

Fix Your Gaze on Jesus: The Way, The Truth and The Life

John 14:1-14

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Trust-The Cure for a Troubled Heart

It's going to get worse before it gets better. Much worse. That is the reality in the upper room as Chapter 13 comes to a close. Judas has gone off into the black of night to carry out the betrayal of Christ. Jesus has foretold that Peter will deny and abandon him by dawn. And worst of all, Jesus has announced that He will be leaving His companions to a place where they cannot follow. These men have left everything to follow Christ, only now to be told that He will be leaving them. Their hearts are deeply troubled. The level of anxiety, pressure, and hopelessness is surely unbearable, and everyone knows that things are about to get much worse. This is the setting as we begin Chapter 14. And it begs the question, what do you say in such circumstances? What word of truth can bring peace to such troubled hearts?

The answer is almost shocking in its simplicity. Trust. Jesus addresses these troubled hearts by urging them to have faith, but not just faith in anything. It is belief appropriately placed. It is trust accompanied by perspective. It is a faith that looks beyond present circumstances to a much greater reality...the single greatest reality in fact (14:8). "Trust in God; trust also in me". Jesus knows that the cure for a troubled heart is to fix your gaze on the work of God through Christ which brings salvation and hope to a broken world. And in Chapter 14 we find three places we can look to see this reality.

Look Back

Christ had to leave them. There is no future, no peace, no solution to sin and brokenness unless He departs. It is actually good for them that He go away (16:7) for it is through His suffering, death and resurrection that all things will be made right. The way to the place that Jesus is going is the way of the Cross, and the amazing truth for the modern reader of John's Gospel is that we get to look back on that "way" as a completed event. What the disciples could only look forward to with fear and anxiety, we look back upon with confidence and rejoicing! The passion of Christ is the ultimate truth and reality for our lives. It is the single most important event in history. There is no obstacle or problem in your life greater than the problem of brokenness and separation from God created by sin. Look back on the completed work of Jesus Christ on the Cross and place your trust there!

Look Forward

"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" (14:3). Wow! What a promise! What a hope. This word of Christ spoken to His disciples that gloomy evening is the same word that He longs to speak to you today. This life is not your ultimate reality...this world is not your final resting place. You have a hope and a future with Christ for eternity. Christ has prepared a place for you in the "Father's house" and He is coming back to take you there (Col. 3:1-4). Do you really believe this? Are you looking forward to it? Jesus is the way to the Father; He is the ultimate truth, and in Him is eternal life (14:6). If you begin to fix your gaze on this ultimate reality, you might find that the worries of this world will grow strangely dim.

Look Around

One of the truly astounding claims of scripture occurs in John chapter 14. Jesus actually promises His disciples that if they have faith in Him, they will accomplish greater things than even He in this world because He is going to the Father (14:12). This is not as much a promise of miraculous power as it is a call to mission. To be a disciple of Christ is to be on mission for Christ (13:20). It means that we are focused on the greater reality of what God is doing in our world through His Church. It means that we

are looking around for those whom the Father would invite through us. And what is more, it is actually a remedy for troubled hearts because when we begin to grasp how significant God's plan is, it makes our present challenges seem pretty small. Do you live your life with the mission of Christ as your primary objective? Are you looking around for those opportunities and relationships in which Christ could work through you? I pray that you will today. I pray that the Lord will work in and through us as we fix our gaze on Christ!

For Further Reflection

As you spend time in prayer and in John 14 this week, answer the questions posed above. Allow God's word to change you and to give you hope.