

4/10/2016

ESF, Lord's day service message

Comfort For Troubled Hearts

John 14:1-7

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Although insurance helps us prepare for our future needs, it cannot give us complete security for all our needs. There is no insurance that can keep us from sudden accidents, serious sicknesses, or unexpected tragedies in our lives. That is why our hearts are troubled.

Jesus gives us another way to complete security and comfort our troubled hearts.

Find a firm security in God's house

The reason our hearts are troubled is because we feel insecure of an unknown future. We do not know exactly what will happen to our lives tomorrow, the coming days and the coming years. Especially, when we know that something or someone we trust will go away from us soon, we feel insecure. That is what happened to the disciples. Jesus told them

that He would go away from them soon: *My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come...*

When they heard these words, they felt insecure about their future. They might have thought: *If Jesus leaves us soon, what would happen to us? We have forsaken everything we had and have followed him. While we have been with Jesus, He has provided everything we need. But look what we have now. We don't have money. We don't have jobs. How would we manage our lives if Jesus is not with us?*

This was the reason they felt insecure and troubled.

But Jesus comforted them with this word: *Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*

Jesus says there are always many rooms in God's house. What Jesus means by "many rooms in God's house" is God's abundant and glorious provision in heaven. In physical sense, Jesus would die and leave them soon. But Jesus' death did not separate Him from His disciples. His death was the door for Him to enter heaven and prepare for the eternal place for them. So with this word, Jesus comforted them when they were troubled by Jesus' death.

But "many rooms in God's house" also means all the essential things in our earthly lives. It could be a person you need as a close companion. It could be money. It could be encouragement. It could literally be rooms for shelter.

Jesus means that when you trust in God, God will surely provide you with all your needs so that you have firm security. The best way to calm your troubled heart is to trust in God who can provide you with all your needs, and who can protect you from every unexpected harm.

Find firm security in your life by trusting in God whose house has many rooms. Then you will be able to overcome all troubles in your heart.

Follow the way

Another reason our hearts are troubled is that we do not know the right way. Although we have a lot information of almost everything we need to know today, in many situations we still do not know which way is the right way. In addition, these days, there are many religions and teachings which promise the right way to God, peace of mind or health and prosperity. So we may easily get confused about which way is the right way.

Years ago, William Edward Perry, a famous English explorer, mapped out most of the Souther Polar Cap. Many of his maps are still being used today by those who travel to that desolate, sub-zero continent. On one particular expedition, he and his crew having completed mapping an uncharted region, were preparing to hike to another unfamiliar location. On the eve of their departure, they studied the stars and determined their exact coordinates. As the sun rose, they began a hard, lengthy journey north to this unmapped region. They marched through the ice and snow all day long with the freezing air burning their lungs.

As the sunset, they made camp, totally exhausted from their trip. After their evening meal, Mr. Perry studied the stars again to determine their exact coordinates. He was stunned to learn that even though he and his crew had journeyed north all day, that they were now further south than when they begun in the morning. After struggling to solve this problem,

they discovered that even though they had traveled north, they were on a giant ice flow that was moving faster south than they were moving north. While they thought they were going in the right direction they were slip sliding away and did not even know it.

As the explorer Perry did, we may be still lost and troubled although we do everything we can to find the right way.

Here Jesus says: *I am the way*. He does not say that He is “a way” among many ways. He says, He is “the way.” What Jesus means by this word is: *do not let your hearts be troubled with confusions. No matter what the world is promising or saying, you may be misled. Just trust in me, I am the right way. I will lead you in the right direction. I am the only way to God and God’s provisions.*

Although Jesus would leave the disciples soon, up to that time Jesus had not led them astray. He promised that God would send them the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit, He would be with them forever. Jesus would be constantly guiding them by His Spirit.

As Jesus said, He has been the right way for two thousand years for billions of people’s lives who have followed Him. Among genuine Christians, there is no one who says, *I have been misled by Jesus*. They all can confess, *“Through Jesus I have found God. Through Jesus I have been blessed by God. Through Jesus I have found the purpose of life.”*

When we are lost without knowing where to turn, Jesus can guide us with a perfect map. He sees not only the place where we are in now but also He sees where we have been and where we will be in the future.

He sees not only our lives of today, this year, or several years, but also our lives from eternity to eternity. When we are lost because of shortsightedness, Jesus guides us with God's best plan of our entire life.

Live by the truth

The reason our hearts are troubled is we do not know the truth. When we are deceived by lies our hearts are troubled. The Devil uses lies as his best tool to attack our hearts with troubles.

When we see the last verses in John 13, there are words which Satan can distort and turn to lies. Jesus said to Peter while all the disciples were listening:

Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!" (John 13:37-38)

At that time Satan twisted Jesus' word regarding Peter's failure and said to the disciples: *If Peter fails to keep his faith, who else can keep their faith? If Jesus cannot prevent Peter from denying Him how can Jesus help you? So you cannot live by faith. Although you have followed Jesus for three years all of you will fail as Peter does.*

With such thoughts, their hearts would be troubled. But the truth is that Jesus will never forsake them or leave them. The truth is that Jesus will restore their faith and faithfully accomplish God's will through them. The truth is that upon their faith Jesus will build His church which no power can destroy.

The devil deceived the first man in the garden of Eden with lies. The truth is that man can be in perfect happiness when he obeys God and puts God first - at the center of his heart. The truth is that when man obeys God there is real freedom.

But Satan tempted man to disobey God with lies (Genesis 3:1-5): *If you disobey God you will become like God. Disobey Him do whatever you want to do. This is real freedom. Enjoy your freedom. Don't worry you will not surely die even if you disobey God, everything will be OK.*

Man should not have listened to that lie. But he listened. When he listened to the lie, his heart was troubled. Fear instead of peace, blaming his wife instead of loving her, death instead of life eternal (Genesis 3:6-19).

Jesus was tempted by Satan with lies. But Jesus overcame all the lies of the devil with truth (Matthew 4:1-11). When Satan tempted him to make bread out of stones after forty days of fasting, Jesus said, *"It is written, 'man does not live by bread alone but every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"* When Satan tempted Him by saying "If you are the Son of God throw yourself down, for God will send you His angels and will protect you." Jesus said; *It is also written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test"*

When Satan tempted Jesus again with yet another lie: All the kingdoms and their splendor belong to me so bow down before me and I will give you all these. Jesus said *"Away from me Satan, for it is written 'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only'"*

Jesus knew the truth. He had the truth. He used the truth to overcome Satan's lies. Jesus himself is the truth. Jesus is saying to you today; *Do not let your heart be troubled with lies of the Devil. Stay in me. I will give you the truth.*

When we have Jesus, Jesus gives us powerful weapons to defeat the devil's lies. When we stay with Him, He gives us truth which is a sword to defend our heart from the trouble making lies of Satan. His truth both

prevents us from being deceived by lies and remedies us from our troubles caused by lies.

Receive the life

The reason our hearts are troubled is because of the power of death. The power of death is threatening us everywhere we go. When a person threatens another person; the strongest word is: "I am going to kill you" With the threat of death, our hearts are troubled. The archenemy the Devil uses this power too. When we fail, when we are sick, when we are discouraged, when we are rejected, or when we lose someone or something important in our lives, Satan threatens us with this word: "See I told you, just give up, just quit. Otherwise you are going to die."

But Jesus says, *do not let your hearts be troubled. I am the life.* Life does not come from anything we have. Jesus says: Luke 12:15 *"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."*

Life does not come from any religion. Life comes from the person Jesus, the Son of God who died and rose again from the dead. Jesus is saying to you today, *do not let your heart be troubled I am the life.*

Jesus is the oxygen tank to anyone who cannot breathe and is dying in a world where there is only the dark air of death. Jesus is saying to you today, *Do not let your heart be troubled with the threat of death, I am the life. "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this? (John 11:25-26)."*