

Series: Biblical Gen. Ed.

Title: Comfort

Topic: The Way Is Prepared

Every obstacle between us and our room in the Father's house is about to be removed in the next three days. That's the first thing I think Jesus means when he says: *I am going to prepare a place for you. I'm preparing it not in the sense that it's defective but that the way there is not prepared.*

I think Jesus confirms that he is thinking this way in verses 4-6, "*And you know the way to where I am going.*" ⁵ *Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"* ⁶ Jesus said to him, "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*"

In other words: *I go to prepare a place for you. And as I go I become the way that you get there. I am the truth that you hold onto to get there. And I am the life — the eternal life that you will enjoy when you get there. When I say, "I go to prepare a place for you," I mean: I open the way. And I am the way. I confirm the truth. And I am the truth. I purchase the life. And I am that life.*

In other words, Peter and the other disciples, and you and I, do not need to have an unholy turmoil of soul that we are imperfect, wrath-deserving, unworthy followers of Jesus. Our sin does not mean that our place in God's household will be unavailable, or unsuitable. Because Jesus, this night, goes to purchase our forgiveness and become the way to the Father. He makes our room not only available, but suitable and certain for his redeemed sheep. *So let not your hearts be troubled. Trust me.*" John Piper

Our days are numbered, so _____ wisely. We _____ have a place to go. Christ _____ the way!

Summary: Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled...

Our verse and more of this chapter tell us:

1. *Let not your heart be troubled*, because there's a place for you in my Father's house.
2. *Let not your heart be troubled*, because Jesus prepared the place for you. He opened the way. He is the way.
3. *Let not your heart be troubled*, because Jesus himself is your dwelling place and he will come and take you to himself.
4. *Let not your heart be troubled*, because Jesus and the Father are one, so that if you have Jesus you have the Father.
5. *Let not your heart be troubled*, because Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit. He is with you now, and will be with you always, not as an observer, but a Helper.

A young man in 1981 was flown into the remote Alaskan wilderness to photograph the natural beauty of the tundra. He had photo equipment, 500 rolls of film, several firearms, and 1,400 pounds of provisions. As the months passed, the entries in his diary, which at first detailed the wonder and fascination with the wildlife around him, turned into a pathetic record of a nightmare. In August he wrote, "I think I should have used more foresight about arranging my departure. I'll soon find out." He waited and waited, but no one came to his rescue. In November he died in a nameless valley, by a nameless lake, 225 miles northeast of Fairbanks. An investigation revealed that he had carefully mapped out his venture, but he had made no provision to be flown out of the area.

Psalms 90: *Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

"Notice the writer's unit of computation in measuring life. He speaks not of years, not even of months or weeks, but of days. There is something very impressive in such a mode of reckoning. A year is a long period; and while we may hope for years of life, be they many or few, the passage of time is not continuously felt by us. But days—how they rush past and fly away with a rapidity which on reflection is almost appalling! Even the heedless man must feel the ebb of life when it comes to be calculated by days. Yet as we see the winged hours go by, we are apt to think as lightly of them as if the series would never cease.

We sleep and play and busy ourselves with what we call the serious business of life without much reference to the rising and setting of the sun. A day lost, a day half wasted, a day misused, causes us no poignant regret. We are so confident that many others are still in store for us. As they have come and gone in the past, so will they come and go in the future. We must admit, if we are pressed, that the supply is not absolutely unlimited. An end will be reached at some indefinite epoch, but not yet—not yet; and if meanwhile we are careless or prodigal, we anticipate many opportunities of "making up for lost time"—as if it were ever possible to make up for lost time!" James Hastings

We do know that our days where we currently live are numbered. While we may waste (live unwisely) some of our days (or most of them) we do live in the security of knowing where we will live eternally.

The fact that our days are numbered does not mean we need to live in despair. As Christ comforted His men, He also comforts us.
John 14:1-6

The setting:

Jesus is in the Upper Room with the eleven disciples.

- The disciples had failed to show their love for Jesus in John 13. While in the upper room, they were so filled with pride and selfishness that they didn't wash one another's feet. It wasn't until Jesus finally did the task Himself that they recognized their self-centeredness.
- They were also perplexed because Jesus said one of them would betray Him (John 13:21). They didn't know who it was, even when Jesus dismissed Judas. They thought Judas had gone out to buy bread or do an errand.
- The Lord has also announced that He is leaving them and that they cannot follow Him.
- To make things worse, they heard Jesus tell Peter, who appeared to be the strongest disciple of all, that he would deny Him three times (John 13:38)!

These are men who had left their jobs and families to follow Jesus in the hope that He was the promised Messiah. They were ecstatic a few days before when He rode into Jerusalem to the cheers of the crowd. But now He was talking about His death, not about His messianic kingdom.

Verse 1: *Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.*

More accurately He was commanding, "Stop letting your hearts be troubled." The disciples were already perplexed and filled with a mixture of emotions. To them, everything seemed to be falling apart. Their dreams and desires were unraveling.

The disciples are told what will give their troubled hearts relief: faith—faith in God the Father and in God the Son.

Believe, in both places (*believe in God, believe also in Me*), grammatically could be either an imperative (command) or an indicative (fact). Very good pastors and scholars make compelling arguments that Jesus was giving two commands. And very good ones make just as compelling arguments that Jesus was stating a fact and then commanding:

"You believe in God (fact); believe also in Me (command)."

Paraphrases:

"Yes, I'm leaving. No, you can't come with Me now. Yes, you will be scattered this night when they strike the Shepherd, and I will do this work alone. But don't let your sorrow . . . Don't let your fear . . . Don't let your shame . . . produce an unholy turmoil in your soul. Let not your hearts be troubled. Trust Me. Trust God. Why? There will be a place for you in my Father's house, as My Father's children, forever."

"Don't be distressed that I am going away, and that you cannot come with me right now. You believe in God, don't you? Can you see Him? Does He have a physical body that you can see and touch? No. I am going away, and you will not be able to see Me as you have for these past three years. I challenge you, therefore, to believe in Me in the same way that you believe in God the Father, as your unseen Lord. I will be just as real in My absence as I have ever been while dwelling among you." Deffenbaugh

Verse 2:

In the New Testament, heaven is called:

- a country (Heb. 11:16)
- a city (Heb. 11:10)
- a kingdom (Matt. 4:17)
- and it is called paradise (Luke 23:43)
- The best is when Christ calls heaven "My Father's house."

2 In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

The house of God is not in disrepair. The sweetness of fellowship with God does not need improvement. And this dwelling with God has been in one sense designed and suitable for redeemed sinners from before the creation of the world. But there is a sense in which things are not yet ready as Jesus speaks on that Thursday night long ago.

John Piper:

The Way There Is Not Yet Prepared

"What is not yet ready — not yet prepared — is the way to get your room in God's presence. Sin has not been atoned for. And Jesus is the Lamb of God about to be slain (John 1:29, 36). The wrath of God, the condemnation, the curse of God, is still unsatisfied, and Jesus is about to become a curse for us (Galatians 3:13) and bear our condemnation (Romans 8:3) and endure the bruising of the Father (Isaiah 53:10). Death is yet to be defeated and Jesus is about to give his life and take it back again from the jaws of death (John 10:18).