

Theme of the book of John: Salvation **ONLY** comes through Jesus Christ, The Son of God

John tells us why this gospel (Good News) was written in John 20:31...**key verse**

- But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have (*echo – to have or to possess*) life in his name.

This believe is not wishy-washy kind of believe...it's a solid believe

- o John says "believe" about 100 times in his Gospel

In chapter 13 Jesus withdraws from public ministry and transitions to private instruction as he trains his disciples for his departure.

- Chapters 13-17 are known as the "Upper Room Discourse" where a lot of this training takes place.

Jesus is doing a lot of talking (red letters) in this chapter. I hope that we would allow Him to speak to us today.

At the start of chapter 13...John tells us that The Father's plans are quickly unfolding

Vs 1. Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them continually to the end.

Our love has limits...He loves fully and continually!

- He loves to the maximum...that love doesn't need ANY improvement... Jesus never had a "not my finest" moment with anyone. What about the Pharisees? Tough love
- In the preceding chapters...Jesus is going to see his disciples at their absolute worse and still love them!
 - o He sees you at your absolute worse and He still loves you to the maximum!

NOW...In Chapter 13 Jesus told them about future events that will unfold before their eyes.

1. He's departing from them - **John 13:33**

- o Where was He going? Could they go with Him? How could they get to where He was going?
 - These were some of the perplexing questions they talked about in their conversation at the table that night.

2. All of them would forsake Him and Peter (their strongest) would deny Him – **John 13:38**

3. One of the chosen 12 disciples is a traitor and will betray Jesus – **John 13:21**

4. He would suffer death by crucifixion (death reserved for criminals) - **John 12:32-33**

5. He told them that they could not follow Him to where He was going right now...That will come later- **John 13:36**

The disciples are inwardly shaken, confused, heavy-hearted and distracted by this news... **they were wrecked!** Everything seemed on the verge of collapse. – It's not!

"Life is not unfolding the way they had expected and they are troubled by it. In vs. 27 Later we will learn that they are afraid of it. **I think we can relate.**

- They think they are losing some important things because of this news
 - Not going to hear his voice or talk to him again
 - Jesus protected them...safe with Jesus
 - Maybe they see their security is going away
 - He provided for them
 - They leaned on Jesus for almost everything
 - Would you want someone like that in your life to go away?

You would think...they would have been comforting Him in view of what lay ahead of Him, but instead Jesus graciously proceeded to comfort them.

- They need some **encouragement and perspective** right now!

“Heart Troubles” Part 1

A troubled heart is not something that any of us are immune too!

- There are all kinds of situations and circumstances for us to get worked up about
- All kinds of situations and circumstances we can worry about
 - if we're honest...we do! We get worked up ; we worry! We worry about...
 - Our kids, How much money **isn't** in our bank account or **isn't** in our retirement account, job security, relationships, the future, our health
 - Jesus is going to speak directly to this condition to His disciples and comfort them with some assurances they have because of the cross.
 - We get to listen in on their conversation, but remember that He is not only speaking to them, but to us!

John 14:1 “**Let not your heart be troubled** (*Jesus command – present tense*)

Troubled - to cause inward turmoil, stir up, disturb, unsettle, throw into confusion or agitate
Heart (*mind, will, and emotions*)

It's a picture of *inward commotion*...where your heart becomes fearful and anxious
Jesus knows what's going on inside of them, so He lovingly speaks to them... “**Stop allowing you heart to be troubled**” (*in progress*)

“Your” is plural... “heart” is singular. He's looking at all of them as He is speaking, but He is speaking to them individually. ...“**Stop allowing your heart to be troubled**”

We are responsible for the condition of **our own heart** before God.

- Not someone else's heart. How much better would our relationships be if we focused on the condition of our own heart rather than focusing on someone else?

“Stop allowing you heart to be troubled”...that sounds amazing, but how do you do that?

- Who are you looking to? What's your mind, will, emotions and fixed on?
 - o Problems or Promises?

Jesus told them about some pretty hard realities coming in their near future ...they're confused, agitated and there is a lot of inward commotion. They can't see how things are going to turn out. That's why their hearts are TROUBLED!

- Trouble usually has the appearance of being in control, but just because we can't sometimes control trouble does not mean trouble is in control.

Jesus said to them **you believe in God, believe also in Me.** (*trust; have faith in – present active*)

Instead of giving into a troubled heart, Jesus told them to firmly put their trust in God and in Jesus Himself. He's asking for equal confidence in God and Himself

- God has a plan...I'm executing His plan...just watch it unfold, so you can see that it's all going to work out according to God's plan.
- Continue to trust both of us...your trusting in US is going to bring comfort and peace to your troubled hearts.
- Do you trust that God is bigger than any difficulty or challenge you will encounter?
 - o These men have some difficulties and challenges ahead of them.

What's in the disciples near future after Jesus ascends to Heaven? ...external trouble.

- The Apostle Paul had experiential knowledge of “external trouble”

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

For our light **affliction**, which is but for a moment, is working (*present tense- this is an ongoing process*) for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

“Affliction” Greek word - **thlipsis** *trouble that inflicts distress, oppression, or tribulation*

- It conveys the idea of being squeezed or placed under pressure or crushed beneath a weight. When you squeeze something, what comes out is the by-product of what is on the inside of what is being squeezed from the outside.

When the pressure gets too intense, we start looking for ways to bail out don't we? The circumstances seem too much to handle. We are tempted to bail out by of our attitudes, feeling angry, bitter, or even mad at God—or anyone else we can blame our problems on. Or, we are tempted to bail in our actions by refusing to persevere in righteous ways. "Taking our thoughts captive". "Keeping things straight in our own mind"

YOU SEE... Staying under the pressure is how God tests our faith in order to make us "mature and complete" (James 1:4) But, if we bail in our attitudes or actions under the burden, we interfere with the productive intentions that God has for our lives.

The Greek word James uses in our text for "perseverance" (James 1:3) is hupomeno. It's derived from two Greek words: hupo (under) and meno (remain). James is making the point that in order to achieve God's refining goals for our lives, we need to be willing to cooperatively remain under that pressure. Our flesh does not want to do that!

- It boils down to whether or not we want comfort or character.
- The pain will be worth the gain!
- *"When trials assault our surface pleasures, we consider afresh our sweetest treasures."*

How did Paul describe these external problems... "light" (light in weight ; quick)

- They don't sound light; they don't feel light when you go through them, so what's light about them then?

Thomas Watson said...

Consider that our sufferings are **light**. It is heavy to flesh and blood—but it is light to faith. Affliction is light in a threefold respect:

1. It is light—in comparison to SIN. He who feels sin heavy, feels suffering light. Sin made Paul cry out, 'O wretched man that I am!' ([Ro 7:24](#)). He does not cry out of his iron chain—but of his sin. The greater noise drowns the lesser.

2. Affliction is light—in comparison of HELL. What is persecution, compared to damnation? What is the fire of martyrdom, compared to the fire of the damned? It is no more than the pricking of a pin, compared to a death's wound.

3. Affliction is light—in comparison of GLORY. The weight of glory makes persecution light. 'the torments of all the men in the world could be laid upon one man, it were not worth one hour's being in heaven!' And if persecution is light, we should not be overly downcast by it. Let us neither faint through unbelief, nor fret through impatience.

- After you have suffered a little while ([1 Peter 5:10](#)). **Our sufferings are short.** Our sufferings may be last longer than we want them to, but they not they are not everlasting like Heaven will be!

Jesus never desired for us to have life without trouble, but He promised that we could have an untroubled heart even in a troubled life.

Some of life's greatest lessons are learned in the school of affliction.

- Song called "Light and Momentary" by For All Seasons (worship band - San Diego)

1st promise... If you believe in Jesus (trust in Christ for salvation); you're going to heaven

²In My Father's house are many mansions; (dwelling places)

- The remedy for a troubled heart is we're going to Heaven ...what really are troubles in light of eternity?

Jesus refers to heaven as "My Father's house." His favorite name for God was "My Father."

- According to Jesus, heaven is a real place. It is not a product of **religious imagination**
- It is "home" for God's children!
- Heaven is the place where God dwells & where Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father
- Since heaven is the Father's house, it's a place full of love and joy.

In the New Testament, heaven is often called a country (emphasizing its vastness); a city (because of the large number of its inhabitants); a kingdom (because of its structure and order); and paradise (because of its beauty). We will be residents there, not just guests.

When the Apostle John tried to describe heaven, he almost ran out of symbols and comparisons (Read Revelation Chapters 21 & 22)

One way of imagining what Heaven is like:

- Picture creation without:
 - o Sin and death or Suffering and corruption.
- God once said, "It is very good."

I'm looking forward to seeing all that John described in those chapters, but I am also looking forward to **what won't be there!**

Heaven is a place of "no mores" according to Revelation 21:4. SMORES:)

- No more death, sorrow, crying, mourning and pain. AMEN!

There is no sense of need, no wanting for anything, and no negative emotion. I hope you already feel bound to heaven. Remember what is already there...

Our Father is there; Our Savior is there; our real home is there; our name is there; our eternal life is there; our inheritance is there; and our citizenship is there AND I hope that our affections and our hearts are there!

Jesus said Heaven is a real place, so it's a loving place, but it's also an exclusive place.

- Not everybody is going to heaven. Only those who have trusted Jesus Christ.

December 2017 - Disney World— we were all so excited...we thought about it a lot and talked about it a lot. **“it's gonna be so great”!** It was a like a pre-celebration of exciting changes that were coming. Life was going to look different in a very wonderful ways.

- Do we think of Heaven like that? Are we excited like that?

Screen time on iPhone – how much time you spend on different applications

- If there was an app...I wonder how much time it would tell us we spend thinking about Heaven? Would we be surprised how little we spend thinking about it?
- How would that compare to how much time we spend thinking about earthy things?

Ever heard the saying, “You're So Heavenly Minded That You're No Earthly Good?”

Look at what C. S. Lewis, said in Mere Christianity:

A continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do.

It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next.

The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven.

It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this **one**.

Aim at Heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in’: aim at earth and you will get neither.”

Jesus never provides false hopes... His promised hope don't disappoint if it were not so, I would have told you.

- He would not ask them to believe in false hopes.

- "Trust my promises! I've always told you the truth."

I go to prepare a place for **you** *specifically*

GUZIK...Love prepares a welcome. With love, expectant parents prepare a room for their baby. With love, the hostess prepares for her guests. Jesus prepares a place for his people (His bride) because He loves them and is confident of their arrival.

3 And if (since) I go and prepare a place for you I will **come again** and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. **4** And where I go you know, and the way you know."

You know the way that leads to the place where I am going

That should have taken them back to Mark 8:31-32

And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. **32** He spoke this word openly Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.

- "**way**" a path, road, or journey. Sense: A means of attaining a result

In the next 3 verses ...Thomas asks a question about Jesus' departure and Jesus answers 14:5-7

5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know (understand) **where You are going, and how can we know the way?**" (how we are going to get there?). They want to be with Him! I appreciate his honesty...I'm confused

- "I don't understand" "I need some instruction or clarity"
 - We can ask The Father questions when we don't understand.

Thomas was saying, "Our knowledge stops at death. How can we go to the Father unless we die? You're going to die and go somewhere, but we don't know how to follow you.

- We don't have any maps on how to get to the Father after You die.", so how can we can we get to where you are going? The Father's house. Here's how Thomas

6 Jesus said to him, "**I alone am the way to the Father, I alone am the truth from The Father, and I alone am the life from The Father. No one has ever come, is coming or will ever come to the Father any other way except through Me. Eternal Salvation comes through a Person!**

- (6th of His "I am" claims).

What REALLY motivates us to seek The Father? SIDE NOTE:

Are we coming to God to know God or we coming to God to get something else we're really after, which is something else...It's not even Him

In John 6...Jesus feeds 5,000 men (not counting women and children) with five barley loaves and two small fish. They next day

In vs. 26 **Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.**

Jesus knew that their interest in Him was mainly because of His ability to provide for them physically. They were not seeking Him to get to know Him; they were seeking Him because Jesus could fill their stomachs. Why do we come to Him?

- They were more concerned with hungry stomachs than with their hungry souls
- Seeking Him was motivated by His resources rather than His desired relationship

Saddest part **vs. 66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.** They couldn't swallow some of the hard truths he said ; they wanted to believe on their own terms. They came to get something, not to get to know a someone

Back to what Jesus said in vs. 6

We can be open-minded about some things ; certain subjects require us to be closed minded!

We hear people say, “there are many paths that lead to God”

- And people want to ARGUE about it till they're blue in face
 - o Christian's are so narrow-minded
- I like to think that we are **single minded** on this subject because God manifested in flesh just gave us directions to heaven...it's through a person.
 - I don't mean this in a snarky kind of way, but in a loving way.
 - you may not like vs. 6, but please consider Who is making that claim and what He has done for everyone that will receive it.

Colossians 1:13-18

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

This means that religions that assign Jesus a role that is different from the one that the Bible gives Him do not bring people to God or eternal life. That's dogmatic! Truth is dogmatic. Some people won't like that I used that word.

- In God's economy...truth is transcendent, not relative!

I mean what I'm about to say as a complement...

"My sons had a teacher who was the most dogmatic, narrow-minded person I've ever met. She insisted to them that $2 + 2 = 4$. That person is my wife

- If we don't stand for something...we will fall for anything

"There is a mistaken idea today that you can come to God your way or on your own terms. This isn't our universe; it's His universe. You and I don't make the rules. He makes the rules.

- Jesus is saying that's the math of the matter...There's just One way
 - You know what I'm grateful for...at least there is **A WAY!**

2nd promise...We know the Father right Now

⁷ "If you had *fully* known Me, you would have fully known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

Jesus is getting ready to depart...He's told them this multiple times

- What is He leaving them with? More knowledge of God The Father
 - o His incredible love for lost people dead in their sins
- They will learn more about the Father through the Son, because they will finally see the full measure of the love of the Father displayed by His the Son at the cross. **John 3:16-17**

and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

A.T. Robertson this verse is best be translated, "you are beginning to know the Father from now on. In other words, they see the Father in the Son, but they will grow to know Him more through the events that are about to take place. Or, as the church father John "kris-SOS-tum" put it, "The [knowing] belongs to the future; the [seeing] belongs to the present."

When Jesus said that... He was saying that knowing Him and seeing Him was the same as knowing and seeing the Father, **He was claiming to be God.**

- Jesus is the expressed image of God The Father ; the perfect representation
 - o Jesus showed us The heart of The Father for His creation

In vs. 8-14 ...Philip requests to see the Father and Jesus tells him and the other disciple that they have already seen Him!

⁸ Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

- Philip...The Father has already been made known to you...since you have seen me...you have seen The Father...I'm the mirror image of Him
- I reflect who He is...We can learn about The Father by studying The Son!

¹⁰ Do you not **believe** that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

The “believe” here is singular because Jesus was addressing Philip’s question.

The mutually "abiding" terminology that Jesus used expressed their unity without destroying the individual identities of the Father and the Son.

¹¹ **Believe Me** (*consider something to be true and therefore worthy of one’s trust - command*)

- “Believe” here is plural because now He is speaking to all of the disciples.
- “Don’t stop believing.” Let your faith in Me grow!

that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

In Vs. 11- 12...Jesus is describing the closeness of the union between **the Father** and **the Son**. They are separate Persons, yet They are one in attributes and will. He’s giving us a glimpse into their unique relationship.

“Believe” here is plural because now He is speaking to all of the disciples.

John’s gospel emphasizes that you cannot separate Christ’s words and works, both come from the Father and reveal the Father.

You can believe the words that I just said because you have seen the works that verify my words. Jesus words and His works perfectly align!

- It should be the same with us...our works are supposed to verify our words
 - o Does our **walk match our talk?**

Jesus said in vs. 6. He is “The Truth”

- “Truth” is when our words and our actions become one!

¹² “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the **works** that I do he will do also; and **greater works in scope than these he will do, because I go to My Father. Acts**

- It’s not over...it’s just beginning for the disciples...the work of Jesus ministry continues
- It is not the believer who does these “greater works”; it is God working in and through the believer: “For it is God which works in you” (SEE Phil. 2:13)

The disciples might have been thinking...if you aren't here...how are we going to do these greater things?

- Here's what Jesus wanted them to know and understand about His departure...
 - **Being absent doesn't mean unavailable!!!** The Father is sending some help!
 - Just because you can't see me physically; doesn't mean I won't be available to you spiritually
 - I'm sending a Helper *of the same kind* to help you in every area of life and your individual calling.

3rd promise – The privilege of prayer. We get to talk to The Father anytime we want or need

¹³ And whatever you ask in My name *through prayer*, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

- Is what your requesting of God *through prayer going to bring Him* glory through His Son?

¹⁴ If you ask anything in My name , I will do it. *Abra Kadabra*

- “**means it will be created in my words**”

Is this a Magic formula? I just tag Jesus' name to the back of my prayer and it's done...OH you said the magic words :) , so poof...here you go

Lord give me a shiny brand-new red 2019 FERRARI 488 (the one with 661 hp) in Jesus name

- The Lord is not our magic genie or our vending machine
 - documentary American Christianity (2018) – (it steps on some toes!!!)

ask anything in My name (*according to my character and will – qualifying statement*)

To ask anything of the Father, in the name of Jesus, means:

- That we ask what Jesus would ask, what would please Him, and what would bring Him honor, praise and admiration!
- When a friend says to you, “You may use my name!” They are handing you a great privilege as well as a tremendous responsibility.

Jesus is not giving us “*carte blanche authority*” to use His name for our selflessly-motivated “gimmy prayers” Our Ferrari like prayers

- Prayers that get answered have conditions
- We have to ask in accordance with His mind and will. We should ask for those things (a) that will glorify God, (b) bless mankind, and (c) be for our own spiritual good.
- If we live in the center of His will, walk in fellowship with the Lord, we will ask for things that the Lord would desire and those prayers will be answered!

- Would you give me a heart for people that are separated from you...lost people?
- Would you give me a hunger and greater understanding of your Word?
- Would you help me love and appreciate my spouse like I should, be a better parent, a better friend, a better boss or employee?
- Would you help me not be so angry and fly off the handle when my kids, my spouse, my family, people at work or people, unfocused drivers push my buttons
 - Those of are some of the right “gimmie prayers” to pray
 - Those are the kinds of prayers that get answered
- Why? Those prayers and in-line with The Lord’s character and His nature
 - But we sometimes don’t pray like that...We like our Ferrari prayers – just give me what I want.

James 4:2-3 Amplified Bible (AMP)

You are jealous and covet [what others have] and your lust goes unfulfilled; so you murder. You are envious and cannot obtain [the object of your envy];

so you fight and battle. You do not have because you do not ask [it of God]. 3 You ask [God for something] and do not receive it, because you ask with wrong motives [out of selfishness or with an unrighteous agenda], so that [when you get what you want] you may spend it on your [hedonistic] desires.

One of the best remedies for a troubled heart is prayer.

- *O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear;
All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer.*

15 “If (since) you love Me, keep (observe ; watch over in order to protect - command) My commandments.

We define love and connect with love in a lot of different ways...

- Here’s how I want you to love me...Here’s what it looks like
 - Love looks like obedience...

We do not obey the Lord simply because we want our prayers answered, like the attitude of a child just before Christmas. We obey Him because we love Him, and the more we obey Him, the more we experience His love. To “keep” His commandments means to value them, treasure them, guard them, and do them.

Lastly...

If you're discontent, worried, anxious, confused, agitated, or otherwise in need of comfort, could it be that you aren’t trusting The Lord? Trusting His plan

- If you really trust Christ, what do you really have to worry about?

We live with conflict, disappointment, and pain. We all experience tragedy and times of severe trial, but **He is with us**. Whatever your trouble, whatever mess you are in, whatever anxiety or perplexity you have, just remember, Jesus is speaking to you **individually**, *“Stop allowing your mind, will and emotions to be troubled”*

- Keep trusting in The Father and in Me!

That’s why Christians are called “believers.” “We walk by faith, not by sight”!

- We don’t trust appearances, no matter how compelling they look today. We trust God’s promises, no matter how unlikely to be fulfilled they might appear today.

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation (*outward troubles*) ; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

- We don’t have to allow those outward troubles to create inward commotion.

AMEN!

Lord willing...the next time I get the opportunity to teach you

- We'll look at:
 - o The next promise... “The gift of The Holy Spirt”
 - o Some of Jesus’s commandments
 - o Things that troubled Jesus
 - o How to have real peace and not be afraid