

John 14 –16, pt.1, 7.12.09

Jesus Is...

Intro.

1. Beginning a new series in John 14 –16
2. Before most messages we'll practice contemplative Bible reading
3. Read Text
4. There is a real diff betw reading a romance novel & being in love; watching a fishing show & fishing; listening to reports of a hurricane and actually going experiencing it; and reading about who Jesus is & personally knowing who He is.
5. This text is more than a heady, theological statement; it is a personal revelation of who He is. It is a revelation about Jesus personally giving us comfort – for the troubles we encounter; for the eternity we face and for direction in this life & into the next...Jesus is.
6. Context – This is immediately prior to His death during the Passover Meal; he's made it clear that he will die & he will leave them; he tells them that there is a traitor among them; Peter will betray him; and they will all be scattered. In short, their world is about to collapse, but it is a divine demolition. They aren't ready to let go and they are confused, anxious and fearful and Jesus says, " Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and trust also in me."

Jesus is...the solution to your trouble: Trust in Him (John 14.1)

- A. "Don't let your heart be troubled." Agitated; inward commotion/confusion. He's addressing their uneasiness and fear. The disciples are trying to process all this information – betrayal, death, return. It's troubling them and it is so contrary to the direction they thought Jesus was taking. They aren't thinking a cross, but rather a coronation.
 - a. He was wildly received by the crowds in Jerusalem; he has more power than anyone who has ever lived; they knew He would be crowned the Messiah and everyone would worship him and the disciples would be second in command. But now, he's talking about death & leaving them
 - b. "Stop letting your heart be troubled."
 - c. What is troubling you today? Stop being troubled. How?

- B. "Trust in God and trust also in me." Not so much for salvation, but rather this way, "Keep on trusting in me. You already trust in God, now keep trusting in me."
- C. Trusting in Jesus is **the key** to dealing with trouble & fear. Jesus is trustworthy. He took care of the disciples in good times & bad; and he's taken care of you during good times & bad.
- D. Fear is the response of those who don't trust Jesus. Fear of the future, finances, family, health is an indication we don't have faith in Jesus' ability to take care of us.
- E. Illustr. – My friend Marge had an experience aboard a plane bound for Cleveland, waiting for takeoff. As she settled into her seat, Marge noticed a strange phenomenon. On one side of the airplane a sunset suffused the entire sky with glorious color. But out of the window next to her seat, all Marge could see was a sky dark and threatening, with no sign of the sunset.

As the plane's engines began to roar, a gentle Voice spoke within her.

"You have noticed the windows," he murmured beneath the roar and thrust of takeoff. "Your life, too, will contain some happy, beautiful times, but also some dark shadows. Here's a lesson I want to teach you to save you much heartache and allow you to 'abide in Me' with continual peace and joy."

"You see, it doesn't matter which window you look through; this plane is still going to Cleveland. So it is in your life. You have a choice. You can dwell on the gloomy picture. Or you can focus on the bright things and leave the dark, ominous situations to Me. I alone can handle them anyway. The final destination is not influenced by what you see and hear along the way."

"Learn this, act on it and you will be released, able to experience the 'peace that passes understanding.'"

Catherine Marshall, "Touching the Heart of God," Christianity Today (5-15-95)

- F. What does trusting in Jesus look like? Believing your testimony. Reminding yourself of how God has been faithful to take care of you & your family through your life. Since he did it then; he'll do it again.
 - a. Personal testimony – Our finances and hoping we have enough. We feel like a boat on the sea. Sometimes it's tranquil and other times it's rough, but we have never sunk! That is my testimony! Since he has taken care of me in the past, He WILL take care of me in the future!

- b. The devil is always saying, “You can’t trust him...he won’t come through.” But the Book of Revelation tells us we overcome the Devil, “by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony.”
- c. Illustr – Years ago a friend invited me to fly across central Florida in his private plane. During my friend's 50 years of experience as a pilot he flew all over the world and faced every possible condition.

On our return trip the airplane began to shake and the engine started coughing and losing power. As I looked down from an altitude of a few thousand feet, terror gripped me. I felt an incredible urge to do something. But there was nothing I could do. I had no experience in flying, landing, or fixing a plane.

Then I looked at my friend at the controls. He was utterly calm as he adjusted knobs and switches and continued to pilot the plane to a safe landing.

There are times in life when I desperately want to grab control. My experience in the plane reminds me that if I take control I will ruin or destroy my life. At those moments, I must resist the urge and trust the one who has seen it all before, and who knows what he is doing.

Charlie Crowe, Covington, Georgia

- d. Jesus is the solution to your troubles...trust in Him.

Jesus is...the hope for your tomorrow: A Home in His Presence (14.2-4)

- A. “there is more than enough room in my Father’s home” – KJV – “Many mansions”. Rooms is a better translation. There is a sense in the text of all being in the Father’s house with each having his own room or apartment. The point isn’t our physical accommodations, but that we are living in the presence of God.
- B. This was esp important to the disciples. They had left everything & everyone. They were entering a time of turbulence, uncertainty, persecution and death. Jesus says, “ Don’t be confused; keep trusting in me; you have a home with my Dad.”
- C. There is within all of us a desire to have a home; a place to return to. The thought of dying alone with no family or friends is troubling. The thought of having no place to return to is haunting. Some of you who have lost loved ones and have a dwindling family tree which has left you feeling uneasy & depressed.

But the Lord says to you, "You have a home in my Father's presence. Your real and permanent home is there."

- D. When I really think about heaven I cry. It's not b/c of the joyous reunion with those who have gone before. It's b/c that is my home. I'm a pilgrim/traveler/non-resident here, but I'm a citizen there! My Jesus is there, my Heavenly Father is there, some dear friends of mine are there, my longing is there, my reward is there, and my residence is there.
- E. The hope of heaven should fill you with great joy! Ultimate reality should impact how you live this life. Knowing my destination shapes my journey. It gives me confidence, hope, peace and joy.
 - a. Appl - who likes being lost? I hate not knowing where I'm going. It drives me crazy along with those who are with me. It makes me uncomfortable and causes me to make poor decisions. Knowing my destination changes my outlook.
 - b. Jesus assures us of our ultimate reality - "If I was not going to prepare a place for you I would have told you. But indeed, I am going to prepare a place for you!"
- F. "14.3" - Doesn't this thrill you! Jesus is making a place for us, so that we will always be in His presence. Ps.16 says that when we are in the presence of God there is fullness of joy.
 - a. Have you ever experienced the strong presence of God either in a meeting with other Christians or in a personal encounter. You don't want to leave. There is the sense of joy, peace and awe. You don't want it to end and one day it won't!
 - b. Illust - wind from a box fan. You can feel the wind until something impedes it. (Have various ones stand up to block the flow of air to others) Like God's presence, we can experience it now, but often things impede it (the routine of life; unforgiveness; relational troubles, etc.). One day nothing will impede His presence.
 - c. Don Piper's experience in heaven - 90 Minutes in Heaven. He'll be at First Church of Nazarene in LJ on Wednesday, July 29.
- G. TS - Jesus makes this assumptive statement in v.4, I believe, to get a response from his disciples.

Jesus Is...The Direction For Your Journey...He is your Map (On board navigation system), 14.5-7.

- A. "14.5" I love Thomas' honesty. He's not doubting Thomas, just questioning Thomas. Everyone else pretends to know what Jesus is saying and only Thomas is honest enough to ask. They are still confused, b/c they are interpreting Jesus' words based upon their expectations that he'll be made King. Things aren't adding up & Thomas wants to know where Jesus is going.
- B. "14.6" – It's either the most arrogant statement made or ignorant or outrageous or grandest.
 - a. If Pres.Obama made this – Messiah complex
 - b. PM Medved of Russia – Anti-Christ
 - c. Hugo Chavez or Venezula – Lunatic
 - d. Joel Osteen – Cult leader
- C. So How did Jesus get away it? How does he get away with saying: I am the Bread of Life; light of the world; the gate for the sheep; the good shepherd; the resurrection and the life; the true vine; the way, the truth and the life? By rising from the dead never to die again!
- D. Illust – One sleepy Sunday afternoon when my son was five-years-old, we drove past a cemetery together. Noticing a large pile of dirt beside a newly excavated grave, he pointed and said: "Look, Dad, one got out!" I laughed, but now, every time I pass a graveyard, I'm reminded of the One who got out.

Phil Callaway, from the April 16 entry of Men of Integrity (March/April 2006)

- E. Praise God! One did "get out" and His name is Jesus! Do you need direction for this life? He is the way. Do you need clarity in your confusion? He is the truth. Do you need joy for your journey? He is the life!
- F. He is the way to the Father; reveals truth about the Father; and lets you experience life in the Father!

Conclusion

- A. Illust – In June of 2006, Warren Buffet, the world's second-richest man at the time, announced that he would donate 85 percent of his \$44 billion fortune to five charitable foundations.

Commenting on this extreme level of generosity, Buffet said: "There is more than one way to get to heaven, but this is a great way."

Associated Press, "How Do You Spend \$1.5 Billion a Year?" cbsnews.com (6-27-06);
submitted by Van Morris, Mount Washington, Kentucky

- B. Jesus isn't one of many ways - He is the only way to be saved and forgiven; He's the only way to the Father.
- C. Believer - He's also the solution to your trouble - Keep on trusting in Him!