**Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled**

Based on [John 14:1-14](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Jn14.1)

Preached on May 14, 2017

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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Today’s gospel lesson is a message of comfort Jesus speaks to his disciples. He begins with the words, “**Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. trust in God, trust also in me**.” The source of all true and lasting comfort in this world is belief, that is trust in God and in his only Son Jesus Christ.

Trust is based on promises, and today Jesus gives us three. First, Jesus promises that he prepares a place for us in His Father’s house. Second, he promises that He is the way to the Father. Third, Jesus promises that he will continue working in the world through those who trust in him.

First, Jesus promises that he prepares a place for us in God’s house. He says, “**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? 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.”**

Jesus promises salvation. It’s a big word that simply means to be taken from a place of danger to a place that is safe. This world is not safe. Take the example of Job, who had everything, wealth of goods and family, health and contentment. **He did works that were pleasing to God and yet, in the span of several catastrophes it was all taken from him. Then the temptations came.** His wife told him to curse God and die. His friends came to convince him that he had offended God and that’s why he suffered so.

Many people are so tempted to charge God with injustice, and have fallen away because they blame the suffering and death in the world on Him, forgetting what Job remembered “Are we to receive good from God and not evil? The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord.”

To have success and prosperity in this world is a blessing from God, but apart from primary trust in God, Satan can turn your blessings into a snare, a trap that gains your trust only to enslave you. Like a drug dealer who gives you free samples at first to get you hooked. **This is why we are called to patience in this life, temperance, modesty, holiness, love, charity, kindness and meekness.**  These virtues keep our worldly treasures, which are gifts from God, in their proper place, so that they don’t supplant our real treasure in heaven. Jesus says elsewhere, “**Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions**” (Luke 12:15).

“**Be on your guard”** Jesus says, because we are beset by danger throughout this life. What a horrible life it would be if there were never any end to it. **But Jesus promises there will be an end to it.** Not an end to our lives--for He has conquered death promises life eternal—but an end to danger. He promises refuge in the house of His Father, where he has gone to prepare a room for you.

Scripture says, “**For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then [Christ] would have to suffer repeatedly sinse the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself”** (Hebrews 9:24-26).

Jesus second promise today, is that He is the way to heaven. Jesus prepared a place for us in the eternal sanctuary of his Father. **He did this by shedding his blood on the cross as a sacrifice, his own body being the pure and perfect offering to God to put away our sin.** And even today, in the flesh and by his blood, he intercedes for us and remains our mediator. Scripture says, “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).

And so He promises, **“I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me.”** There is only one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, and no one comes to the Father but through him. This is a terrible stone of offense to anyone outside of Christ. And even Christians--who have friends and family who refuse Christ but are nice people—even such believers might wish in their misguided heart that there was some way to save people and bring them to God without Christ. Because certain people whom they love have rejected Him. But there is no hope without Christ, there is no truth without Christ, there is no life without Christ because there is no way to God except through the man Christ Jesus.

It is a scandal to the world to say that all men are either saved or condemned based, not on their works, but on trusting the work of Christ for them. But this is simply a fact meant to bring comfort and peace to you who believe. **For Jesus to say that he is the way to God is the glorious Good News that there is even “a” way.** Because if you know the righteous requirements of God’s Law; that He is holy and requires perfect obedience, you would be terrified, afraid that there is no possible way for you to be saved.

You are a sinner, and deserve death and God’s wrath. If you are honest and search your heart, your thoughts, words and deeds (and don’t compare them with your neighbor), but with God, you would cry out please Lord God, let there be a way, any way, one way that I can trust and hold onto for eternal life. The Gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. Please, dear Father in heaven provide a gate, no matter how small, and a way no matter how hard that can lead me to eternal life.

It is to that person Jesus can say, I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me—and that person will hear it not as judgment, but as Gospel Good News. The glutton will complain that there’s not enough food on the table; but the starving man will receive his bread with gladness. “Blessed are the hungry, for they shall be satisfied” with Jesus who is the Bread of life.

Third, Jesus promises that he will continue working in the world through those who trust in him. **Though this world is beset by many dangers, toils, and snares and though our ultimate safety is found in the Father’s house, nevertheless we do have salvation here and now**. We do have sanctuary, safety, peace and rest here and now. Jesus gives us these things. It is not as the world gives, that he gives these things but he does give them to those who trust in him.

Jesus promises and says, “**Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”** These greater works jesus speaks of are not miraculous signs, though the apostles surely did these things. But Jesus healed a man born blind, cured the lame and the deaf and the mute, he raised people from physical death and continues to be the only man ever who predicted and performed his own resurrection. But Jesus promises that all who believe will do his work, and greater works because he is going to the Father.

Jesus is ascended into heaven, but his work continues in the hearts, and minds, and words and actions of those who continue to believe. Jesus came and garnered a following of those who saw with their own eyes his miraculous signs that accompanied his teaching. But he says to Thomas, “You believe because you have seen me, blessed are those who have not seen and have yet believed.”

Jesus says, “**This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent**” (John 6:29). The work of Jesus is to create faith in Jesus, and he did this through preaching and miraculous signs and wonders. But the greater work and the greater faith is that which is produced without signs and wonders but with by the pure preaching of the word alone and the giving of the sacraments. In these things we have refuge even now, because in them we have Christ.

Jesus never baptized anyone himself, he left that to his disciples. So too, those who believe in him have been baptizing in his name for nigh on two millennia, and people still believe and have peace and salvation in his name and in this world of danger and temptation despite not having seen him. **Against all odds, against the paganism of ancient Rome, against the barbarian hordes, against the pope and his assaults upon the salvation in Christ by faith alone the Church stood and persevered to this day baptizing and teaching all that Christ had commanded. A**nd though Christ has ascended to the Father and no one sees him, faith, the greatest of all works, is still given because those who believe in him proclaim and baptize in his name.

In review, we have heard today that trust is based on promises, and Jesus gives us three. First, Jesus promises that he prepares a place for us in His Father’s house, where we who believe will be delivered to eternal safety when we die or when Christ returns, whichever comes first. **Second, he promises that He is the only way to the Father, and this is good news to even know that there is a way, if only one, and he invites all to come to him and have rest.** Third, Jesus promised that he will continue working in the world through those who trust in him, and he does through proclamation and baptism. His disciples continue to perform the great work of faith for those who have not seen and yet believe and have salvation in the name that is above every name; so that at the name of Jesus every knew should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Let not your hearts be troubled, trust in God; trust also in His only Son Jesus Christ who is the way.