

The Way to PEACE . *John 13 & 14*

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This morning I want to thank the Lord first of all for His mercy and grace towards us. Instead of judgment, what He has given the Church is even more power to bring forth mercy upon the earth. Right now everybody else wants to condemn someone or something. But we bring peace, not just peace as the world knows it. We are not even *able to bring their kind of peace*. We bring peace that can give people the love of God only found in our lord Jesus Christ.

Let's turn to John chapter 13 to start. This is one of the hardest to get through as there is so much betrayal going on in this particular chapter about Judas and of how Jesus reacts to that, and what it says to us personally. What John is saying here primarily is that *we can get through it*. Jesus is going to give to us the peace that we need through times of betrayal, through times of controversy and through times of chaos. Here He gives us some ideas of how to get through it.

Prayer

The first one that comes to my mind is prayer. Prayer isn't just saying the words, is it? We all know that. It is not repetitious. Prayer is actually a conversation with God and particularly God the Father. We have a prayer conversation with Him through Jesus, the only way to do that is by the Holy Spirit which was given to us. What gives us the peace that we have amongst any chaos is prayer, *living with God*. It is not some place we visit but rather we LIVE there with Him, in His Kingdom. So we're not of this world but we are of His Kingdom. We have to remind ourselves of that by praying, by having that conversation with God, inviting Him to speak to us prophetically in each of our daily walks.

Maybe you are not good at getting a word from Owen Carey or some other prophet, but you can get a word from the Lord, in prayer! And you can judge it by whether it agrees with the Word of God or not. And you can submit it to your brothers and sisters. It is not something where you say, "*Well I don't want to do that.*" However, you should!

Oftentimes the Lord says some very meaningful things to me, especially in the morning like, "*I love you.*" Is that prophetic? Yes, of course it is. He is saying it. I'm not saying it. He is. Once you get the idea that this is true, it changes your whole life. I remember when the Gaithers (gospel music band) were struggling to make their first song and then they finally hit the big time. Do you remember the song that really made them big was "*He Touched Me*"? And, He touched me and I knew it. What made that song so popular and how it changed their whole life was that people realized that God isn't something far off. He is a lifestyle, a living place where we can have the Kingdom of God.

Jesus Washed the Disciples' Feet

Jesus was facing some pretty serious things in His life while He was on earth.

John 13 ¹ *Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour (He knew what was going on.) had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.*

Our sister Carmen said that this morning. He loved them till the end. There is no place where He stops and you might think, “*Well, that is the end.*” Well, whatever you want to make it, it doesn’t matter; He never gives up. Where we give up, He never gives up. He’ll love us to the end. This is good. I want to stay there. I’m not moving from that good place to be.

² *And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him, . . .*

A lot of the things John’s talking about right here are things of the heart, not just ideas in the mind but some things that go deep into the heart of the people Jesus is relating to. There were some real problems

³ *Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God,* ⁴ *rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.* ⁵ *After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.* ⁶ *Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, “Lord, are You washing my feet?”*

⁷ *Jesus answered and said to him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.”*

So there are times when things are put into our lives where we may not understand. We don’t always have to understand. However, obedience is what the Lord requires when we walk with Him. Obedience to His Word not only the written Word by itself, but the *living* Word of God, obedience to that Word and that is why Peter responded.

⁸ *Peter said to Him, “You shall never wash my feet!”*
Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.”

So that was prophetically spoken. And Peter responds.

⁹ *Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!”*

Peter wanted his whole body to be in obedience to the Word of God so he could be a part of his Lord. Another words, you cannot have relationship with the Lord if you don’t want to obey Him. There are many Christians I have met that have accepted the Lord Jesus as their Savior but they haven’t been obedient

to Him. For instance, they may have an illicit affair with someone and they don't want to give it up. They know it is wrong but they don't want to give it up because they love that person so much. They cannot seem to break away. Or they may be addicted to alcohol and cannot seem to break away. They are in love with cars or whatever it might be that is holding them back. That's when there is this important scripture. Peter says, *"Everything that I am, please Lord, let it be yours."*

¹⁰ *Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."* ¹¹ *For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."*

He is referring to Judas here. He explains to His disciples that what He has done is for an example that they should also wash each others feet. They should go out of their way for someone who is not able to take care of themselves, who cannot get out of their trap whatever it might be. Don't give up on them. *Jesus said He loved them all to the end including Judas!* Not except, **including him!**

Well Jesus identifies His betrayer.

¹⁸ *"I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.'* ¹⁹ *Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He.* ²⁰ *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."*

A lot of prophecy is this, not so you can understand what is going on and avoid a "catastrophe" necessarily, but after the trouble comes, you can say, *"Oh yes, I remember the Lord did say that."* After the fact. So, I often don't look at prophecy to give me an edge on what is going to happen in the future. I have never gotten a prophecy, *"Stop X, Y or Z."* Never. When I used to do a lot of deer hunting, almost never did I get a word telling me to go over a certain ridge and the deer will be there. Rather, hunting is a lot of hard work.

²⁰ *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."*

So there is something Jesus is saying in the midst of all this problem. He is going to send us and we better listen to that. This is interesting.

Jesus Identifies His Betrayer

²¹ *When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me."*

Can you imagine Jesus being troubled? No. I'm not sure that is the right translation. Rather, He was stirred up in His Spirit. There was something He wished He could change, something that was wrong. He was not necessarily "pacing the floor" wondering what He could do. That one thing was not just

something happening outwardly around Him, but it was a betrayal of one of His own. What troubled Jesus the most making Him stirred up in His heart was one of His chosen in whom He had poured His life, decided to take the wrong way.

²² *Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.*

²³ *Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.* ²⁴ *Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke.*

²⁵ *Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, "Lord, who is it?"*

²⁶ *Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.* ²⁷ *Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."* ²⁸ *But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him.* ²⁹ *For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, "Buy those things we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor.*

³⁰ *Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.*

Judas went out immediately and in darkness. When you leave the will and the purposes of God (you who are filled with His Holy Spirit) you enter a very dangerous place, leaving the obedience of God's Word to do your own thing. He went and it was night. There was no light only darkness. We don't want to go there.

In the midst of all of this, Jesus gives another command. We've heard a lot of commandments but He was going to give them another that would help through this time of trial. When everybody seems to be going in the wrong direction and you are going in obedience to God, this is what He wants you to do.

The New Commandment

³¹ *So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him.* ³² *If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately.* ³³ *Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you.* ³⁴ ***A new commandment (not one from the Old Testament) I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*** ³⁵ *By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

I don't know how they could understand this scripture without knowing the Trinity. How has He loved them? By being with them, not deserting them, loving them to the end, no stopping God's love. What an awesome tool and

weapon we have as we pray for one another! We are not praying as the world would pray, *“Oh Lord, just make them as comfortable as I am.”* No. *“Make them even more comfortable, as You would make them comfortable in whatever they are going through.”*

Well we all think that if we just purpose strong enough in our heart, we will make it through. That really is NOT true! Mental purpose in this is not going to help you all that much. We rely upon the grace and mercy of God. It is not how strong we purpose to be. Simon Peter is in that place.

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

³⁶ *Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?”*

Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward.”

³⁷ *Peter said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake.”*

³⁸ *Jesus answered him, “Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times.”*

So there it is. That is all our own strength can do. Almost nothing. In days gone by almost everyone was in the habit of saying, *“Oh yeah, I’ll be there tomorrow by the will of God.”* They would always end their sentences and convictions about their commitments by the mercy and grace of our God. People don’t bother to say that anymore. I’ve never heard that lately. It doesn’t seem to be popular. But I’ll tell you something, it should be popular. If you don’t say it outwardly, you should say it inwardly, by *“the mercy and grace of God!”* Anything could happen to us physically. But nothing can happen to us spiritually because He died for us. We will never die. Our mortal bodies may die but we will never die. Not only will we never die but we are going to heaven not to eternal judgment. Awesome.

So, the world we live in, the Kingdom we live in is not something we should take lightly.

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

John 14 ¹ *“Let not your heart be troubled; . . .*

Jesus’ heart was troubled but not troubled like ours is today. When I hear many Christians speak about the things going on in the world today, they are definitely not at peace. They are definitely troubled in spirit. Now many of you should remember Dale Rumble’s teaching (*Body, Soul and Spirit*) that the heart refers to the Spirit. That is true but also remember that even though we can be divided into three parts of our being. It is actually not completely right. We are still actually one. Jesus doesn’t say, *“Okay I’m just talking to your spirit now.”* What happens to your spirit affects your soul, and affects your body as well. Therefore if you entertain the spiritual realm of darkness like Judas did, it finally came into

him. It is a terrible thing to be possessed not just by demons but by Satan himself. Not a place I would ever want to be! Ever!

So, I have to be diligent to understand what Jesus wants from me. I continually wash myself with the water of the Word. I can hear Judas say as he is going out into the darkness, *“When will Jesus ever learn? He is given expensive perfume and He just throws it away letting this girl wash His feet with it. And now He’s washing His disciples feet with water and a towel. Why? For what reason? What kind of person is He anyway?”* That’s when the enemy comes in, with the little things at first and then blows them up. Soon you believe a lie that should never have been entertained from the beginning.

It is important for us to know the Word of God and to LIVE by it. For instance, I should be faithful to one wife. That’s something I will keep. My wife is glad of that. And so am I and so is the Lord Jesus.

“Letting not your heart be troubled” right now in this chapter, makes Jesus sound “crazy” to His disciples. According to them, He’s talking about betrayal, etc.

. . . you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Isn’t that good? He’s going to go and prepare a place for you in heaven. Are you worried about that? No. You are not going to be troubled about it any more. It doesn’t matter that there is another plague coming down the pike (Covid 19). It doesn’t matter if there are riots. It doesn’t matter because your place is ultimately in heaven.

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; . . .

Where are you going? To Himself.

. . . that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

That’s prophetic because they didn’t understand much at that moment. We do today but they didn’t. Why do you know that? Because you go there when you are in prayer, when you talk to Him, when you are living your day with the Lord Jesus. You know where you are going! And you know the way if you get lost, if you need help. Amen. However Thomas didn’t know.

⁵ Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

If you are looking for the truth, Thomas, I am the truth. It is not found anywhere else. It is not found in the social gospel. It is not found in anything you may try to contrive. *“I am the life.”* The life is not found in the last sports event

you attended, or concert, or the last time you felt happy. Jesus is the way. Jesus is the truth. Jesus is the life and you are not going to find it any where else. A lot of people in this town of Kingston and the surrounding area have no idea of what I just said. No clue. They don't believe in God. At best they are agnostic and they don't know, and they don't know the way and they will never know the way unless someone shows them, led by the Holy Spirit.

The Father Revealed

"No one comes to the Father except through Me."

So what is your ultimate goal? To be in the Father's will, to be by your Father in heaven. The Trinity is really preached in this passage, big time. No one comes to the Father, no one, except by Jesus. It is a sad statement for a lot of people because they reject our Lord Jesus Christ, not Him as a person necessarily but as God. They reject Him and don't believe it, cannot accept it. It doesn't seem logical.

Well the Father is the only important thing in the whole universe! He created it! With the Lord Jesus and with the Holy Spirit as the Trinity.

⁷ *"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."*

How He expected the disciples to understand this, I don't know. He is like opening up their eyes as He is saying these prophetic words.

⁸ *Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."*

I can see Jesus sighing here and maybe rolling His eyes . . .

⁹ *Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip?"*

Listen, when He calls you by name, if He were to say to me, "*Peter*." Immediately I am going to respond. Isn't that interesting. I used to draw blood in the early, early morning around 6 am at St. Luke's in Newburgh. I was learning how to draw blood and I had to draw Maternity first then head down to the poor kids in Pediatrics, etc. Finally I'd get up to the Geriatric ward on the fourth floor, and these old guys would all be asleep. It may say on a wrist, Tim Smith. I say, "*Mr. Smith, I'm here. I have to draw some blood.*" No response. I say it again. Nothing. Then I say, "*Tim!*" He jolts awake and says, "*Oh, what!*" People respond to their *first name* much more than anything else.

It reminds me of a scripture which says, "*You weren't born of men. You were born in spirit.*" When you come into the Kingdom of God, you have denied your parent's right to you as a child. You are really now a child of God. That doesn't mean you shouldn't still be obedient to your earthly parents but it is a wonderful thing to be owned by God who calls you by name!

He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

So how can you say, “*Show us the Father?!*”

¹⁰ *Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.*

Jesus didn’t do the works alone. He did it with the Father.

¹¹ *Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.*

Do you want to believe in things that are real? These things are real! When you were in Church worshipping this morning, I hope you realized that your worship goes before the throne of God. It is real. It cannot be false. The testimony in your heart knows that this is real; it is not fake. None of you worship the Lord in “fake-ness.” As I watched Paul play the songs, “Joy, joy, joy...” I said to myself, “*Oh, God, bless this brother because he is leading us into a place where we need to be.*” We need to know the City not made with hands, not made by the will of men. You are not made by the will of your natural father. But you were made by the will of God! The will of God knew you even before you were born.

Power in Prayer

Well what is going to get us through perilous times? Our relationship with the Father. And prayer.

¹² *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; . . .*

So now you are conscripted into His army.

. . . and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

Jesus Promises Another Helper

Why did He go to the Father? To send us the Holy Spirit. He died on the cross for our sin but He went to the Father and sat down at the right hand and then sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost so the Church could be born and you would be able to do those kinds of works also. So you can heal sick people, praying for them and they shall recover. Don’t give up on any of them and somehow say, “*Oh this is way too much for me.*” Don’t grow weary of doing good the scripture says. So if you are weary seek out somebody who isn’t and get help. Get some of that stirred up, the Holy Spirit within you.

¹³ *And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.* ¹⁴ *If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

Not that *you* will be glorified but *He* will be glorified through it. Wouldn’t you like to be there? I have asked for a lot of things in the Lord’s name and not

all of them came true. But He did answer them. He answers prayer. There is a country song that goes like this, *“I thank God for unanswered prayer . . . ”* It is about a guy who goes back to his high school class reunion and meets his old girlfriend. He says, *“Thank God for unanswered prayer!”* It wasn’t the girl he ended up marrying, obviously.

We don’t know how many times the Lord has rescued us from disaster because we only see in part. God knows the beginning before the end. He will love us to the end. Now here’s the condition, the catch, the unavoidable process. We are being conformed into the image of Christ. But how?

The Indwelling of the Father and the Son

¹⁵ *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.*

I can hear Peter saying, *“Well, Lord, we love you! We’ll stick it out. We will purpose to do it.”*

¹⁶ *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, . . .*

“Because, Peter, you need this. It is not by the strength of your own purposes and strength of resolve.” He is going to give you a Helper. We here in this room have the Helper already. The Church has been born so the Holy Spirit has been given to us not just partially but given us to be baptized, submersed into and living with the Holy Spirit every day. In our heart, the Spirit of God is there, quickened within us that He may abide with you forever! There is never going to be a time when you are going to be without Him. The Spirit of Truth will never guide you into falsehood.

. . . that He may abide with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; . . .

Sound like anybody you know?

. . . but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

“Oh, I know that is true. It is true.” When I was first dating my wife I said to someone, *“I don’t know. I think I love her.”* My friend who knew me really well said to me, *“Either you do or you don’t.”* So I quickly said, *“Well I do!”* So he said, *“So what’s the problem?!”*

You see there is a “knowing” inside. That knowing thing is not broken very easily, the Spirit of Truth whom the world cannot know or perceive.

. . . but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

He might say, *“I will **never** leave you as orphans. I will come to you.”* So who is saying this? Physically, Jesus Christ while He was walking the earth. Who is He talking about? The Holy Spirit. So He is saying they are both the same thing. He’s already said He was the Father, the exact representation of Him. The Trinity can all be said in one word, **Jesus**.

¹⁹ *“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. ²⁰ At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.*

There will come a day when we will know. And then He repeats what He said before.

²¹ ***He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. . .***

Let’s go back and try to understand this word “commandment.” Commandment isn’t looking back into the Old Testament and saying the commandments are “*keeping the Sabbath holy*,” x, y, z, etc., whatever you want to call them, a list of do’s and don’ts. Rather in this scripture the commandments of the Lord is what He is speaking to you, the living word of God. He may speak to you through the written Word of God, but He can also speak to you through another person. Sometimes He can speak to you even through an unbeliever.

God is not limited as to how He can speak to you. For instance He speaks to me often through His creation. “*He who keeps my commandments, that’s who loves Me.*” The definition of your love is going to be obedience.

. . . And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

That’s a good place to be. Wow.

²² *Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?”*

²³ ***Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.***

So where is Jesus’ home? You! Where is the Father’s home? You! Where does the Holy Spirit live? You! This is crazy stuff. Why would anybody believe this?! It is true because you know it is true. You know the way and you know how to get there. When we enter into the fullness of worship, prayer, and communion with God, there’s no turning you back. There is no lie the enemy can give to you that you will follow, for you will know his alien voice.

²⁴ *He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.*

The Gift of Peace

With all of this happening and returning to “*let not your hearts be troubled*,” this is one of the most troubling times for the disciples. They knew by now something big was going to come down. Things are never going to be the same. We hear that a lot these days during the Pandemic epidemic. I can remember Dale and Bertha Rumble sitting across the room there, Dina and Ray Nielson over there, Ida Hemple sitting on the other side of the room; the worship

and music was filling this room like crazy. But it will never be the same. But think of this, it is NOT SUPPOSED TO BE THE SAME. Every day in which we live is a wonderful adventure in our Lord Jesus Christ. It is not one of sorrow and remorse.

We can find ourselves in the strangest of places and know the joy of the Lord. I've said this before: Mother Theresa said to one of her underlings who wanted to go with her to Calcutta, one of the worst ghettos in the world, "*Why do you want to go?*" The girl answered, "*Because I want to serve and I want to make a difference.*" Mother answered, "*Well, sister, you are going to need the JOY of the Lord a lot more than that.*" You too are going to need the joy of the Lord! How wonderful it is that we have that joy. If you want to know what the enemy's primary tactic is against Christians is to steal their joy in the trials they face.

Our sister Crystal, who has just narrowly escaped death through this Covid, found herself in a hospital not even knowing where she was. However her joy was still there in the Lord! Then the Lord manifested Himself to her to prove it! Because He loves her. Why did He do it? Because He loves her. Why does He do it for us? Because He loves us, everyone of us. He makes us His home! He is our home. Let that sink in.

²⁵ "*These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. . .*"

Again these words are prophetic in a lot of ways. He's talking about later when they'll be looking back after Jesus is crucified, after the Church is born at Pentecost. They are going to look back and finally write His words down. Do you realize that Jesus is one of the major philosophers (if nothing else) but He never wrote a word on a piece of paper! And He was educated to do that. Every Jewish boy knew how to read and write. In the other cultures of the world that was simply not true. Only the kings and rulers knew how to read and write. But in the Jewish nation, every male, every one, knew how to read and write.

So, if Jesus knew how to do it, why didn't He write all His words down? I think He purposely did not write it down because the very words He could have written down would be worshiped and not His will and purposes in the earth right up to today. The early Church would take the hands of the saints off their body and that would be part of the artifacts of God and they would make a Church cathedral around them. Almost all the cathedrals in Europe have a "holy artifact." It will be in a little booth, kept in a holy place in the Church and worshiped. How terrible.

Can you imagine if Jesus had written words down, they would be worshiped instead of God Himself. Men are really crazy. Amen. If there is a way to go the wrong way, we will find it. This morning I watched one of the main denominations in the world, live streaming. As they went through the prayers and went through the rituals of lighting the candles, etc., I thought, "*Where? Where do they worship? Where is the worship? Where is the heart of God in making them His home? Bringing us home, to that place where we want to go.*" I

thought, “*I don’t want to go to that altar; I want to go to the Lord Jesus Christ and I don’t need an altar to get there.*”

What is our hope? It is not in our purposefulness. It is not somehow in other people. It is not in anything but this:

*²⁶ But the Helper, the **Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

So Jesus didn’t need to write His words down because the Holy Spirit was given for that exact same purpose.

²⁷ Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. . . .

Not in the future, right here and now. Don’t let your heart, your spirit be troubled. If everything else is failing, your body is failing, your soul has been “ripped out” away from you, there is still the peace of God resident and will never be taken away from you. In your heart, the Spirit of God is still there.

. . . neither let it be afraid.

So what’s the big deal? Not only are they troubled but now the disciples are afraid. Sometimes the ones that are afraid the most are Christians who have fallen away as they well should be.

²⁸ You have heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away and coming back to you.’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, ‘I am going to the Father,’ for My Father is greater than I.

Why are they going to rejoice? Because He is sending His Holy Spirit. Without that they only know Jesus in the flesh. Only a few people can know Him that way, but everyone through the ages can know Him in the Spirit. No one is exempt. You can bring the gospel of peace to any one, any time. I love it when God goes ahead of me and rescues somebody that I had considered way beyond help, thinking, “*This person will never enter the Kingdom of God. If it were my Kingdom, I would never let him in.*” I hear this one quote, “*After Covid 19 is gone there are still some people you will want to keep at a distance!*” Terrible! We love each other and there will be a day we can embrace one another again. There will be. Without a doubt, it will happen.

Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. ²⁸ You have heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away and coming back to you.’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, ‘I am going to the Father,’ for My Father is greater than I.

*²⁹ “And now **I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.** ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. ³¹ But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.*

You can see that at the start of chapter 13, Jesus' heart was troubled, troubled because of the betrayal of Judas. We should never be happy about someone leaving Christ. It was troubling for Jesus and it is troubling for us as well. We should speak a word at every opportunity we can even after the fact. His love never came to an end and never does.

Peace and No Longer Troubled

"Arise, let us go from here." At this point He knows that in what He has to go through, He will still have peace, though He may not have peace in His soul or His flesh. At the crucifixion as He's praying to the Father in the garden, He's going to have big struggles in His soul. However, the peace of God that is in His Spirit will never leave Him!

Let's pray: Thank You, Lord Jesus. So, Father, we thank You for this day that as You are bringing us through the plague now affecting the earth, for the moment of time that we are in . . . We never knew it was coming. Nobody predicted it. Even those who did, didn't know really. But we know one thing the world does not, this Church knows, the Kingdom of God knows, that Your love is faithful to the end, no matter where we find ourselves. That is what we call home, where You live in us where we live in You. Father, I pray that whenever we pray and worship You, day or night, that You will remind us by visiting us by Your Holy Spirit, by giving us the prophetic word in our heart, that we would encourage our souls and those around us. We pray in Jesus' name, let Your mercy and grace overtake us. Amen.

