**Comfort for Our Hearts**

**John 14:1-3**

The farther we travel down this road of life the greater is the realization that this is not our home – heaven is.

The disciples of Jesus had good reason to be “troubled” because as they reclined at the table a few moments earlier He spoke of the traitor in their midst (John 13:21), and His leaving them and going where they could not follow (John 13:33, 36). Jesus saw in their faces that night confusion, disappointment, and fear. Their world was caving in around them like a landslide.

The conversation in chapter fourteen follows in form closely to the preceding chapter. The conversation continues to flow as Christ prepares His disciples for the day ahead. He comforts them by telling them His departure is to His Father’s house, with a view of preparing a place for them and then coming again to those who know the direction of the journey.

Jesus is answering Peter’s question in **John 13:36-37** that refers back to Jesus’ words about His departure in John 13:33. The disciples are “troubled” about what Jesus has been revealing to them about His death and resurrection (John 13:33). Did you know that Jesus has a way of “troubling” our hearts (**Matthew 2:1-3**)? Jesus is consoling His disciples and revealing a greater understanding of Himself to them.

The general scope of this chapter is in the first verse; it is designed to keep trouble from their hearts; now in order to do this they must believe: Heaven as their everlasting rest (John 14:2-3).

1. The Problem of a Troubled Heart, **John 14:1** – use notes page
2. These are the words of the Good Shepherd comforting the hearts of His troubled sheep
3. “You believe in God, believe also in Me” is the revelation of His own heart to them
4. The disciples were perplexed and fearful and Jesus had told them earlier, “Where I go, you cannot come”
5. Peter asked, “Where are you going?”
6. Thomas said, “We do not know why you are going, how can we know the way?”
7. Philip said, “Show us the Father, that is sufficient”
8. Thomas was perplexed about the way, “How can we know the way, if we do not know where You are going?”
9. The disciples that night could not comprehend continuing without Him
10. The very center of their personal life was extremely troubled
11. Their emotions were boiling over with raw feelings
12. “They were losing Him”, says G. Campbell Morgan
13. After three and a half years in His close company, traveling here and there; watching Him, listening to Him; now He was going; they are going to be left
14. That was their “trouble”, He told them He was going to suffer
15. He told them He was going to die
16. He told them He was going to be resurrected
17. They never seem to have grasped the fact of the resurrection
18. The night before His crucifixion Jesus slowly stripped away the veneer of a utopia
19. He completely destroyed their fantasies
20. In its place He gave them a greater revelation of Himself
21. In no way did Jesus intend for His disciples to be escapists, or to live in utopia, or some nebulas dream world
22. He did not suggest in any way that we would reach a spiritual plateau in which all trouble would disappear and we would live the rest of our lives in perfect serenity and peace
23. Jesus never suggested that if we followed Him, we would never again experience trouble, disappointment or trials
24. A little later that night He said just the opposite, **John 16:33**
25. “Let not your heart be troubled” is present subjunctive with the negative indicating the stopping of an action in progress
26. “Stop it. Stop it now!” “Stop being troubled in your heart”
27. Seeing them reacting deeper and deeper in despair Jesus said, “Wait! Stop it now! Stop being troubled! Stop letting your hearts boil over. You are forgetting who I am. You believe in God; believe also in Me. You are not alone; I am with you. You are secure because I am.”
28. Jesus did not promise them their troubles were going away
29. He told them He would be with them in the midst of their troubles
30. He would be their stabilizing force and strength
31. He did not tell them some foolish make-believe philosophy that their pain, suffering, evil and sin didn’t exist
32. Thinking beautiful thoughts won’t make these things go away
33. Let’s stop for a moment
34. What is flooding your troubled heart today?
35. What does Jesus see going on in His presence right now?
36. The hurt of those disciples that night was no different from the hurts you experience today
37. Jesus was telling those disciples to give Him those “troubles” that were boiling over and flooding their hearts
38. His death was no make-believe; it was real
39. They felt the trauma of it before them
40. Jesus recognized what they were experiencing and gave them comfort
41. Jesus is the Person Who Comforts Us, **John 14:1b:** “believe in God, believe also in Me”
42. It is probably best to take both occurrences of the word “believe” in verse one as imperative
43. Continue to believe and in this way not let your hearts be troubled
44. “You believe” is best translated, “keep on believing in God and in Me”
45. A. W. Pink wrote, “‘You believe in God’, Who is invisible; you believe in His love, though you have never seen His form; you are conscious of His care, though you have never touched the Hand that guides and protects you. ‘Believe, also in Me’”
46. In like manner you must have full confidence in My existence, my love, and care, even though I am no longer present to see
47. This comfort remains for us; this is the faith in which we are now to live
    * + 1. **I Peter 1:8**
48. Jesus uses strong present imperatives, “Keep on believing in God, keep on believing in Me”
49. The Place Jesus Is Preparing for Us, **John 14:2**
50. This is His present occupation
51. “I go to prepare a place for you”
52. Heaven is a place and it is a place where God the Father and Jesus are residing
53. It is His present location
54. Jesus referred to the Temple as “the house of God” on various occasions, **Matt. 12:4**
55. He spoke of it as His own house, assuming the place of God
56. The Jerusalem Temple was still in the process of being built and was not finished until ten years after Christ’s death
57. What is the Father’s is likewise the Son’s and the Son prepares the abode and will come and convey those for whom it is prepared
58. The Purpose of The Comforter for Us, **John 14:3**
59. He, who predicted His own going, promises His return
60. The pronoun is emphatic, “I as you have known Me – am going”
61. I go and prepare a place
62. Christ will come to receive His own and we will always be with Him
63. He says, “If I go, I will come again”
64. A large crowd of people, probably the 500 who saw Him at one time, saw Him go up from their presence, and He will come again and receive us to Himself
65. He was taken up; He went in person; He went visibly; a cloud received Him; angels attended Him
66. As He went, so He shall come! “Every eye shall see Him!”
67. Jesus goes ahead of us and opens up the way for us
68. He is the “forerunner”
69. It was customary to send someone ahead to prepare a place to stay and make arrangements for meals
70. Jesus had sent Peter and John to make ready for the Passover meal
71. Jesus is our Forerunner in heaven
72. He is busy preparing a place for us
73. He leads the way and takes us into the Father’s presence
74. Jesus is in heaven and He has not only prepared a place for us but also, He is the forerunner who has prepared the way and made it safe
75. Heaven is a safe haven where we will always be with Jesus
76. The way Jesus traveled was the cross, resurrection and the ascension
77. Jesus not only prepared the place, He comes and takes us by the hand and says, “Come, I’ll take you with me there” – that is why He came in the first place
78. When He is the way, you cannot miss it!
79. I go and I am coming back for you
80. “I go to prepare a place for you, I come again” is in vivid present tense giving full assurance of the future facts
81. There is NO doubt – Jesus is coming again
82. Christ will take us from the place of meeting in the air into the Father’s house to be with Him in His presence forever
83. We will be with Him “within the veil” (Hebrews 6:20)
84. Jesus “will receive you to Myself” – literally, “and I shall take you along to My own home”
85. This is a definite promise of the second coming of Christ
86. This blessed promise is fulfilled in death for all believers who die before the Second Coming. Jesus comes for us then also

Do these words comfort you? Or are you still troubled? Are you ready for Jesus to come and take you with Him? Have you been “born again”? This was a command from Jesus. If you are “born again”, then you are ready. If you are not “born again”, then you are not ready.

Why take a chance? You can rectify that right now. We are going to sing a song and during that song, if you are not “born again” – for whatever reason – then come to the altar. Don’t put it off any longer. Make sure. Come now…