

## A Prepared Place for a Prepared People

### John 14:1-4

"Let not your heart be troubled; 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. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. NKJV

Have you ever been troubled in heart? I am sure that everyone has. Often when things do not go as we had planned. Or when life seems to fall apart. With the loss of a job or with an unexpected bill or sickness. Or when we have an unexpected death in the family or among our friends. How could we expect not to be troubled.

As we have seen, Jesus knows all things. He knows that His hour has come and that He will soon depart out of the world to the Father.

But what of His disciples? They have staked their lives on Jesus and soon almost everything that they thought they knew will come to an end. Jesus is not going to defend Himself against the Jews or the gentiles. Instead He will give Himself to them for suffering and death.

To the disciples this was totally different from what they thought was going to happen. But now as Jesus tries to prepare them for this they do not even know how to accept His words.

This is truly a wonderful passage. It fills us with awe and comfort at the same time. These words have brought comfort to untold millions as they have faced the darkest of days. They are anchored in the veracity of His word.

I. Let not your heart be troubled;

A. Troubled:

1. NT:5015 NT:5015 παράσσω b: (a figurative extension of meaning of παράσσω a 'to stir up,' 16.3) to cause acute emotional distress or turbulence - 'to cause great mental distress.' ἐνεβριμήσατο τῷ πνεύματι καὶ ἐτάραξεν ἑαυτὸν 'he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly distressed' John 11:33; τὸν δὲ φόβον αὐτῶν μὴ φοβηθῆτε, μηδὲ παραχθῆτε 'do not be afraid of them and do not be distressed' 1 Peter 3:14. (from Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain. Copyright © 1988 United Bible Societies, New York. Used by permission.)
2. NT:5015 "to cause one inward commotion, take away his calmness of mind, disturb his equanimity; to disquiet, make restless" (the **Sept.** for לַבְּיָדָה, **etc.; passive, παράσσομαι for יָלַד, to be stirred up, irritated**); **α. to stir up:** τὸν ὄχλον, **Acts 17:8**; (τούς ὄχλους, **Acts 17:13 L T Tr WH**). **β. to trouble:** τινά, **to strike one's spirit with fear or dread, passive, Matt 2:3; 14:26; Mark 6:50; Luke 1:12; (Luke 24:38); 1 Peter 3:14**; παράσσεται ἡ καρδία, **John 14:1,27**;

to affect with great pain or sorrow: (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon, PC Study Bible formatted Electronic Database. Copyright © 2006 by Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)

- B. Was Jesus saying her that we should have a trouble free life?
1. One writer called that Pollyanna Christianity.
    - a. Where the sun is always shining and the sky never holds a cloud and if it does then there is something wrong with you.
    - b. No one in the Bible had that type of life, why should we think God's desire is for us to have a trouble free life.
    - c. Jesus is not saying you will never have troubles, but that we should not let the troubles of this life trouble our hearts.
  2. But what do you do when you can't pay the bill?
  3. What do you do when you get a bad report from the doctor.
  4. What do you do when someone dies?
  5. There are a number of things that can bring trouble into our lives.
- C. Jesus was troubled
1. John 11:33-34 Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. 34 And He said, "Where have you laid him?" NKJV
  2. John 12:27-28 "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify Your name." NKJV
  3. John 13:21 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." NKJV
- D. Heart
1. This tells us that this is an emotional battle.
  2. These disciples were very dedicated to Jesus.
  3. But soon their very hearts will begin to fail them for the events that are beyond their control.
- II. You believe in God, believe also in Me.
- A. Faith is the only weapon we have when it comes to death and separation.
1. So Jesus calls on them to not only believe in God but to believe in Him as well.

2. Essentially faith in God and not believing in Jesus is to deny the Father.
- III. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you.
- A. How does that help them now?
    1. Isn't that pie in the sky in the sweet bye and bye?
    2. Some Christians have come to criticize this as escapism.
- IV. I go to prepare a place for you.
- A. Notice that Jesus doesn't disclose this until Judas is gone, this is only for those who love the Lord.
  - B. Even though His Father's house has many mansions or dwelling places, yet He says that He goes to prepare a place for them.
    1. It would seem that this other place was something special.
    2. Some have concluded that this refers to the place that Jesus prepares for His bride the churches of this age.
    3. Rev 21:1-4 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." NKJV
  - C. Prepared.
    1. I think the idea is that these places will be individually prepared.
    2. Just like you might prepare a room for your daughter or son.
    3. Or as you might prepare a special room for mom or dad.
- V. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself;
- A. We cannot help but believe that Paul had this passage in mind
    1. 1 Thess 4:15-18 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore

comfort one another with these words. NKJV

- VI. That where I am, there you may be also.
  - A. They were going to have to say good-bye to Jesus very soon but someday they would be reunited with Him to be with Him forever.