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THE GOSPEL OF JESUS

CALM YOUR HEARTS

JOHN 14:1-31

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The pandemic has taken its toll, not just physically but mentally
 - 1. In a poll taken by the US Census bureau 41% of adults have reported symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder
 - 2. Levels of loneliness, harmful alcohol and drug use, and self-harm or suicidal behavior are also on the rise
 - 3. This Dramatic increase in anxiety and depression has been linked to limited social interactions, tensions among families in lockdown, fear of contracting and spreading the virus, and expected or experienced loss of income
- B. The church hasn't been immune to this rise in worry and depression
 - 1. Worried about the changing tide of morality and the increase of secularism (constantly reminded of attendance diminishing and churches closing)
 - 2. We worry about governmental overreach and what role they will play in our freedom to gather and practice our faith
 - 3. We're seeing an increasingly hostile view of the Christian faith – no longer overlooked but now seen as dangerous – an article from the AP was titled "Christianity on Display at Capitol Riot Sparks New Debate"
 - a) Rolling Stone also published an article titled "How the Christian Right Helped Instigate Insurrection"
 - b) Finally an opinion piece from the Tennessean was titled White Evangelical Christians Must Take Responsibility for Role in Capitol Riot
 - 4. Add to that poorly handled eschatology that stokes fear instead of excitement as well as divisions about masks and vaccines, there has been a level of widespread anxiety in the American church that most of us have never seen before
- C. And here we are – in John 14 – a chapter that begins with these words from Jesus
 - 1. *Let not your heart be troubled* – Greek – stirred up, agitated – often used to describe troubled waters during a storm (something the disciples had become all too familiar with)
 - 2. What were the disciples anxious about? The same thing we are. Change. Things are changing, and from our vantage point, not for the better. There's uncertainty in the future.
- D. The week started out well for them. Jesus had finally announced Himself as the Messiah, King of Kings – this had to be the week that Jesus would bring about His Kingdom on earth and they would rule and reign with Him forever

1. But as they have sat down to share the Passover meal together Jesus provided some alarming revelations
 - a) Jesus had been telling the disciples that He had to die and they missed it. Then in chapter 13 of John Jesus said “I am only going to be with you a little while longer. Where I am going, you cannot come.”
 - b) Peter asked “Where are you going?” Jesus answered “Where I am going you cannot follow; but you will follow later.”
2. That’s what troubling to the disciples – Jesus is leaving. Add to that the news that one of them is going to betray them and that the world is going to become hostile towards them and Peter is going to deny Jesus three times and the disciples are going to scatter – that’s a lot to take in.
 - a) They had given up everything to follow Jesus and now He is leaving? No wonder their anxious
 - b) Jesus understands that – and on an evening that they should be ministering to Him, we find Jesus ministering to His disciples, why? – ***John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.***
3. Not only does He minister to His disciples in this time of uncertainty, He ministers to us

John 14:1 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

II. SET APART

- A. In our study last week, Jesus spoke of the distinguishing mark, the characteristic that sets His followers apart from the world
 1. Our love for one another. Not a worldly love – loving those who love us back – but a superior kind of love. “Love one another as I have loved you” Jesus called this a new commandment.
 - a) Love those who can’t love you back, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
 2. This is a supernatural kind of love that does not come easy. It has many enemies. Things that prevent us from living out this new commandment.
 - a) One of which is our own pride and self-righteousness. An overestimation of ourselves. Something the disciples knew all too well
- B. Now He moves to another enemy
 1. Fear – anxiety – worry – an overestimation of ourselves prevents us from loving others the way Jesus has loved us, and an underestimation of God paralyzes us
 2. What was Jesus teaching the disciples out on the boat – He was training them to remain calm – to hold fast to what He had said – “we are going to the other side”
 3. Now He reminds them again of the source of the calm, quiet spirit “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.”
 - a) You believe in God, you trust God – trust in Me

4. Jesus knows the nature of their relationship with Him is going to change. They will no longer see Him. But He points out that has always been their relationship with God. You trust God and you don't see Him
 - a) Do the same with me. Although I will be out of sight I will not leave you. You may not be able to see me in the flesh but my love and my care for you will not change.
 - b) Believe in God, also believe in me
 - (1) ***John 20:29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."***

2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know."

- C. Throughout history God has been preparing a place for his creation and inviting them to come and share it with Him
 1. The garden of Eden
 - a) ***Gen 2:8-9 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. (9) And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.***
 2. Called the Israelites to the Promised Land, the land of Canaan
 - a) Moses sent spies into the land and they came back with the fruit of the land, they said it flowed with milk and honey
 - b) There was an abundance of life – but these were just copies of something far greater
 3. One day Jesus will lead us to our permanent home
 - a) Many mansions literally means "many rooms" – all living in the same house – this speaks of family (Jewish homes – you added rooms as the family grew)
 - (1) We are not living in servant quarters or on the outskirts of town – we are part of the family
- D. Anxiety is the fruit of uncertainty, these things we can be certain of:
 1. Although we cannot see him, Jesus is with us now
 2. There will be a day when we take our first steps into an everlasting Kingdom as family and we will be completely undone by the beauty and glory of the Lord
 - a) It's hard to be anxious when eternity is in full view
 3. Understandably, the disciples now have some questions

5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. 7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." 8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells

in Me does the works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

III. HOW DO WE GET THERE?

- A. The road to heaven isn't how or where, it's who. That's the difference between religion and a relationship.
1. Every man is in desperate need of three things that only Jesus can provide - reconciliation, illumination, and regeneration.
 2. Reconciliation or Justification - Jesus is the Way to the Father
 - a) Not a guide who shows us the way, He is THE WAY
 - (1) In John 10 - I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved. He is the bridge that closes the gap between man and God
 - b) There's no other door, no other road, no other bridge – it is by Jesus alone that mankind is reconciled to God
 3. Illumination
 - a) If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also
 - b) Jesus is the full and final revelation of God.
 - c) Jesus wasn't just a teacher who came and handed out study guides about the nature of God or hosted seminars about the person of God, He was God, he was the full revelation of God, He is THE TRUTH
 4. Jesus is The Life – Regeneration
 - a) ***Rev 21:5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."***
 - (1) Jesus isn't a doctor who repairs our old nature, patches us up and sends us on our way
 - (2) We are talking about a complete transformation, from death to life

12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

- B. The disciples had to be feeling completely inadequate - (like when our wives leave for the weekend) but then Jesus makes this incredible statement
1. The works that I have done, you will do also – and even greater works!
 2. Before we get to the promise, we can't skim pass the condition that this promise ***he who believes in Me*** - Faith is not simply saying we trust Jesus, it's making those difficult decisions in life that reflect our trust in Jesus
 3. AW Tozer once wrote - *To want a thing, or feel that we want it, and then to turn from it because we see that it is contrary to the will of God is to win a great battle on a field larger than Gettysburg or Bunker Hill. ...To be tempted and yet to glorify God in the midst of it is to honor Him where it counts. To fight and to win in the name of Christ is always better than to have known no conflict.*
 - a) Faith is those small victories in life where we say no to our flesh and yes to the leading of God's Spirit and His word.
 - b) As we walk in faith, we will see even greater works than these

- C. What is the greatest work of all? The greatest miracle? Bringing a dead man back to life or giving a dead man eternal life?
1. Here is the fruit of trust, the byproduct of a deep faith in Jesus – we get to be a part of the life giving, Kingdom Growing, supernatural work of salvation
 2. **because I go to My Father** - Jesus tells the disciples, don't worry – even though I am physically leaving you will be my hands and my feet. I will continue my work of redemption, saving the lost, through you.

15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

- D. The greatest encouragement of all
1. A helper – could also be translated a comforter, a counselor, an advocate
 2. I'm leaving but I'm not leaving you alone
 3. I will pray to the Father and He will give you the third part of Himself, The Holy Spirit, who dwells with us now but will be in you
 4. Why is this so encouraging? Because the disciples won't have to look to themselves for the kind of love that will be necessary to carry on the mission of Christ. It will come from the indwelling of His Spirit
 5. Reinforcing that truth that following Christ is not about what we can do for Jesus, but what Jesus can and will do through us
 - a) Romans 5 tells us that the love of God is poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit

19 “A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. 20 At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. 21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?” 23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me. 25 “These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

IV. THE MANIFESTATION OF JESUS

- A. Judas asks an important question – if you're not here, how will the world see you?
1. The time of Jesus' earthly ministry, where the word became flesh and walked amongst men is coming to an end so how will he manifest himself to them and just as important, how does he manifest himself to us?

2. Isn't that what we want, to experience Jesus.
 3. Some may be simply searching for a warm feeling of wellbeing or an emotional high
 - a) Many of us just want to see Jesus – we want to see him work in our lives and the lives of those around us
 - b) That's what manifest means - to make clear or evident to the eye or the understanding; show plainly
- B. Jesus brings him back to the gospel, to true freedom *“If anyone loves Me, he will keep my word; and My Father will love him, and We will make our home with him.”*
1. Jesus says “if anyone loves me, lays down their life and let's My Father love them, we will make our home with them.” That is where the manifestation of Christ begins!
 - a) We know that we love God because He first loved us – this may sound like a contradiction but have you ever tried to love someone, and they just wouldn't let you?
 - b) Jesus speaks of the one who accepts the love of God and loves God in return

V. PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU, MY PEACE I GIVE TO YOU

- A. Jesus is speaking of peace in two different senses here. There's the peace he leaves with us and the peace he gives to us.
1. The peace he leaves with us is the peace that he won for us on the cross. The peace between God and man
 2. The peace he gives to us is the peace we experience by walking in His Spirit
 - a) ***Philippians 4:6 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.***

28 You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I. 29 "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. 30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. 31 But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.

- B. Jesus reminds them that in just a few hours their lives will drastically change
1. Things will feel like they are out of control and it will seem as if the enemy has won.
 - a) They will no longer be able to talk to Jesus like they have for the past 3 years
 - b) But Jesus reminds them, although everything will seem out of control my Father is in complete control
 2. And I will show the world the depths of my love for my Father through my obedience to Him.
 - a) Arise, lets go.