

It's Going to be Okay

"Learning Jesus" (The Gospel of John)

John 14:1-4

July 14, 2019

BIG IDEA

When the disciples learned that Jesus was leaving them to fulfill His mission on the cross they were discouraged, confused, and afraid. Sometimes we feel the same way when life turns south. But for the follower of Jesus, no matter how crazy life gets, because of the power and love of Jesus Christ, we can move forward with the full assurance that it's going to be okay.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Context:

This passage is set at the Passover Meal. Jesus has washed the feet of His disciples, commanded the disciples to love each other, identified Judas as the betrayer, and confronted Peter about his upcoming denials. With Judas out of the picture, the events leading up to the Lord's death would fall quickly into place. But His men were afraid and so He comforted them with words that ring true within our suffering, as well.

John 14:1-4

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² 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? ³ 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. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going."

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

The overall point that Jesus is making is this: Don't be troubled by present circumstances. He lays out three reasons why we can know that everything will be okay.

1. It's Going to be Okay Because You Can Trust Me

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

When I use the phrasing: “It’s going to be okay,” I am not at all saying that life will go swimmingly well. Life doesn’t always go the way we want it to. It can be full of deep wounds and difficult trials. But what I *am* saying is that Jesus will walk us through these valleys, and in the end, we will be safe in His arms.

The word Jesus chose here (troubled) is translated *stirred or agitated*. He didn’t want their hearts to be stirred up. He wanted them to have peace. He said: “Believe in God; believe also in me.” This phrasing is really important because it reflects a high “Christology” or “Doctrine of Christ.” Belief that Jesus is God, and understanding the link between Jesus and the Father, are appropriate landing points for faith.

- a. **What kinds of things happen in your life that trouble your heart? Can you describe one of them or a time when you were really struggling?**

- b. **How did your understanding of Jesus’ true personhood help you withstand that trial?**

- c. **Jesus is God. Do you worship Him as such? What kinds of things do you do in your life to keep in touch with the One that has promised to give you peace at all times?**



2. It's Going to be Okay Because I Will Prepare a Place for You

John 14:2 – *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?*

John's phrase "my Father's house" refers to heaven, and in heaven are many rooms or dwelling places. The size or make-up of the dwelling places isn't the point here. The point is to comfort His disciples by assuring them that they will be with Him forever in a secure place.

"I go to prepare a place for you" doesn't refer to the fact that these rooms don't already exist and Jesus is going there to build them. Rather, it refers to the *going* itself. It is the going via the cross and resurrection that prepares a place for the Lord's children.

- a. Does the knowledge that a place in heaven is waiting for you affect your thinking or the way you live your life? How?
- b. Jesus paid a steep price to prepare the pathway to heaven. Are you walking with Him with a heart of gratitude?
- c. How would your life change if you were?

3. It's Going to be Okay Because I Will Come Back for You

John 14:3-4 – *“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. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.”*

Jesus didn't say anything about the nature of where He was going. It's sufficient for us to be thankful that we can be with Him in heaven forever! The disciples might have forgotten for the moment, but they knew how to get to heaven. He reminded them: “You know the way to where I am going.” Throughout His ministry, Jesus had increasingly revealed this pathway to them, which is to believe in Him, but they still didn't truly understand.

The Lord is leading up to His significant “I AM Saying” in verse 6: “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” He is the only way to heaven. Because of the authority He has been awarded by the Father, He will come back and take His church to Himself forever.

- a. **Is being with Jesus enough to make you long for heaven? Why or why not? What do you think heaven will be like?**

- b. **Belief in Jesus is the only pathway to heaven. Have you received Him as your Lord and Savior?**

- c. **Your life can change when you apply the truth of Jesus' words. You can courageously share your faith, grieve with hope, stare death in the face, and live free of fear. Can you take time to pray that God would open your eyes to the power of Jesus and that He is with you always?**



PRAY

Lord, I know that you are a Good Shepherd. I see how you comforted the disciples on this terrible night. Help me to believe that this same comfort is available to me. Help me to walk in courage and joy knowing that you will make everything okay. Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- [*Heaven*](#) – a book from Randy Alcorn
- [*When the Darkness Will Not Lift: Doing What We Can While We Wait for God—and Joy*](#) – a book from John Piper

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Jesus' claim to be "the way." (John 14:5-7)

