

## ***The Father's House (Jn 14:2): Setting our Mind on Eternity***

### **I. REVIEW: LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED**

- A. It is spiritually dangerous to let your heart become troubled. This is why Jesus gives Jn 14:1 as a command. We are not to let dark thoughts, emotions, and narratives dominate our hearts.

***“Let not your heart be troubled...(Jn 14:1,27)***

- B. The pressures of the endtimes will promote negative mindsets that will war against our hearts, endangering us to disconnect from Jesus and the Father's eternal family plan (gospel).
- C. Mental and emotional turmoil are seedbeds for ***deception*** (Col 2:4; Rom 16:18; 2 Tim 3:13) [wrong thinking], which leads to a ***troubled heart*** (Jn 14:1, 27), which leads to a ***cold heart*** (Mt 24:12; 2 Thes 2:3) [unbelief]. It is not neutral or harmless.
- D. Our hearts and minds need to be actively guarded from the domination of tumult (Phil 4:6-7; Prv 4:23; Lk 21:34; 1 Pet 1:13). Fretting, anxiety, anger, and wrath only cause harm (Ps 37:8).

***Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Phil 4:6-7***

***Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind... 1 Pet 1:13***

- E. Jesus directs us to believe/trust in His leadership (Jn. 14:1). We must take His command seriously, and apply *Jesus'* remedy to circumvent a troubled heart, lest we endanger our soul by responding to pain or trouble with the formation of distorted perspectives or harmful coping mechanisms that dull the soul and progressively disconnect us from the Lord's narrative.

***Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed... [to sit and hear His words]. Luke 10:41-42***

***“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing [checking out], drunkenness [numbing out], and cares of this life [fretting] and that Day come on you unexpectedly [disconnected from God's narrative]. Lk 21:34***

- F. Jesus gave us 8 truths to empower us to avoid the danger of developing a troubled heart.
- Truth #1—Belief in the truth about Jesus—His person, promises, and leadership (Jn 14:1).
  - Truth #2—Jesus promised to return to be with us in the Father's house forever (14:2-3).
  - Truth #3—We can engage in a deep relationship with God in this age (Jn 14:7-27).
  - Truth #4—He supernaturally empowers us by the indwelling Spirit (Jn. 14:16, 26;).
  - Truth #5—God's love for God and His people (Jn15:9).
  - Truth #6—Access to supernatural resources through Spirit-led prayer (Jn 14:13).
  - Truth #7—How Jesus responded to the apostles when they stumbled (Jn 15:15).
  - Truth #8—The joy of eternal rewards for being faithful to Jesus and enduring persecution.

## II. THE FATHER'S HOUSE: SETTING OUR MIND ON ETERNITY

- A. *Truth #2:* Jesus promised to return to be with us in the Father's house forever (Jn 14:2-3, Mt 24:30). We will live in a real place with the glorious Father, Son, and Holy Spirit forever.

***In My Father's house are many mansions [dwelling places] ...I go to prepare a place for you [cross]. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again [resurrect] and receive you to Myself [by faith]; that where I am, there you may be also [heaven forever]. Jn 14:1-3***

- B. One way to secure our hearts in troubled times is by laying hold of the sure *truth* that a glorious eternal future (Heb 6:19) awaits us in the Father's House with Jesus forever (Jn. 14:3).
- C. The Father's house speaks of the holy city, the heavenly New Jerusalem. It is called the Father's House because it is the dwelling place of the Father. It is where He resides (Rev 21:2-3, 22:3). This eternal city, from which Jesus came (Jn 3:13) and to which He was returning (Jn. 14:12, 28, 17:11) is what Jesus was visualizing when speaking John 14:2-3 to His disciples.
- D. This place is also referred to as heaven (Jn 3:13), paradise (Lk 23:43, Rev 2:7), a heavenly country (Heb 11:16; Lk 19:12), a heavenly kingdom (2 Tim 4:8; 2 Pet 1:11), and a heavenly city (Heb 12:22). The reference to it as "My Father's House" speaks of it being a place of *familial intimacy* embodied in close, loyal, committed relationship with God and brethren.
- E. As we meditate on our future in this glorious place, we become settled by an eternal perspective instead of being weighed down and dominated by the temporary difficulties.

***For our light affliction...is but for a moment...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.* 2 Cor 4:17-18**

***Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.. Col 3:2-4***

- F. The saints of old engaged with this truth of an eternal heavenly home to strengthen endurance.

***By faith [Abraham] dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents ...10 for he waited for the city ...whose builder and maker is God. Heb 11:9-10***

***These all died in faith... and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. Heb 11:13-14***

- G. The Father and Son have great zeal and joy about our eternal future with them in this place.

***Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. 1 Cor 2:9***

***Zeal for Your house has consumed Me. Jn 2:17***

- H. *I go prepare a place for you (Jn 14:2):* Jesus went to the cross to prepare a place for us in the New Jerusalem. The "place" existed before Jesus returned to Heaven. He did not arrive and begin constructing buildings. It was the cross that prepared the way by which the disciples could enter the eternal holy city and be received by Jesus into eternal dwelling places. By His sacrifice, Jesus freely qualified all believers to join Him there in the Father's House (Jn 14:6).

### III. THE FATHER'S HOUSE: THE NEW JERUSALEM

*Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Rev 21:2-4*

- A. *The New Jerusalem:* A city that is currently in the heavenlies but will be made manifest in its descent to earth (Rev 3:12, 21:2), partially at the return of Jesus Christ and fully at the New Heavens and New Earth. Heaven and earth will join together (Eph 1:10).

*...the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God (Rev 3:12).*

- B. The New Jerusalem is 2,250,000 square miles (Rev 21:16) which some estimate is space for 100 billion people (Rev 7:9). There is abundant room. Rooms refer to permanent dwelling places - in contrast to the 'tents' of our present pilgrimage (Heb 11:9-10, 13-14).

*In My Father's house are many mansions [dwelling places, rooms] ...Jn 14:2*

- C. The New Jerusalem is stunningly, awesomely beautiful (see Rev 21). It is a 1500 mile high and wide "diamond city" shining with brilliant jasper light. The city is constructed of pure gold, like clear glass. It is surrounded by a 1380 mile high shining jasper wall with 12 gates, each made of individual massive pearls. The city has 12 foundations, each made of a different brilliant gem of many shimmering colors. The entire city is lit up by the glory of God.

*[He] showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal...18 The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass... 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones...21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl.... the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass..23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it... Rev 21:10-23*

- D. The city is also described in beautiful garden terms reminiscent of the Garden of Eden. It contains a pure river flowing with the water of life, clear as crystal. Trees of life bearing twelve fruits abound (Rev 2:7, 22:1-2). It is the 'paradise of God' (Rev 2:7).

*And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. Rev 22:1-2*

- E. *Beauty of God.* The city is the place of the Divine throne (Rev 22:3). We will gaze upon Him. The sheer beauty of God will take our breath away. He is a dazzling jasper, burning sardius stone (Rev 4:3), a consuming fire (Heb 12:29), wrapped in light as a garment (Psalm 104:2). His voice thunders, and all in His temple cry 'glory!' (Ps 29:9).

*One thing I have desired ... that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. Ps 27:4*

#### IV. THE FATHER'S HOUSE: HEALED FAMILY RELATIONS

- A. Calling heaven ‘the *Father's* house’ is a direct statement of the *beautiful relational dynamic* of eternal life. It is more than a picturesque, peaceful place. It is a place of *healed family relationships* where no one is lonely, abandoned, overlooked, or unprovided. All will be loved, known, and celebrated. It is a place of tender affection, security, provision, and belonging.
- B. Life in the New Jerusalem will enjoy full relational healing with God and spiritual brethren.
- C. *With God*: The ultimate cry of our hearts is to be with Him. The disciples were troubled at Jesus leaving, and He reassures them that He will come again so that where Jesus is, there they may be also. It is kingdom, but it is relational. That is because eternal life isn't about duration; it is about relationship with God (Jn 17:3). The greatest pleasure is to unceasingly know God.

**And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. Jn 17:3**

1. The Father. We are fully reconciled to God by the cross now (2 Cor 5:18) but will enjoy the full experience of that reconciled relationship with the Father in unveiled face-to-face fellowship (Rev 22:4). He will tenderly wipe away tears (Rev 21:4). He will dwell among us. We will have glorious fellowship with the Father and with Jesus Christ (1 Jn 1:3)

***..the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it. They shall see His face. (Rev 22:3-4)***

***For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 1 Cor 13:12***

2. The Son. The city is called ‘the Bride, the Lamb's wife’ (Rev 21:9-10). This speaks of a deep, close relationship between the redeemed living in the city with the Lamb (Jesus).

***‘Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.’10 And he carried me away ...showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Rev 21:9-10***

3. The Spirit. The Spirit will forever indwell us as a beloved friend (Jn 14:16; 1 Cor 6:17), delighting to reveal more of Jesus (Jn 16:14) and the deep things of God (1 Cor 2:10-11).

D. *With one another*. Healed relations among the brethren.

1. There will be no more tears and pain – including in the way we relate with one another. Perfect love (Eph 3:17-18). Perfect unity (Jn 17:23). Pure speech (Zeph 3:9). We will each love one another the way Jesus loves us (Jn 13:34).

***I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one... Jn 17:23***

***A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. Jn 13:34***

2. All will have a Christ-like reflection of *interior* and *exterior* beauty (1Jn 3:2; Phil 3:20-21). With whole emotions and holy mindsets, we will view all through the lens of the Lord's love and narrative as we emanate light like the sun with immortal, incorruptible glory (Mt 13:43; 1 Cor 15:52, cf. Mt 17:2).

***Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him... 1 Jn 3:2***

***For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we...eagerly wait for... Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body. (Phil 3:20-21)***

- E. We will experience the fullness of God's love *together* (Eph 3:17). This will add to the delight of the eternal family dynamics of joy toward one another.

***That you may know with all the saints the length and breadth and depth and height of the love of God which passes understanding, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Eph 3:16-17***

- F. Partnership as a Kingdom Family.

1. We will reign with Christ (Rev 3:21, 5:10, 20:6). Saints will be actively serving and administrating together within Christ's kingdom government.

***You have made us a kingdom of priests... we shall reign upon the earth. Rev 5:10***

2. The kingdom is administrated through prayer and assigned works. The 'Father's house' will forever be called "a house of prayer" (Mt 21:13, cf. Jn 2:16), which means it is a place of unceasing intimate communion and joined partnership with our beloved Lord and God.

## V. CONCLUSION

- A. We secure our hearts in troubled times by laying hold of the sure *truth* that a glorious eternal future (Heb 6:19) awaits us in the Father's eternal House with Jesus forever (Jn. 14:3).
- B. We meditate much on the eternal City that we will one day see with our eyes and live within, together with our lovely God in healed relationship with Him and our spiritual brethren.
- C. When we do so, we gain renewed perspective that the troubles of this life are but for a moment. We then become inspired to embrace this brief moment as an opportunity ***to work for us and our gain***. We respond rightly to trials in a demonstration of faith and love which pleases God. We take advantage of troubles to work for our good, transforming us into the image of Christ. We allow the trials to work for us an eternal weight of glory and to store up heavenly rewards in the age to come. This dark age is our sole chance to do so!!
- D. Let not your heart be troubled! The form of this world is passing away as are its troubles. Christ has prepared a way, that you may forever be with Him in the beauty of the Father's glorious house. All things will be healed and made new. We have a good inheritance!

***The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places! I have a good inheritance (Ps 16:6).***