

Talk Sunday 14th February 2021

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John 14 v 1-6 & 25-27

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many dwelling places; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.”⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

²⁵ “All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

How are you?

My reply tends to be ‘oh I’m ok’!

But we are in strange times.

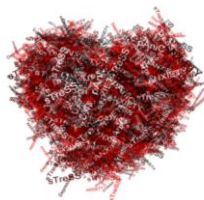
Troubling times, wish I could go and see the family, visit the beach, go to football, have a hug, go on holiday, eat out in a restaurant, go shopping, go to church - so the list goes on!

I’m sure we all know someone who is no longer with us because of COVID. One of my jobs at work is to deal with the medical records of those who leave the practice including those who have passed away, so it’s very real at times! We grieve with all those who have lost loved ones and remember them in our prayers.

These are troubling times.

The title of this part of our studies in John is **‘Promises for a Troubled heart’**

Promises for a Trouble Heart



What does Jesus have to say to us? Chapter 14 starts with these wonderful words of comfort; “Do not let your hearts be troubled.”

To put this passage in context, this was in the days before Jesus went to the cross, Jesus had just predicted Judas’ betrayal and Peter’s denial. At this difficult time, Jesus wants to comfort and reassure his disciples. In difficult times, we can look at these words to bring us comfort and reassurance today.

This morning I would like to focus on three promises ~ Three PP Promises

A Promised Place

Promises for a Troubled Heart
John 14



A Promised Place v2-4

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? 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. And you know the way to the place where I am going. (John 14:2-4)

I rather like the phrase used here, 'dwelling place', it speaks of something permanent, somewhere to stay. There are many people who don't have a home. I've met some when I've had the privilege of being involved with the Winter Night Shelter. Sitting and talking to the guests, some of the stories they tell are so sad. They have nowhere to call home.

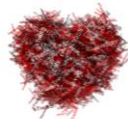
In troubling times the comfort of a dwelling place prepared for you is a real blessing, a promised place for you.

I think we can just take this to mean heaven. But it means more than something happening sometime in the future. I think it means we have a home ready for us now, we have the security of a promised dwelling place for us. 'Do not let your heart be troubled'.

We are also told by Jesus in verse 1 'believe in God, believe also in me' by following what Jesus asks us to do we have this promise of a prepared place,

Promised Path

Promises for a Troubled Heart
John 14



A Promised Place v2-4

A Promised Path v6

V 6 Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

This was an answer to a question by Thomas.

"Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

If we want to know where we are going, we use a Sat Nav, it will tell us where to go. But it does not always work out.

A minicab driver taking Earl Spencer's daughter Katya to a Chelsea match ended up 146 miles off course after his Satnav directed him to the tiny village of Stamford Bridge in Yorkshire, instead of the West London football ground.

When a Turkish lorry driver was told to deliver goods to Gibraltar, he entered the "Rock of Gibraltar" into his Sat Nav, only to end up in Skegness, some 1600 miles away from where he needed to be! He was directed to Gibraltar Point near Skeggy, rather than the sunny Gibraltar, south of Spain.

Belgium fans going to Wales for the 2016 Euro qualifier end up miles away after their Satnav took them to a small Parish in Yorkshire called Wales rather than the Principality.

So if we want to find the right path to the Promised Place we need to make sure we follow the right directions,

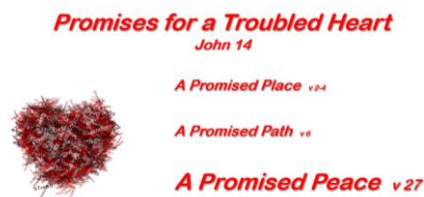
Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life."

If we want to find our Promised Place, we must follow the Promised Path. The words Jesus uses to describe himself make it clear he is the only way, the only truth and the only life.

We are not like Thomas, we know the path prepared for us, we are reassured "Do not let your heart be troubled".

"believe in God, believe also in me" by following the Promised Path, by following Jesus we have this promise of a Promised Place,

Promised Peace



V27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.

Journeys can be difficult, sometimes driving with children can be interesting! 'Are we nearly there yet' 'Can we stop and buy.....' so it goes on, as parents you long for them to sleep and give you peace!

We are on a journey following a Promised Path to our Promised Place, we are promised peace, even though the journey maybe difficult.

While looking at this verse I looked for help and found this quote from a chap called Grant Abbott on the internet

"The peace that the world gives is entirely dependent on outward circumstances. Our country is at peace with other countries, we are not involved in any conflict. We are at peace with our neighbours or co-workers because we don't have any ongoing quarrels with them.

The peace that Jesus gives comes to us through the Holy Spirit, who lives in us to give us the wisdom, protection and power to accomplish God's will for us. This peace does not depend on our circumstances. It depends on God's nature and character. It depends on God's promises to us. God promises to meet all our needs according to the glorious riches that are ours in Christ Jesus."

"Do not let your heart be troubled", we have A promise of peace.

In troubling times we have, a different peace, a Promised Peace! A peace different to the world, a peace given by God,

Chapter 14 starts with the phrase "Do not let your hearts be troubled."

And in v27 we are told "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

In v 27 we are also told "not to be afraid."

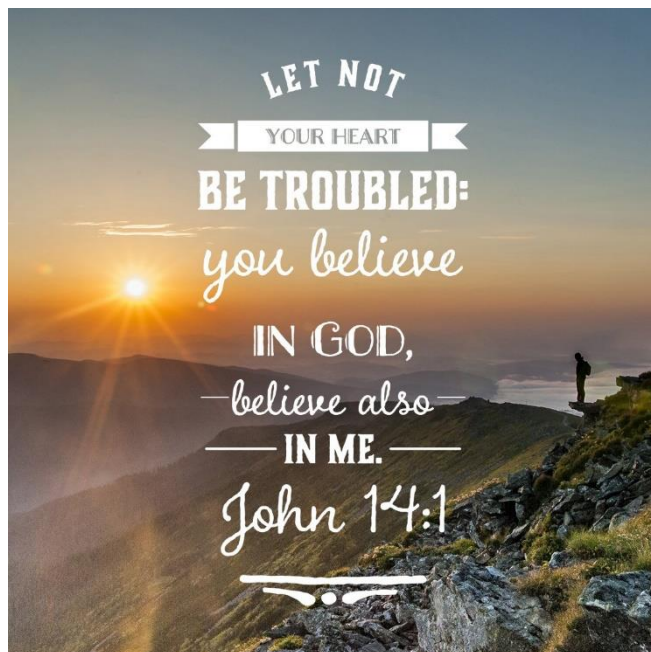
Jesus spoke these words to his disciples in troubling times and speaks them to us today in troubling times.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

You have a Promised Place, a Promised Path and a Promised Peace

Do you believe in God, do you believe also in Jesus?

Amen



[My Lighthouse - Rend Collective - Lyrics - YouTube](#)

We will now close with the Worship Song 'My Lighthouse' these words give us assurance in difficult times.

In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea

(You are my light)

My lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You
My lighthouse, my lighthouse
I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore

In the silence, You won't let go
In the questions, Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea

My lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness. I will follow You
My lighthouse, my lighthouse
I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore

Fire before us, You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms
Fire before us, You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms
Fire before us, You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms
Fire before us, You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms

I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea

My lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You
My lighthouse, my lighthouse
I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore

Blessing

Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Do not be afraid.
Christ's peace go with you
Christ peace, that the world cannot take away, be with you
Christ's peace, and the Spirit's presence,
remain with you always. Amen