

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide SB 01.23.22

A TROUBLED HEART: JOHN 14:1-6

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

We live in uncertain times. The COVID pandemic, world threats, political division, addictions, unemployment, racism, climate change, and the lists goes on-and-on of things that could trouble the heart. Most people are feeling uneasy about the growing uncertainty and unpredictability in the world, which is continuously fed by the 24-hour news cycle. Sometimes, we might wonder where God is. The common assumption in a life following Jesus is that we will be protected from bad things happening. But Jesus did not say we would not face troubles in this life. In fact, He said "In this world you will have trouble" (John 16:33). But He also said, "take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). We should not let our hearts be troubled (John 14:1). As we face these uncertain times, we can keep from feeling troubled by keeping our eyes, fully, and squarely on Jesus. As we acknowledge His presence, His promises, and His Word, He trades our troubled hearts for peace. So, let's "step into the story", join the adventure of faith, and believe and walk in the prophetic promises that God has given...

1. Describe in your own words what it means to have a troubled heart.
2. How do we not let our hearts be troubled when there is so much Chaos in this world?
3. What stood out to you during this week's study?

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 11:31-33, 12:27, 13:21, & 14:1

To be troubled is a human reaction to an adverse circumstance. Scripture clearly stated Jesus experienced trouble. In John 11:31-33, after the death of Lazarus, Jesus "groaned in the spirit and was troubled". In John 12:27, Jesus predicted His own death on the cross, and He said, "My soul is troubled". In John 13:21, Jesus identified His betrayer, and He was troubled in the spirit. Yet, in John 14:1, Jesus said to His disciples, "Let not your heart (kardia) be troubled". Kardia means let not your soul, from deep within, be troubled. Since we believe in God, we also believe in Jesus, our living hope (1 Peter 1:3). In this context, hope is an eager, confident expectation. Unlike the empty, dead hope of this world, this "living hope" is energizing, alive, and active in the soul of the believer. We should live with great expectation of our living hope, that originates from our living resurrected Savior.

1. Why do you think it is natural to feel troubled when we faced adverse circumstances?
2. John 14:1 says, our "hearts" are not to be troubled. In this context, describe what is meant by heart (kardia).
3. Should there be any room for trouble to exist in our hearts? Why or why not? (John 14:1, 1 Peter 1:3)
4. The world puts their hope in things that can die, be destroyed, decay, or deteriorate. Yet, the Christian's life, through Christ, is secure, incorruptible, undefiled, unfading, and is secured in Heaven. How does this encourage you?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 14:2-4

“For the Christian, death is not the end of adventure, but a doorway from a world where dreams and adventures shrink, to a world where dreams and adventures forever expand” (Randy Alcorn, Heaven). God has placed eternity into the human heart (Ecclesiastes 3:11). We can be assured Heaven is real! Jesus goes and prepares a place for us in Heaven where He is seated at the right hand of God (Colossians 3:1). Heaven is our destination, our forever home. Where every tear will be wiped away from our eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. (Revelation 21:3-4). We will be with Him in glory (1 Colossians 3:3) for eternity.

5. Why are we not hardwired to deal with death? (Ecclesiastes 3:11).
6. Jesus is preparing our “forever home”. What do you think your forever home will look like? (1 Corinthians 2:9)
7. Our first glimpse of Heaven will likely be one gasp after another in awe and amazement of such an unfathomable and wondrous place. In lieu of eternity, this life is just a vapor, appearing for a little while (James 4:14). How should this visionary glimpse into Heaven encourage you in times of trouble?
8. Read Psalm 63:1. God is the one our hearts really long for. Describe what the feeling of completeness might be like as we share eternity in Heaven with Jesus.

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 14:5-6

Jesus is “the way”, “the truth”, and “the life”. He is “the way” to which one travels to the Father’s house. He is “the truth” that guarantees a light for our safe journey. He is “the life” that provides the necessary energy to ensure we reach our destination. Jesus prepares a place for us in eternity, and we need to prepare for the journey to get there. For the day is at hand, we need to establish our hearts (Romans 13:12, Philippians 4:4-5, James 5:8) and prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus. “The best of life on Earth is a glimpse of Heaven; the worst of life is a glimpse of Hell. For Christians, this present life is the closest they will come to Hell. For unbelievers, it is the closest they will come to Heaven” (Randy Alcorn, Heaven).

1. Do you have a troubled heart today? Take heart, Jesus has overcome the world” (John 16:33). Keep your eyes, fully, and squarely on Him. Acknowledge His presence, His promises, and His Word. He will trade your troubled hearts for peace.
2. Are you focused on eternity and the living hope only found in Jesus? He is “the way” to which one travels to the Father’s house. He is “the truth” that guarantees a light for our safe journey. He is “the life” that provides the necessary energy to ensure we reach our destination. Jesus prepares a place for us in eternity (John 14:6). Are you ready?

PRAYER

Thank You Lord, for preparing a place for us in Heaven, an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. Thank You for providing a way to Heaven. Thank You for the grace, comfort, peace, and the living hope that is only found through You. We look forward to being in glory with You for eternity. As we face the troubles of this world, help us to keep our eyes, fully, and squarely on You trade our troubled hearts for peace. Maranatha!

“Let not your hearts be troubled” John 14:1