

JESUS' DEATH DELIVERS TROUBLED HEARTS

JOHN 14:01–03

Introduction

Jesus' death delivers troubled hearts. The disciples had reason to be troubled. Several things had just happened that would disturb any body of people.

=> *Divisiveness* had set in among them (Lk. 22:24-30).

=> *Desertion and betrayal* by one of them was now known (Jn. 13:18f).

=> *Separation from the Lord* had been the topic of discussion (Jn. 13:33).

=> *Denying Jesus* had just been talked about (Jn. 13:38).

The scene needs to be clearly viewed, even felt in order to grasp the impact of what Jesus was about to say.

=> The disciples were greatly troubled (*tarassestho*): disturbed, agitated, perplexed, worried, tossed about, confused, distressed.

=> The disciples needed to be settled down and given some sense of peace: to receive some encouragement and some new hope.

(How much like believers! How often we are afflicted with trouble and need the same words of encouragement and hope — the same deliverance!) Jesus said that deliverance from trouble comes through five things.

- I. Delivers through trust in God and Christ (v. 1).
- II. Delivers through the hope for God's house and its rooms or mansions (v.2)
- III. Delivers through the work of Christ (v. 2).
- IV. Delivers through the return of Christ (v. 3).
- V. Delivers through living with Christ eternally (v. 3).

John 14:01–03 Another Outline

Jesus' Death Delivers Troubled Hearts.

- I. His commandment: trust, believe in me (v. 1).
- II. His assurance: God has a house (v. 2).
- III. His departure: to prepare (v. 2).
- IV. His great promise: to return (v. 3).
- V. His great purpose: an eternal reunion (v. 3).

I. John 14: 01 Deliverance through Trust

Deliverance from troubled hearts comes through trust, through belief in Jesus Christ as well as in God.

1. "You trust in God, trust also in Me. I Am the revelation of God, the Son of God Himself. Trusting in me, that I am the Son of God, will deliver you from trouble." (See Jn. 14:6; 14:27.)
2. "Trust in God; trust also in Me. Continuing to trust even while you are in the midst of trouble will carry you through. Trusting in God and His Son will deliver your troubled hearts." (See *Believe*, Jn. 2:24.)

John 3:15 "That everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

John 3:36 "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

John 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

John 6:28-29 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Rom 10:9-10 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

1 John 3:23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

JOHN 02:24

SAVING FAITH: BELIEVE; COMMIT; ENTRUST

The word commit or entrust is the very same word "believe" (see Jn. 2:23). This gives an excellent picture of *saving faith*, of what *genuine faith* is — of the kind of faith that really saves a person.

1. Saving faith is not head knowledge, not just a mental conviction and intellectual assent. It is not just *believing the fact* that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world. It is not just believing history, that Jesus Christ lived upon earth as the Saviour just as A J Abdul Kalam lived upon earth as the President of India. It is not just believing the words and claims of Jesus in the same way that a person would believe the words of Abdul Kalam.

2. Saving faith is believing in Jesus, *who* and *what* He is, that He is the *Saviour* and *Lord* of life. It is a man giving and turning his life over to Jesus. It is a man casting himself upon Jesus as Saviour and Lord.
3. Saving faith is *commitment* — the commitment of a man's total being and life to Jesus Christ. It is a man's commitment of all *he is and has* to Jesus. It gives Jesus everything; therefore, it involves all of a man's affairs. The man trusts Jesus to take care of his past (sins), his present (welfare), and his future (destiny). He entrusts his whole life, being, and possessions into Jesus' hands. He lays himself upon Jesus' keeping, confiding in Him about his daily necessities and acknowledging Him in all the ways of life. He follows Jesus in every area and in every detail of life, seeking His instructions and leaving his welfare up to Him. It is simply commitment of a man's whole being, all he is and has, to Jesus.

There are three steps involved in faith, steps that are clearly seen in this passage.

1. There is the step of *seeing* (Jn. 2:23) or *hearing* (Rom. 10:16). A man must be willing to listen to the message of Christ, the revelation of truth.
2. There is the step of *mental assent*. A man must agree that the message is true, that the facts of the case are thus and so. But this is not enough. Mere agreement does not lead to action. Many a person knows that something is true, but he does not change his behaviour to match his knowledge. For example, a man knows that eating too much harms his body, but he may continue to eat too much. He agrees to the truth and knows the truth, but he does nothing about it. A person may believe and know that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world and yet does nothing about it, never make a decision to follow Christ. This man still does not have faith, not the kind of faith that the Bible talks about.
3. There is the step of *commitment*. When the New Testament speaks of faith, it speaks of *commitment, a personal commitment to the truth*. A man hears the truth and agrees that it is true and does something about it. He commits (entrusts) and yields his life to the truth. The truth becomes a part of his very being, a part of his behaviour and life. □

II. *John 14:02 Deliverance through Hope*

Deliverance from troubled hearts comes through the hope for God's house. Note several points.

1. Jesus called God "My *Father*." He knew His Father just as any son knows his father. He knew the truth: His Father is, really does exist and live. (See Heb. 11:6.) Note the claim to deity Jesus was making (Jn. 1:51).
2. Jesus knew *His Father's house*, the truth and reality of it. God's house is real; it does exist. It is a real world that exists in another dimension of being, the spiritual

dimension. It is named heaven, for it is His Father's house. This world — the physical and material world — is the property of God, but it is not His house. This earth is not the eternal and permanent dwelling place of God. Heaven is the spiritual world or dimension of being, the *home* of God where the rooms or mansions for believers exist.

3. The word *rooms* or *mansion* (monai) means abiding place. It means places, residences, dwellings, areas, spaces for living. What a glorious hope! How much clearer could Jesus be: *a place* for every one of us — a place for every believer to dwell and live. Just as we have dwellings and homes here on earth, so Jesus promises us dwellings and homes (mansions) in heaven.

And note: there is no shortage. There are “*many rooms.*” (In the other gospels, Jesus talks a great deal about believers inheriting huge areas or places, even whole realms and kingdoms, which probably mean the heavenly bodies all throughout the universe that will be recreated in the new heavens and earth (2 Pet. 3:10-13; Rev. 21:1. See Mt. 19:28; 24:45-47; 25:20-23.)

Note how Jesus stressed the truth and reality of “God's house” and its “*rooms*”; “If it were not so, I would have told you.” Jesus did not lie. He said only the truth. Note something else: one thing is essential to inherit these mansions — belief in Christ (v. 1).

2 Cor 5:1 *Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.*

Titus 2:12-13 *It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

Heb 9:11 *When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation.*

Heb 11:10 *For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*

Heb 11:13-14 *All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own.*

Heb 13:14 *For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.*

1 Pet 1:3-4 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you.*

Rev 21:10 *And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.*

Rev 22:14 *“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”*

III. John 14:02 Deliverance through the Death of Jesus Christ

Deliverance from troubled hearts comes through Jesus' work. Picture Jesus seated in the Upper Room surrounded by His disciples. He said, “I am going there to prepare a place for you.” Where is He to go?

1. Jesus Christ went to the cross: to prepare redemption for us, even the forgiveness of sins.

Mat 20:28 *“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

Eph 1:7 *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.*

1 Tim 2:5-6 *For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men — the testimony given in its proper time.*

1 Pet 1:18-19 *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers. But with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

1 Pet 2:24 *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.*

1 Pet 3:18 *For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.*

Rev 5:9 *And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”*

2. Jesus Christ went to be raised from the dead: to prepare the conquest of death and a new life and power for us.

Rom 6:4 *We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

1 Cor 6:14 *By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.*

2 Cor 13:4 *For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him to serve you.*

Col 2:12 *Having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.*

Eph 1:18-19 *I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength.*

3. Jesus Christ went to ascend into heaven and be exalted: to prepare an access into the presence of God and an eternal home for us.

Rom 5:2 *Through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God*

Eph 2:5-6 *Made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.*

Col 3:1 *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.*

2 Tim 2:11 *Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him.*

Such a magnificent work in our behalf is bound to deliver us from trouble. But remember that Jesus began by stating a condition: "Trust in God, trust also in me."

IV. John 14:03 The Return of Jesus Christ

Deliverance from troubled hearts comes through Jesus' return. Note why He is to return: to receive us unto Himself. There are two times when Jesus comes for the believer.

1. There is death or the passing of the believer into heaven. Death is a private escort or a private presentation to the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8). It is not the triumphant entrance and glorious march of victory which is promised when Jesus returns. (See *Return of Jesus Christ*, Jn. 14:3.)

2 Cor 5:8 *We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

2. There is the return of Jesus Himself to gather all His dear followers unto Himself. It is this return of Himself to which He is referring in this passage.

Believers are to be glorified with the Father and Jesus. Such a glorious hope — meditating upon and grasping it — will carry a troubled soul through any trial, even the trial of martyrdom. But note again: believing in God and in His Son Jesus is the only way man can take part in His return. (1 Th. 4:13-5:3. See Jn. 5:28-29; Tit. 2:12-13; 2 Pet. 3:3-4, 8-16.)

John 5:25 *"I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live."*

John 5:28-29 *"Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out — those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned."*

1 Th 4:16-17 *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

Titus 2:12-13 *It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

JOHN 14:03 THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST

*"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you with me that you also may be where I am." **John 14:03***

There is a difference in the Bible between the believer's meeting Jesus in death and meeting Jesus in the air at His return.

1. The believer does meet Jesus at death. The believer passes from this world into the next world, into heaven itself; and he passes quickly, *never tasting the pain of death* (Jn. 8:51). He passes quicker than the blinking of an eye, never losing a moment's consciousness. One moment he is in this world; the next moment he is in the presence of the Lord. This is the believer's personal presentation to the Lord. It is the very first sight the believer will have of his Lord.

=> Stephen, while being stoned to death, anticipated going immediately to be with the Lord (Acts 7:59).

=> Stephen even "saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God" (Acts 7:55).

=> Paul actually said: "to be away from the body is to be at home with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:8).

=> Paul even said he had a "desire to depart, and be with Christ, which is better by far" (Phil. 1:23).

=> Jesus had even promised the thief: "today you will be with me in paradise" (Lk. 23:43).

=> The believers of Thessalonica who had already died are said to "have fallen asleep in him [Jesus]" (1 Th. 4:14). By "asleep" is meant they are resting in the presence of the Lord (Jn. 11:13).

Luke 23:43 *Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."*

John 12:26 *“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.”*

John 14:3 *“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.”*

2 Cor 5:8 *We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

John 17:24 *“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”*

Phil 1:23 *I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far.*

1 Th 4:17 *After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

2 Tim 4:18 *The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

2. The believer, his body, does arise and meet Jesus in the air when He returns. The deceased bodies of believers will arise from wherever and however many places they lie on earth. And the believers who are still living on earth will arise in their bodies to meet the Lord in the air. It will be as quick as the blinking of an eye, and it will happen. All believers, both in heaven and on earth, will arise and receive their glorified bodies — dramatically and instantaneously. Jesus promised that He would come again, and He will. We must never forget: God promised that His Son would come the first time, and He came; so He will come again despite the unbelief of the vast majority of people.

Jesus Christ is coming again to give both Himself and His people a glorious reunion and march of triumph over sin, death, and hell...

- A reunion and march so glorious it explosively exceeds all that a man can think or dream.
- A reunion and march of indescribable perfection and joy, a march when all of the dear followers of Christ shall be gathered together before Him for the very first time. Each shall experience the presence and joy of all the saints, the dear saints who have gone before and who have come after — including Paul, Peter, Augustine, Francis, John Paul, Mother Theresa and all the other well-known servants of God; the multitudes who have been unknown to men, but are well-known to God — known to be first because they laboured in the insignificant spots of the world as God directed and were ever so faithful.

There, before the Lord Jesus Christ, we will all stand for the very first time, every believer who has ever lived.

Luke 12:37 *“It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.”*

John 14:3 *“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.”*

Phil 3:20-21 *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

Col 3:4 *When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

1 Th 3:13 *May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.*

1 Th 4:16-17 *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

1 Pet 5:4 *And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.*

1 John 3:2 *Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. □*

V. John 14:03 Eternal Life in Heaven

Deliverance from troubled hearts comes through an eternal habitation with Jesus. Note the very reason Jesus will return to earth: “That you also may be where I am.” Where is Jesus? Wherever He is, the very place He is, is exactly where we shall be. We shall be with Him — with our precious Lord forever — with Him who has saved us — with Him who has forgiven our sins despite their awfulness — with Him who has delivered us from the bondage of sin, death, and hell — with Him who has cared for us and guided us day by day — with Him who has shared and given us His presence. Again, we shall be with our wonderful Lord forever and ever. This is the very longing of His heart, the very thing for which He prayed so intensely:

John 17:24 *“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”*

Phil 3:20-21 *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. ■*