

Text: John 14:1-6

Meaning: Jesus gives assurance to the anxious disciples

Big Idea: Jesus gives us assurance

Objective: I want the hearers to believe God

Theme: Blessed Assurance

Jesus gives the disciples two imperatives here – **TWO COMMANDS**.

The first command is **LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED**.

Hundreds of times in the bible we are told to not be anxious, to not be afraid or worried.

Two things that tells me:

1. **EVERYBODY DEALS WITH ANXIETY AND FEAR**
2. **GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT**

2 Peter 1:3

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence

This command is also **PASSIVE** – which means something else is acting to bring trouble to your heart. That something else is Satan and His demons and their children in the world.

So – Guard your heart for from it flows the issues of life.

The second command is **BELIEVE**, and he gives that command twice. Jesus says believe in God, and believe in ME.

What is true belief?

It is more than just BELIEVING IN GOD

We must also BELIEVE IN THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD, JESUS

You ever heard someone say, especially in today's culture – I don't know what to believe! Jesus tells the disciples and us here what to believe. He says, "Guys, YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE THIS!"

1. BELIEVE THERE IS A HOME FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

The disciples, along with the rest of the Hebrews, were looking for a conquering King – A conquering Messiah. We have these promises all throughout the Old Testament – that He will rule the earth in justice and righteousness and there will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace – and he will bring recompense upon the wicked.

Church – all these promises are there! His promises are true! His Kingdom is coming soon!

But for now there is work to be done! Also, there is great difficulty that will come in the work!

Disciples – are going to watch Jesus be arrested, falsely accused, wrongly convicted, beaten, mocked, spit upon, and nailed to a cross over the next 24 hours. And this would be only the beginning – because every one of them, other than Judas, would face unimaginable suffering and persecution for the remainder of their time on earth and in ministry.

Revelation 2:25-27

Only hold fast what you have until I come. ²⁶The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.

Today – child of God – HANG ON BECAUSE JESUS IS HANGING ON TO YOU!

He who began a good work will complete it! Heaven is a real place. I don't need that little boy or a movie to tell me that – Jesus told me that!

This world IS NOT OUR HOME! We are strangers and aliens here! Ambassadors of another country – here to spread the good will of our King!

What will this HOME be like?

The King James Version uses the word “mansions” here, but this is not the best translation of the word. The word in the original language is better translated “rooms” or “dwelling places”. It's more akin to apartments in God's abode than it is mansions.

The truth is our finite thinking cannot fathom what this existence will be like. What will make it so amazing is not the type of abode we will be in but the one we will be with. We will be with Jesus and His people forever!

C.S. LEWIS, MERE CHRISTIANITY P. 119

If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.

Missionary in the African Bush

The story is told of a mission team that went on a short-term mission trip in Africa, and upon arrival they immediately went to the missionary's home who was coordinating ministry there.

One man on the team was astonished to see that the missionary's home was only a simple room with a bed, a table, and a bench along with one cast iron kettle for cooking. The tourist looked at the missionary and asked,

"Sir, where is your furniture?"

The missionary paused for a moment, then asked the man, "Where is yours?"

"Mine?" asked the puzzled American. "It's back at home. I'm just a visitor here. I'm only passing through."

To which the missionary replied, "So am I."

WHEN PEOPLE VIEW OUR LIVES DO THEY SEE PEOPLE WHO ARE PREPARING FOR HEAVEN OR DO THEY SEE PEOPLE WHO ARE PROFOUNDLY IN LIVE WITH THIS WORLD?

2. BELIEVE CHRIST HIMSELF WILL BRING US HOME

Jesus here is using the illustration of a Hebrew wedding with the disciples. In a Hebrew marriage the man and woman would first be betrothed to one another by a contract made between the two families. The young man would pay a dowry to the woman's family as a purchase price for her hand in marriage. Once the contract had been signed and the dowry given the man and woman were legally committed to be married, in fact, it took a legal divorce to break it off. Then the young man would spend a minimum of a year either building or preparing a room at his father's house where he and his wife would begin their marriage. When the room and the betrothal period was complete the groom would go to the bride's home and receive the bride and bring her back to his Father's house to consummate the marriage and a wedding celebration would then follow that would last as long as an entire week.

<https://www.bible.ca/marriage/ancient-jewish-three-stage-weddings-and-marriage-customs-ceremony-in-the-bible.htm>

So, Jesus here uses language the disciples would have immediately understood. He is the Groom and His Church is the Bride. He paid the purchase price for our salvation on calvary's cross with His own

blood and has prepared a place for us. He will return one day to receive us unto Himself and bring us into His eternal home forever!

But not only will he bring us home **THEN**, He brings people home to himself **NOW!** In the coming chapters Jesus will talk with them about how He is the vine and we are the branches, and how when we abide in Him we bear much fruit. He will also have much to say about the **HOLY SPIRIT** who would come to live in their hearts and empower their witness going forward.

So, through the resurrection power of Jesus the Holy Spirit comes to live in us – we have his indwelling presence **NOW!**

Jesus will occupy a physical throne and be King over the New Heavens and New Earth **THEN** – but He is King over the life of every Child of God **NOW!**

Many seem to be great with Jesus being their KING IN HEAVEN, it is Him being King over their lives NOW that presents a problem.

SOME SEEM GREAT WITH JESUS IN THE HEREAFTER, BUT NOT SO GREAT WITH JESUS IN THE HERE AND NOW!

Jesus taught us the heart of true belief, true salvation, when he taught us to pray the words – **YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN!**

Smith Home

With 5 children 16 years old and down, our home is a continual circus with Chrystal and I as the ringmasters. At any point in time we have 3 or 4 different kids all at a ball practice or a school function or a doctors appointment or a dentists appointment or something. And the moment we clean our house, 5 minutes later it looks like a tornado blew right through. Somebody's hair brush is on the dinner table. Underwear is laying in the living room floor. Cayson loves to

throw things, so there is liable to be socks hanging off the television and underwear hanging from the ceiling fan. The moment we wash dishes there is another pile sky high, and the very second we fold all the laundry another load or 2 are waiting to be folded. So, when we have company over we have to just preface it by saying, hey, we live here and we do life wide open. It's probably a mess, but come on in.

Beloved, when we are at home all our mess is on display. The same is true with Jesus. When we are "at home" with Christ we are comfortable with Him being right the middle of our mess.

How is Christ is the HERE AND NOW of your life?

Are you allowing Jesus to be in your mess or is He relegated only to the church house. Because the church house looks a lot different than my house.

3. BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS IN THE JOURNEY

Jesus has just told the disciples that they cannot go where He is going. They are distraught and confused – "Jesus where are you going?" Thomas asks the question that is on everybody's mind, "Lord, we have no idea where you are going, so how do we know the way?"

See – THOMAS AND THE DISCIPLES WERE FOCUSED ON THE DESTINATION. JESUS ENCOURAGED THEM TO FOCUS ON THE JOURNEY THERE.

Jesus responds with that famous statement, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

One Creator – YAHWEH

One Lord – CHRIST JESUS

One Holy Book – BIBLE

One source of Absolute Truth – JESUS, SCRIPTURES

However, Christ's statement means there is only ONE WHO GIVES PURPOSE AND MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE TO THE JOURNEY, only one who gives PEACE AND JOY AND HOPE in the struggle – and THAT'S JESUS!