

“Jesus: The Great Encourager”

The Vine Series... John 15:5

SCRIPTURE

John 14: 1-4 (NIV)

“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.”

Subject Question: What three words of encouragement does Jesus have for His called and cherished brothers and sister when considering their lifelong walk with and commitment to Him.

Compliment answer: You Are; You have, and You Will Be...

Big Idea: The three words of encouragement that Jesus has for His called and cherished brothers and sisters when considering their lifelong walk with and commitment to Him are: You Are; You have, and You Will Be...

Homiletical Idea: “God is Preparing”

Purpose: I want the congregation to delight themselves in the words of Promise and privilege Jesus directs to them.

Introduction: John continues to answer the “what now” question about life after Christ’s resurrection for us as believers who are awaiting Christ’s second coming by pausing and focusing on Jesus’ encouraging words that were meant to delight and excite, calm and balm, touch and transform every single day that we as Christians are given to live and walk on this earth. Jesus basically answers humanity’s questions concerning life and death, existential existence, and a judicially fair eschatological ending. However, these great truths can simply be boiled down to three basic principles: you are, you have and you will be. In our brief time this morning we concentrate on the hidden meaning behind each of these phrases.

(How then should we live?)

- A. You Are... (vs. 1) *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.*
- B. The first word of encouragement that Jesus gives is simply the acknowledgment of our changed status which transpired at our conversation:
1. John 1: 11-13 *¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God*
 2. John 3: 2-4 *² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” ³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again. ^[a]”*
 3. Romans 8:16: *¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children*
 4. 1 John 3:1 *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*
- C. What Jesus was stating was an admonition to consider for ourselves just who in the world could have changed our hearts, moved our emotions, touched our minds and infused us with a new perspective and poured out the love of God into our hearts. The answer in none on earth! Only One: God of the Universe. Spirit that He is moved and come and changed you and I. And if the God of the Universe has changed us then Jesus Himself is living proof that not only God the Father exists, but that indeed, Jesus truly is the very Son of God who has transformed us! *You believe in God; believe also in me.*
- D. The irony of this fact isn’t so much that we are indeed God’s very children, His cherished people. His special sheep. The irony is the fact that we or others tend to think or believe that somehow we deserve or have earned such a place of privilege. But consider:
1. John 15: *I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.*

2. John 6: ⁴³ “Stop grumbling among yourselves,” Jesus answered. ⁴⁴ “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.” ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets: “They will all be taught by God.”^[a] Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me.
3. 1 John 4: This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. In light of who you are...

(How then should we live?)

- A. You have... (vs.2) 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?*
- B. Jesus’ second word of encouragement deals with the heavenly perk that came with the “you are” admonition. If God can transform you in this life, why then should we doubt that He can transport us from our earthly abode to His heavenly one? Why give us the knowledge of life and death if there isn’t something beyond death itself.
- C. Perhaps the greatest examination of heaven isn’t so much the place itself although the scriptures talks of a new heaven and a new earth. Consider:

Heaven: Christianity



14th century tapestry depicting [John of Patmos](#) [wiki] watching descent of New Jerusalem from God (Image credit: [Kimon Berlin](#), [Gribeco](#), [Wikipedia](#))

The Christian notion of heaven is one of singing and rejoicing before God in a “new heaven and a new earth.” It also reflects Christianity’s roots in Judaism because this new heaven contains a city called New Jerusalem. There are elaborate descriptions of the city in the Book of Revelation. New Jerusalem has a wall and 12 gates, and on each gate is the name of one of the tribes of Israel along with an angel. There are also 12 foundations, 1 each for the 12 apostles. In fact, we even know the size of the New Jerusalem: 1400 miles square with a 200-foot wall. The structure itself is made of all kinds of precious stones, some of which have not yet been identified on this earth. There is a river of “the water of life,” which flows from God’s throne, and trees of life line the banks of the river and produce fruit every month. Believers will have God’s name written on their foreheads, and all pain, tears, and death will disappear forever.

1. However, The greatest characteristic of heaven is the life that is there:
Rev. 21 *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death^[a] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

D. Jesus was stating that we not only have a heavenly-wrought position but we are destined to live in a heavenly-prepared place. When Jesus said in John 3:16, for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believed in Him should not perish but have eternal life... this was the place where the eternal life was and is going to be lived. You have a secure place because you have a secure position. You have because you are. This we need to ask ourselves the question once again:

(How then should we live?)

- A. You will Be... (vs.3-4) 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. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going.”*
- B. Jesus’ third word of encouragement deals with why we have been given the promises of a new position and new place. His love for us goes far beyond our own understanding of love and loyalty and commitment. In Jesus’ high priestly prayer in John 17 we get a clue as to why Jesus would venture a second time from Heaven...
 1. John 17: ²⁰ *“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you*

have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 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.

- C. We could talk long about the new bodies that we will have, the great wedding banquet of the Lamb, the end time events culminating with the demise of Satan and Death. We could speculate on the 1000-year reign of Christ... but the sheer fact of the matter boils down to purpose. Why would Jesus come and die, continue to call and change people and then come back and reunite our glorious souls and new glorified bodies. What does he want from us?
- D. Maybe the answer is found in Revelation 22: *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.* In light of our New position, place and Purpose; considering you are, you have, and you will be...

(How then should we live?)