact with a promise. He said “**If I go and prepare a place for you**” - If I went through that terrible hellish payment on Calvary for you – and I did – then “**I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am there you may be also**”. He has promised, and

Hebrews 10:23 ... **for he is faithful that promised** ...

Our eternal estate is based on the faithfulness of God. Jesus Christ told His disciples that He was **going to prepare a place for them.**

Only one of those disciples, **Judas Iscariot**, would not enter Heaven. Jesus said of Judas **“you are a devil” (John 6:70)**, so this one was never saved in the first place. But what of the other eleven? What of **Peter**? He said:

Matthew 26:33 .. Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.

What brave words! Yet Jesus correctly foretold of Peter:

Matthew 26:34 ... Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

This Peter did, just as Jesus said. One of the High Priest's maids accused Peter of knowing Jesus (**Mark 14:68**), not once but *twice, leading Peter to play the coward*. **“I never knew Him”** said he, as the Master was led away to suffer hell on earth. What of **James and John**, two men who professed to love Jesus. Could they *stay awake in Gethsemane* while Jesus, in the hour of greatest need, needed their prayers. No, but look at them yonder sleeping (**Matthew 26:45**) while the Master **sweats great drops of blood:**

Luke 22:43-44 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. {44} And being

in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

The Father had to send an angel from Heaven to strengthen our Lord as He prepared for death, for no man could help Him. What of **Thomas** who bravely said:

John 11:16 ... Let us also go, that we may die with Him.

He who was willing to die with Jesus before hid himself, and even doubted the Lord's resurrection, saying **“Unless I see the nail prints in His hands and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe” (John 20:25)**. All the disciples his themselves following the crucifixion, denied their Lord, and it was to them as well as us that Jesus said

FOCAL John 14:3 I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Salvation is all of Christ and none of us. Jesus said to us:

FOCAL John 14:1 ... ye believe in God, believe also in me.

Believe in Him, just as you believe in the Father. Believe in Jesus. Believe that He is faithful. Believe that His sacrifice was sufficient to **save you to the uttermost**. Believe that **He ever lives to make intercession for you**. Believe Him, but not as mortal

Man, nor as one way among many by which we can reach God. God says:

Jeremiah 17:5-6 Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. {6} For he shall be like the {tumbleweed} in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

Believe Jesus Christ and be saved. **Believe that He is in the Father, and the Father in Him.**

CONTEXT John 14:11 **Believe me** that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else **believe me** for the very works' sake.

Three times in our context Jesus says to us **believe Me**. How shall we have hope for the future? Believe in Jesus.

How shall we know that eternity holds more than mere oblivion. **Believe Jesus**. God does nothing without purpose. He prepared a place for you so that you who believe in Him will be received to Him. It is God's Will in Christ that where Jesus is, we who believe in Him will be.

FOCAL John 14:3 ... **that where I am, there ye may be also.**

Jesus comes to all those who are His. Jesus returned from the grave to show Himself to His disciples, though none were worthy of Him. Following His crucifixion the disciples hid behind closed doors. The Bible tells us that Jesus appeared to them, asking:

Luke 24:38-39 ... Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? {39} Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

He promised to **return to those whom He loved, and receive them to Himself.**

Jesus is there when we are weary and frightened. He is there even in the times when it seems as if the whole world is against us. There He is, ready to receive us to Himself.

On another occasion Jesus came to the disciples following a long night of unsuccessful fishing. They were tired – exhausted – and ready to quit. Jesus showed up on the shore and cried out:

John 21:5-6 ... Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. {6} And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

When the seasons of our life seem dry, when it seems as if nothing is going our way, and our every effort is wasted – Christ comes to those who are His. **He is faithful though we be faithless (1 Thessalonians 5:24).**

He will not forsake His own, but will come to us in our hour of need and bless us – if we will but heed Him.

Jesus has promised to be with His people each and every day of our lives. He promised:

John 14:16-18 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; {17} Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. {18} I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

The **Comforter, the Blessed Holy Spirit** comes to every believer to be with them and to guide them throughout this life. Jesus has promised **to come unto His own**, and He does so daily. He is never far away.

Death did not stop Him from fulfilling His promise – why would He fail you now. Jesus Christ walked through fields of judgment and the valley of death to receive us who believe unto Himself. Jesus has rent the veil of death from top to bottom. Jesus is coming again for His people. He has promised, He has never failed His promise. That which He has said, that He will do.

3. Jesus Christ Is The Only Way Unto God

FOCAL John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Have you reached the point in your spiritual life where you know that – if you died right this moment – you would stand in God's Heaven?

I want to close by noting *Who* made the statement above. This was not a statement or a declaration made by the disciples *for* Jesus. This was a statement that Jesus Christ made *to* His disciples – and *to* us. Jesus Christ said “**I am**” singular, none other. He said “**the Way unto the Father**”. If you will ever know Almighty God as “Father”, you can only approach Him through Christ. This is God's Chosen One. This is God's means unto **both truth and life**. If you belong to Him by faith then He will one day receive you unto Himself. Are **you in the glory land way?** Have you

**List to the call, the Gospel call today;
Get in the glory land way;
Wanderers come home, O hasten and obey
O be in the glory land way!**

May God touch your hearts with His Word.

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