

The Hope of Heaven

John 14:1-9

October 17, 2004

Intro

We continue with the Lord and the disciples as they are having that last supper and Jesus is teaching about some of the most important lessons He has given them.

Jesus is now addressing their troubled hearts.

The lessons He gives to them are very important to us, because we can relate to a troubled heart.

These are insights into the hope we have in heaven. That is the hope he gives to them to quite their greatest fears.

I. Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

A. There are many reasons to be troubled

- **The disciples themselves had many reasons to be troubled.**
- They had gotten into a debate about whom among them was the greatest, only to be rebuked by Jesus' washing their feet.
- They were told that one of them was a betrayer.
- Jesus had said, "I'm going; and where I go you cannot come."
- Jesus told them that they would all fall away.

- Peter was told that he would deny the Lord three times that very night.

John 14:27-28, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."

B. Faith is the answer to fear

- Vs 1, "You believe in God, believe also in Me."

Illus – They will soon know fear like they've never known it before. They will fall away and Peter will deny that he ever even knew the Lord.

- Fear debilitates us and keeps us from doing what we know should be done.

Illus - During his years as premier of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev denounced many of the policies and atrocities of Joseph Stalin. Once, as he censured Stalin in a public meeting, Khrushchev was interrupted by a shout from a heckler in the audience. "You were one of Stalin's colleagues. Why didn't you stop him?"

"Who said that?" roared Khrushchev. An agonizing silence followed as nobody in the room dared move a muscle. Then Khrushchev replied quietly, "Now you know why."

II Tim 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

Romans 8:15, For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit

of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

C. Your home is in heaven

- Vs 2-3, Jesus wanted to calm their fears by pointing their hearts toward heaven.
- In other words, *Don't place your hopes on the earth, your home is in heaven.*

Illus – A family friend was dying of cancer and was greatly troubled knowing that death would soon take her. But she then read these words in John 14. She read them over and over and a beautiful peace came over her; and she never looked back. She knew that heaven was her home and so she turned her heart towards home and took her eyes from the earth,

- But also that He would be there preparing a place for them – and that he Himself would be there and He would receive them there.

Illus – Before Stephen was stoned, God opened his eyes to see heaven; and Jesus was there standing at the right hand of God...

Acts 7:51-60 Stephen looked into heaven.

- Our hope is in heaven, not on this earth; that is the point that Jesus wanted them to understand.

II. Many Look For Heaven on Earth
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A. In relationships

- There is a longing in all our hearts to be filled with love, to be filled with ecstasy.
- So many people look for fulfillment in relationships.

Illus – Women want to find a man that will be that knight in shining armor that will sweep them away and fill their hearts with love eternal.

Men long for a woman who will accept them completely and fill their hearts with the joy of perfect love.

Illus – The woman at the well illustrates this point clearly. She had five husbands and then one she was with wasn't her husband.

B. In work

- We look for purpose and meaning in life and many try to find it in their work.
- We need challenges to overcome and goals to achieve.
- But we long for something more. We long to make an eternal difference. We want our lives to count for something.

II Corinthians 5:1-9 We long for our heavenly dwelling.

- Lasting fulfillment only comes when we are filled with an eternal purpose. We long to do something for the Lord.

C. In things

- We long for exhilaration, for some kind of joy that will satisfy that deep longing in our hearts.
- The problem is that such exhilaration doesn't last very long.

Luke 12:15, Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

Ecclesiastes 5:10, "He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity."

Illus – If you had everything this world had to offer, it would still not be enough...

III. Our Hearts Were Made For Heaven

A. Home is where your heart is

- Homesickness is a powerful feeling. It is being unsettled where you are and knowing that your heart is somewhere else.

Illus – I have been homesick many times. I remember my first trip to Russia; we were gone from home three weeks and though I loved what we were doing for the Lord, I longed for home with all my heart.

- It's not just the home we long for, but our loved ones are there. We long for heaven, not just because of the place, but because God is there.

- God gave us our hungers, so that he would be the fulfillment of them.

Deuteronomy 8:3, "He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord."

Illus – If we don't desire to be with God now, what makes us think we will enjoy Him then?

Psalm 37:4, "Delight yourself in the LORD; and He will give you the desires of your heart."

B. Our hearts can only rest in God

Illus – Augustine said, "Thou hast made us for thyself, and therefore our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee."

- Your heart's is home only in the heart of God.

Psalm 73:25-26, "Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

Psalm 27:4, 8, "One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to meditate in His temple. When You said,

‘Seek My face,’ my heart said to You, ‘Your face, O Lord, I shall seek.’”

Conclusion

The answer to a troubled heart is the peace that comes from setting our hearts not just in things above, but on Him who is in heaven. The way, the truth, and the life is a person – His name is Jesus.