

**The Father's House**  
**John 14:1-31**  
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**Introduction**

**John 14:1** *"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me."*

Our passage starts off with this very familiar verse. It is a verse we have seen and read and maybe was the key verse in a sermon you have heard. But what does it really mean? What is it teaching us?

One of the goals in my life is to read God's Word daily, to meditate upon it, and to understand what it means. I have committed myself to being a person who is God centered. But how do we go about understanding what the Bible means? We need to understand what the words mean, what the grammatical structure of the verse is teaching us, what is the context of the verse, and what did it mean to the people at the time.

When we look at this verse the question that we have to answer is why does the chapter start off with this statement? Is it a new subject? Is it a subject that is continued from a preceding verse? Why would Jesus encourage His disciples not to be troubled?

There are a few things we need to understand when we try to understand God's Word. The New Testament was written in Koine Greek, the common language of the day. The original version of the gospel does not have chapter or verse markings and all of the letters are in upper case, and there are few periods or paragraph indications. The picture is from Papyrus 66. It was written about 100-150 AD and contains most of John 14. This is less than a hundred years after the original gospel was written. I have books in my home library that were printed 150 years ago. A copy of the Gospel of John that is less than 100 years old is amazing and encouraging and we can trust that the text that we have is accurate and trustworthy.

In fact, we have a copy of the Bible that is nearly complete from about 325 AD. It is called Codex Sinaiticus. The picture is from this Codex showing Luke 11:2. Look at how clear and how readable it is. The story goes that it was found at Saint Catherine's Monastery at Sinai in Egypt by German Biblical scholar Constantin von Tischendorf in 1846 and that it was in a rubbish bin waiting to be burned. He rescued the manuscript and now it is housed in a number of libraries: the British Library, Leipzig University Library, Saint Catherine's Monastery, and the Russian National Library.

What is the context of John 14:1? It is part of what is called the Upper Room Discourse found in John 13-17. The events of these chapters were right before Jesus' arrest and crucifixion and hence His last message to His disciples. Here are two verses that help us understand the context of John 14:1:

**John 13:21, 33** *After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." ... Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.'*

Jesus was troubled because of His coming betrayal, arrest, crucifixion, and death on the cross. He was concerned about leaving the disciples behind. So, Jesus wanted to comfort the disciples because of these two impending things: His betrayal/death and leaving them. The disciples were distressed because one of them would betray Jesus and that Jesus was leaving them. So, it is natural that He would not want His disciples to be troubled.

### **Lesson**

#### **Point 1: A place being prepared**

**John 14:2-3** *In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*

Jesus was preparing a place for them to stay, with the most natural meaning that He was preparing rooms for them. The place is described as “my Father’s house,” which is plainly not on the earth. It was a heavenly house with many rooms. Jesus is preparing a place where we will be with Him forever. The suite is ready, the reservation is guaranteed, and Jesus will bring us home. The book of Revelation tells us about this house:

**Rev. 21:1-3** *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”*

It is going to be a glorious house, a place where Jesus dwells with us, and a place without tears, mourning, death, or pain. Our ultimate home is not on this earth, but on the new earth and in the new Jerusalem. When we die today our soul goes to be with Jesus in heaven waiting for the resurrection and a new body:

**Phil. 1:21-23** *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.*

But after the resurrection we will live with Jesus forever. Amen? I can’t wait to get there.

#### **Point 2: A person to believe in**

**John 14:1,4-7** *Believe in God; believe also in me ... And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”*

Thomas was confused with what Jesus said and did not understand it. Jesus replied with one of the most important statements in the New Testament: He is the way, the truth, and the life. He alone is the only way to God. In our pluralistic society that believes there are many ways to God, Jesus tells us there is only one way to God the Father and that is through Him. The way to the Father is not through Muhammed, or Confucius, or Buddha, or Brahma, or your good works, or philosophy, or any of the myriad other ways that have been proposed. There is one God and there is one way to God and that is through Jesus the Son. This is not bigoted, or narrow minded, or exclusivity, or part of the Western culture. The way to God the Father is through Jesus the Son, very God and very man. There is no other way.

*Jesus was saying: "I am the way because I am the truth and because I am the life. I am the way to the Father because I am the true manifestation or revelation of the Father, I am the way to the Father because I alone have the power of eternal life – R. C. Sproul, John: An Expositional Commentary*

Jesus is the revealer of the Father and we know God the Father because of God the Son. God the Son, eternally and very God, became man, to show us the Father, to die for our sins, to be obedient to the Father. Jesus affirmed the oneness between Himself and the Father. This is our Savior and Lord. There is salvation in no one else:

**Acts 4:11-12** *This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

Jesus is God's truth, as all His life is God's life. There are seven I AM statements in the Gospel of John: (1) Jesus is the bread life (John 6:35), (2) Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12), (3) Jesus is the door (John 10:7), (4) Jesus is the good shepherd (John 10:11), (5) Jesus is the resurrection and the life (John 10:11,14), (6) Jesus is the way and the truth and the life (John 14:6), and (7) Jesus is the true vine (John 15:1,5). These seven statements reveal many important things about Jesus.

### Point 3: A command to follow

**John 14:12-15,21** *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.*

*Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it....If you love me, you will keep my commandments ... Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."*

These verses mention four things:

**(1) Whoever believes in me** – The Christian life begins with belief in Jesus: that He is God, that He paid the price for our sins, and that we trust in Him for our salvation. We cannot save ourselves. It is only through believing in Jesus that we are saved.

**(2) Will also do the works that I do** – Works follow and are the evidence of our salvation. In fact, we are expected to carry on Jesus' work in our lives. And if we have no works after our conversion, it calls into question our salvation:

**James 2:18** *But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*

**(3) Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do** – Jesus has promised He will answer our prayers if we are trusting in Him and what we ask in His name is in accordance with His character and purposes and revealed will.

**(4) If you love me, you will keep my commandments** – If we truly love Jesus, we will do what He commands. We cannot say that we love God and not do what He has commanded. Obedience is an inevitable consequence of loving Jesus. If we truly love Him, we will obey Him.

**Point 4:** A helper to teach

**John 14:16-17,25-26** *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.... But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

This chapter and John 15-16 give us tremendous insight into the work of the Holy Spirit, particularly in the life of the believer. There are four things mentioned in these verses:

**(1) He will give you another Helper** – Even though Jesus was leaving this world, the disciples, and we as believers, are not left alone. We are given another helper by the Father, since Jesus won't physically be on this earth. Jesus was the first helper for us and the disciples. Here the Holy Spirit is another helper.

**(2) to be with you forever** – The Holy Spirit is coming to dwell within believers and that will last throughout their whole life; He will not desert us and He will continue to be our helper. His presence is not temporary. He cannot be received or understood by the world. His indwelling is reserved for believers.

**(3) He will teach you all things** – It is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to abide within us, to teach us, to help us understand the Bible better, to understand God better, to help us grow in our faith, to help be more conformed to the image of His Son and to be transformed into His image:

**2 Cor. 3:18** *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

**(4) Bring to your remembrance** – The Holy Spirit helped the Bible to be accurate and inerrant, for He brought remembrance to the disciples of all that they saw and heard and especially when

writing the books of the New Testament. But it is also true that the Spirit continues to work in our lives by bringing His Word to our mind when needed:

**Mark 13:11** *And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.*

#### **Point 5:** A Savior that is coming again

**John 14:3, 28** *I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also ... You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.*

Not only was Jesus dying and going back to the Father, He would return for a short time during His resurrection. However, the final return is when He returns to the earth in glory and gathers the saints to Himself. Jesus went away to the Father and prepared a place for us, and He will return to bring us home. We will be with Him forever and it will be a glorious time:

**Matt. 24:29-31** *Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

**2 Th. 2:1-3** *Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.*

#### **Conclusion**

The disciples were troubled that one of them was betraying Jesus and that Jesus was going to leave them. Jesus' final words to them brought comfort to them:

**John 14:27,29,30** *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe ... I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.*

The passage ends with encouragement: Have peace, peace as only God can give. Be not troubled, for:

**(1) He is preparing a place for us** – We will live in a glorious place with our savior, a place that is beyond our imagination.

**(2) He is the Savior that paid the price for ours sins, so that we will not be judged** – We have peace with God and will be able to be with God the Son for the rest of our lives for Jesus died for our sins.

**(3) He provided a command to follow that should guide our lives: if we love Him keep His commandments** – We know what we are to do: to be focused upon God and do what He says. We are to called to obey Him and show love in our lives.

**(4) He and the Father left us another helper** – The Holy Spirit will dwell within us, to teach us, to conform us to His image, to encourage us, to discipline us, to help us become more like Him.

**(5) He is coming again to bring us to our heavenly home where there will be no worry and we will be with Him forever** – What a hope, what a thing to look forward to. There is more to our existence than this world, we will be brought home by Jesus to our eternal dwelling.

### **Application**

**1. Read this chapter when we are distressed and let its message sink deep into our soul** and let it change us and bring peace to our lives. God wants us to trust Him no matter what happens in our life.

**2. Learn God's will by reading and meditating upon His Word** – let it sink in and change you. Read His Word every day. Understand what it means. Apply it to your lives.

**3. Be confident that this life is short and that He is coming again to bring us to our eternal home.** We are not forgotten and He loves us. This life is so short compared to the eternity that we will live with our Savior.

Let us stand to sing and I will close us in prayer after we are done.