

CALM WORDS FOR TROUBLED HEARTS

(John 13:31-14:14)

OPEN: The devil left the room, Jesus breathed a sigh of relief when the door closed behind Judas.

❖ John 13:31-38

1) IN-SPITE OF OUR FAILURES. *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- Jesus knew the plan...what was about to happen would be difficult...it meant saying goodbye (for a while) to these men He loved.
 - ✓ He was determined to glorify the Father...the cross, the tomb...sin and Satan had to be defeated.
 - ✓ He cared deeply for these men and He reached out to them...some translations read: **little children, dear children**.
 - It is a term of endearment, He had never addressed them like this...
 - These were grown men...here we see Jesus speaking tenderly to them. (like a mother consoling her child who is about to get a shot).
- Jesus reminds these men that they need one another...**love each other just as I have loved you (vs. 34)**.
 - ✓ A variety of temperaments and backgrounds existed in the group.
 - Simon the Zealot couldn't stand Rome, Matthew once worked for Rome.
 - There was daring Andrew and doubting Thomas...cautious, calculating Philip and water walking, risk taking Peter (water walker).
- ❖ The proof of discipleship is best evidenced by loving other believers...love like Jesus.
 - Forgive, encourage, help one another out.

- Peter asks the question: **where are you going (vs. 36) why can't we come with you now?**
 - ✓ Peter meant well...**I'm ready to die for you (vs. 37).**
 - ✓ Jesus knew Peter better than Peter knew Peter...**Peter, by the time the rooster crows in the morning you will have denied me three times (vs. 38).**
 - There is no blame in the Lord's words...He appreciated Peter's intentions, but He knew He couldn't count on him.
 - ✓ The truth is they would all deny and abandon the Lord.
- ❖ In spite of our failures let's love one another...we are not Sunday strangers, we are family...and that may involve putting up with one another's weirdness.
 - ✓ God may want you to lovingly confront someone: **James 5:19-20 (NLT)** - **¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, ²⁰ you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back from wandering will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.**
 - ✓ You may need to reach out to someone and ask for their forgiveness...I'm sorry for letting you down..."
 - ✓ We need each other and as members of God's family we will spend eternity together.

2) IN LIGHT OF THE **TRUTH.** *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

❖ **John 14:1-6**

- Truth for troubled hearts...Jesus throws them an anchor for the storm that was about to hit.
- a) He offers **peace** – **Stop letting your hearts be troubled. Keep believing in God and keep believing in Me (vs. 1).** *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*
 - To believe means to trust...Trust God! Trust Me!
 - ✓ He challenges them to give the same response to Him that they give God...

- ✓ Unlike religion which is built on “doing” (gaining God’s favor) Christianity is based on trusting and Jesus is the object of our faith.

b) He talks about a new **place**. *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- He describes Heaven as **my Father’s home**.
 - ✓ Not all of us have the same experience but my parent’s house was a place where I was loved, cared for, played, laughed, ate delicious meals...lots of good memories.
 - ✓ Jesus says He is going to His Father’s house not His Father’s museum.
 - ✓ John would go on and tell us more about this place in the book called Revelation (no sin, pain, sorrow, death...).

c) Remember this **promise** – **I will come again (vs. 3)**. *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- ✓ Illustration: British explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton, while on a South Pole expedition, left a few men on Elephant Island promising to return for them. When he tried to go back huge icebergs blocked the way. Suddenly, as if by a miracle, a path opened in the ice and Shackleton was able to get through. His men were ready and waiting and quickly climbed aboard. No sooner had the ship cleared the island that the ice closed in behind them. Contemplating their narrow escape, the explorer said to his men, “it was fortunate you were all packed and ready to go!” They replied, “We never gave up hope. Whenever the sea was clear of ice, we rolled up our sleeping bags and reminded each other, “the boss may come today.”

❖ Live ready!

- ✓ Here Jesus says, **“I will come again.”** The last book of the Bible says, **“surely, I come quickly!”** of which the church replies: **“Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”**

d) Our **passport** to Heaven. *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- We live in a day of toleration, political correctness, where people choose the religion that fits their lifestyle.

- ✓ Religion offers a buffet of possibilities, like a supermarket...you choose the god of your choice or mix different faiths and come up with your own blend.
- ✓ Christianity doesn't allow for that...vs. 6 Jesus makes an exclusive statement that settles the question: how do I get into Heaven?
- In response to Thomas' question, Jesus says: **I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.**
- He didn't offer to show them the way...He told them He is the way.
 - ✓ He didn't point to the way, He became the way.
 - ✓ Trust Him, He will lead and guide you all the way.
 - ✓ Those who choose their own way will be sadly disappointed.

Proverbs 14:12 (NLT) – There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death.

- He is the truth.
 - ✓ If you want to know the truth about God, Heaven, hereafter...study Jesus...He is the truth of God...the very life of God...the embodiment of God.

Colossians 2:9 (NLT) – For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.

- ✓ To know what God is like, watch Jesus...how He treated people, handled problems, accomplished the impossible.
- ✓ Truth is always exclusive, always dogmatic, in-tolerate of non-truth.
 - We used to have the conviction that everyone has a right to their own opinion. Now, our society believes that every opinion is equally right.
 - The laws of logic would suggest otherwise.

- ✓ Illustration: If a pot of water is on the stove and the eye is red hot and the water is boiling...you tell your friend, I believe the water is hot but they respond, believe the water is cold. So, you and he agree: truth is for you the water is hot and for him the water is cold...impossible...one is true and the other is a lie.
- ✓ Illustration: Let's say you live next to a Mormon family. They believe Jesus Christ is the brother of Satan and is merely an angelic being. You believe Christ is God in the flesh, unrelated to Satan. Both of you could be wrong, but both of you could not be right.
- ✓ Illustration: In India, they believe in the existence of more than 300,000 gods. You and I believe there is only one God. Both cannot be right.
- Jesus is the way to God, He is the truth about God...choose Christ or choose to perish!
- He is the life.
- ✓ Other religions take bad men and make them better, only one is qualified to take dead men and make them alive.
- ✓ In Christ, we find forgiveness, freedom from guilt and new life.
- ❖ Search no further, life's greatest discovery is found in Jesus...do you know Him, are you trusting in Him?

3) A RIGHT (PRIVILEGE) GIVEN TO **BELIEVERS**. (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

John 14: 7-14

- Jesus answers Philip's question...
- ✓ **Anyone that has seen me has seen the Father (vs. 9).**
 - **Unity in the Trinity...I am in the Father and Father is in me. (vs. 11).**
- Jesus tells them: **I am going to help you do greater works...**
- ✓ How? Ask for my help.

- To ask in his name is to ask according to His will.
- The purpose...that the Son might bring glory to the Father.
- He hears the prayer that brings Him glory.

CLOSE: These precious truths He shared with those He loved.

- In spite of our failures, let's show love to one another.
- In light of the truth, let's put our complete trust in Jesus, our passport to Heaven.
- A right given to believers, let's ask for His help, according to His will that God might be glorified.

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