

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”

JOHN 14:1-11

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INTRODUCTION

Last year, 36,000 people were killed by the fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. 40,000 more were killed in the Syrian war. And, in Mexico 29,000 people were murdered in 2017. Around 50,000,000 babies were aborted worldwide last year. In our country, disturbed people murdered students in schools by the dozen. Each of those numbers is a life, a person made specially by God to bear His image, murdered. What can we do against such reckless hate, against such evil, and madness?

Things were not that different 2000 years ago. In 70 AD the Romans ravaged Jerusalem, and those alive at the time said that 100,000 Jews were enslaved and many more killed. Just forty years earlier, Jerusalem was offered peace and healing by her Messiah, Jesus. The offer was rejected, Jesus was abandoned and betrayed by His followers and murdered by those He came to save. Can we do anything in the face of such reckless hate, of such devastating cowardice?

Yes! Jesus knew what would happen. And on the night He was betrayed, He told us how we can have comfort in the face of evil and victory over fear.

FIND COURAGE IN JESUS' PROMISE AND POWER IN JESUS' WORD!

John 14:1-4 Believe that Jesus will Return for Those Who Trust Him

Vs 1 The apostles are scared, and they have every reason to be. Jesus just told them that he would be betrayed and soon killed. And even their loyalty to Him will fail. But Jesus tells them something else...Jesus tells them the way to find courage and comfort.

When Jesus says "believe" the idea is "trust". What Jesus says could be a simple statement "you trust God, trust me as well" or a command "trust God, trust me!" Both are true. We all need to trust God, and we all need to trust God more.

Vs 2-3 "Mansion" makes us think of a big, luxurious house. But the word points us to something better than this! This word does not emphasize the size of the house, this word emphasizes that these are places where people live together. Jesus' point is that although He goes away for a short time, those who trust Him will live together with Him!

Find comfort and courage in reminding yourself of the promise of our life together with Jesus.

Vs 3 He will "receive" us, the idea is someone marrying a wife or taking someone on a journey. In this receiving, we will come to be with him personally.

Find comfort and courage in believing Jesus' promise. But there is even more...

Vs 3 Jesus must "go" so that He can reclaim us from sin and death. What is this "going"? It is Jesus betrayal and death! Jesus used the greatest evil (his own betray and murder) to make the greatest good (the salvation of all who believe Him) possible.

Find courage and comfort in God's ability to turn what was meant for evil into good.

Vs 4 Jesus says that they all know the way. Judas has just left (John 13:30). And the remaining apostles, even though they are sinners, and each has their own baggage, they trust Him. And this makes all the difference between heaven and hell.

Trust that Jesus lives and will come again, to save us from sin, to take us to live with Him.

John 14:5-7 Trust Jesus alone as your Way, your Truth, and your Life

Vs 5 Thomas is brave and loyal, but very pessimistic. He wants to follow Jesus but does not yet understand how.

Vs 6 Jesus explains that believing in Him is not so much about following a path, but about trusting Him personally. And this trust does lead to a way of life, but the start and end of this path is personal trust in Jesus.

If you trust him at all, you must trust him alone.

1 Tim 2:3 “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

Jesus does not just teach us the truth, he reveals himself as the truth by which we are saved.

Jesus does not just point the way to God, he became our way to God by becoming a man.

Jesus does not just help us in the way of life, he became our life by dying and rising again.

Choose every day to make Jesus your way, to trust Him as your truth, to cling to Him as your life.

From the earliest times, Christians called our religion "the Way". Do you follow "the Jesus Way" or are you trying to take a shortcut?

You must trust Jesus to be saved, and if you trust Him you must believe him and walk like Him

John 14:8-11 Trust Jesus as the Fullness of God in the Form of a Man

Vs 8 Philip is probably thinking of what Jesus said to his friend Nathaniel in John 1:43-51 and of Ex. 33:18-23 when God gave Moses an indirect glimpse of His glory

Vs 9 From Vs 6 we know that to reject Jesus is to reject the Father, and now from Vs 9 we see that to receive Jesus is to receive the Father

Vs 10 Jesus' promise is not something that he just made up, it is not just kind words of comfort, the words and work of Jesus come from God Almighty because God dwells in him (the same word, "mansion" from John 14:2 is used here for "dwell").

Vs 11 the works of Jesus witness to this stunning claim. Jesus is perfectly united with the creator of the universe. He speaks with the authority of his divine nature, and all his miracles back up this claim. This verse begins and ends with the command “believe me!”

Trust Jesus as the full revelation of God, sufficient for all that we need in this life and the next!

CONCLUSION

What can we do against reckless hate? What can we do when the world tries to crush us? What can we do when we are dismayed by our own failures? What can we do when those we trust betray us, or when we betray what we know to be right? *John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.* We trust Jesus and rise! With the shield of faith, with the sword of the word of God, we find courage in Jesus' promise and power in Jesus' Word.

He has promised that he will take us to be with Him, He has told us that He is the only way, and He comforts us with all the fullness of God. So, I ask you now, who do you trust? Jesus said:

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

If you are so tired under the weight of sin, if you are burdened by the raging evil in the world, I tell you now, trust Jesus alone! For the forgiveness of your own sin, for the power to have joy in the world, for the promise of eternal life.

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