

Series: John

Title: One Need of a Troubled Heart

Text: Jn 13: 33, 36-38; 14: 1-3

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In the first hour we heard our Redeemer command, “as I have loved you, you love one another.” Now, let’s see an example of how our Savior loves his own.

John 13: 33: Little children,...

Do you think the apostles were offended that he called them “little children”? These are rough fishermen. One is a former publican. James and John were “the sons of thunder.” But they were not offended. This is a loving way to address his people, “Little children.” What a precious, instructive title. Christ is our Everlasting Father—the last Adam. Those he calls to faith are his little children. It shows Christ’s love for his people. We never grow beyond being his little children, and we never want to.

John 13: 33: Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.

The Lord was going to the cross and to the grave then ascending to the Father. His apostles could not go because Christ must accomplish the work by himself.

Think on this. Yes, we shall suffer tribulation in this life. Eventually, Peter suffered death at the hands of his enemies. But listen to our Substitute, “Whither I go, ye cannot come.” The Lord Jesus suffered the cross of divine justice for his people by himself. “I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me” (Is 63: 3). And because Christ drank the cup of wrath to the dregs and rung them out for his people, where he went, ye cannot come. The child of God can never come under the justice of God. Where Christ went, not one of God’s elect can go. We were in him and our body of sin died in him. Therefore, we cannot go under the justice and wrath of God again.

As the Lord commanded his disciples to love another, Peter was hung up on this word, “*Whither I go, ye cannot come.*” As soon as our Lord paused.

John 13: 36: Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards.

Peter would bear a cruel death later in life and Peter would ascend to the Father as well.

John 13: 37: Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake. 38 Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice. 14: 1: Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2: In my Father’s house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3: And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

Subject: One Need of a Troubled Heart

Did you catch it? Peter’s heart was troubled and so were the other disciples. Our Lord said, “*Let not your heart be troubled.*” Here is the one need of a troubled heart, “*ye believe in God, believe also in me.*”

Proposition: The one need of a troubled heart is to believe on Christ.

That tells us the underlying cause of the troubled heart is unbelief. “*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*” Oh, the love of our Redeemer for a poor, unbelieving believer like me!

John 13: 37: Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.

We see why Peter could not follow the Lord Jesus then. Peter had too much confidence in his will, *‘I will lay down my life for thee.’* We do not doubt Peter. He *would* lay down his life for his Savior. At Pentecost Peter stood up before the very ones that crucified Christ and preached boldly the gospel of Christ and him crucified. He did so throughout the rest of his life, until at last Peter was martyred for Christ’s sake. But first, Peter had to be taught something about himself and about Christ.

John 13: 38 Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.

Peter did not believe the Lord’s word. He refuted it. Peter insisted he would not deny the Lord. But later we see Peter denying he knew the Lord to a maid and a handful of people. It is hard to believe it is the same man who stood up at Pentecost and declared, “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2: 36). So why did Peter have to suffer denying the Lord? He learned that it was the Spirit of our Lord who made the difference. After experiencing his utter weakness by denying the Lord and leaving the ministry then experiencing Christ’s grace and mercy in restoring him, Peter gave Christ all the glory at Pentecost.

Acts 2:33: Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, HE HATH shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

The Lord had to first let Peter experience his own weakness, that he might know that it is the strength and grace of the Lord that keeps his people. This will make Peter love his brethren when they deny the Lord because he experienced Christ’s love and grace in restoring him. What made it so Peter's faith failed not? The Lord said, "I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not." We only behold that Christ is our Strength when he makes us see our total weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:9: And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.

Brethren, how little we know ourselves! Matthew Henry said, "The most secure are commonly the least safe; and those most shamefully betray their own weakness that most confidently presume upon their own strength." Brethren, do not glory in what you will or will not do. Always seek strength from the living Lord, saying, “If the Lord wills, we will do this or that.” Our sufficiency is of God, not of us.

Ephesians 3: 16: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

The need of our troubled heart is to believe in our Lord Jesus Christ. Believe on the Lord Jesus now!

BELIEVE IN CHRIST FOR HE WILL KEEP YOU AND COMFORT YOU

Every sinner God the Father chose in eternity, every sinner Christ redeemed by his blood, every sinner born of the Spirit of God, shall be kept by Christ and comforted. We see it here. Our Lord was greatly troubled at this time. He knew that he was about to be “exceeding sorrowful, even unto death.” The all-knowing Savior knew he would soon be in an agony as he bore “the chastisement of our peace;” But he believed his Father. So Christ put his trouble behind him to comfort his disciples. He said, *“Let not your heart be troubled. Ye believe in God, believe also in me.”* What a Savior! It is Christ who says,

Isaiah 40: 1: Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people saith your God. 2: Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD’S hand double for all her sins.

BELIEVE IN CHRIST FOR HE IS FAITHFUL

Believe in our Lord Jesus Christ: he is faithful to each of his own. Peter said, *“I WILL lay down my life for your sake.”* The Lord said, “Peter, YOU WILL deny me three times before the rooster crows.” The Lord knew he would. Yet, the Lord loved him and remained faithful to him. So the Lord comforted him by telling Peter by *whose will* Peter would be redeemed, restored, and kept, *“In my Father’s house are many*

mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I GO to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I WILL come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

Christ went to the cross to prepare a place for each elect child the Father gave to him before the world was made. And he prepared it! He fulfilled Daniel’s prophecy. He finished the transgression. He made an end of sins. He made reconciliation for iniquity. He brought in everlasting righteousness. He sealed up the vision and prophecy. He anointed the most Holy. He did it for each of his brethren! (Dan 9: 24)

Believe him! He promised Peter and all his disciples, *“I will come again and receive you to myself.”* After Peter denied him and had departed, when the Lord arose, he sent word.

Mark 16: 6...Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen...7:...go your way, tell his disciples AND PETER that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

The Lord Jesus came personally to Peter and restored him. So he does to all who are his.

Lamentations 3:22: It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

Our Savior is not going to send for you, believer. He, himself, is coming again—*“I will come again!”*

1 Thessalonians 4: 16: For the Lord himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.

He said, I am coming, *“To receive you unto myself. That where I am, there [you] may be also.”* To the dying thief he said, *“Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.”*

John 12: 26: If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am there shall also my servant be.

John 17:24: Father I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am.

Brethren, Christ’s word is our assurance and his return our blessed hope.

Titus 2: 13: Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Even now—in every time of need—it is Christ who comes in Spirit to strengthen us in faith and console our troubled heart to look to him. So we have renewed assurance for that future day and we sing.

He is coming again, he is coming again
The very same Jesus rejected of men
With power and great glory
He is coming again

WHAT IS IT TO BELIEVE ON CHRIST?

At the heart of all our heart trouble is unbelief. Christ said, *“You believe in God, believe also in me.”* What is it to believe on Christ?

One, it is to believe him as he is revealed in this word and in our hearts. We believe only by the revelation God has given us in the new heart. And we believe God’s word concerning his Son. Scripture says, Christ says, that in his house are many mansions—many dwelling places. In God’s house is a dwelling place made especially for each and every one of God’s elect. It is a dwelling place that Christ prepared for his people on the cross by pouring out his life’s blood, dying in our place by which he saved us from our sins.

Christ ascended to the Father where he everlives to make intercession for his people. He is risen to keep his redeemed and assure us that we shall dwell in our dwelling place with him. He promises, *“I will come*

again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” So believing on Christ is to believe the Lord Jesus as he is revealed in the scriptures and in our hearts.

2 Corinthians 5:1: For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Two, believing on Christ is to believe he shall supply all my need. Christ is the Advocate with the Father for his people. He speaks for me before God—he speaks for you, child of God. Christ intercedes and represents me to holy God—he intercedes and represents you to holy God, child of God. Everything is in Christ’s hands.

When I see my sin—I look to Christ my atonement. When I hear God’s law, I look to Christ my only righteousness. When justice calls, Christ my Justification answers on my behalf. When I think of death, I trust Christ is my life. When I think of the grave, I remember Christ is my resurrection. When I think of eternity, Christ is my hope.

My hope is built on nothing less,
Than Jesus’ blood and His righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
I holy lean on Jesus’ name.

Therefore, knowing Christ laid down his life for you, child of God, whatever need you shall have in this wilderness, be assured, Christ is your full provision. His grace is sufficient. He shall provide. Believe him! Believing on Christ is to believe he shall supply all my need.

Philippians 4:19: But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Three, to believe on Christ is to really “cast all our care on him” believing, trusting, assured that “he careth for you” (1 Pet 5: 7). Cast, not some, but ALL your care on him, "For he careth for you.”

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed—why?—“he careth for you.” *We are* perplexed, but not in despair—why?—he careth for you. We are persecuted, but not forsaken—why—he careth for you. We are cast down, but not destroyed—why?—he careth for you. (2 Cor 4: 8-9) Believing on Christ is to really cast all our care on him. Peter wrote what he learned.

1 Peter 5: 6: Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Four, to believe on Christ is to continue to the end believing on him. When the multitude walked away, Christ turned to his apostles and said, “Will ye go away also.” They said, “Lord to whom shall we go; thou hast the words of eternal life and believe and are sure thou art the Christ the Son of the living God!” (Jn 6: 67-69).

Our Lord promises, “He that endures to the end the same shall be saved.” Christ promises in our text, “*If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*” Christ promised his disciples that he will never leave you; he will never forsake you. He said, “Lo I am with you always, even to the end of the earth.” Christ’s promise is “Because I live; you shall live also” (Heb 13: 5; Mt 28: 20; Jn 14: 19). This is the preserving power by which we believe on Christ to the end. He is the Master who shall make each of our brethren stand and keep us believing in him unto the end.

Hebrews 3: 14: For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

Brethren, believing Christ is the cure to our heart trouble. The Lord told Martha, “Ye are troubled about many things. But one thing is needful” (Lu 10: 41-42). Through faith in Christ our troubled heart is settled and we rejoice. Peter learned this. He later wrote, "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet BELIEVING, ye REJOICE with joy unspeakable and full of glory.” (1 Pet 1: 8)

So next time you become fearful and anxious, remember these words of our Savior and comfort one another with these words, "*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*"

Amen!