

# Sermon Outline

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## LET NOT YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED: JESUS CHRIST AND YOUR FEARS *(JOHN 14:1-4)*

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### I. What Is Your Biggest Fear?

*What would you say is your biggest fear?*

- A. In our time, it seems that there are many things to be afraid of: Terrorism, effects of climate change, recessions, and effects of wars.
- B. But there are more personal fears.
  - 1. We fear the future.  
—We fear for our jobs. And we fear for our kids and their jobs.
  - 2. We fear the disapproval or rejection of others.
  - 3. We fear not fully experiencing life as we think we should.
- C. While fear can be very helpful when an immediate danger is in view, it is counterproductive when it's with us all the time.
  - 1. If we are constantly afraid of future, hypothetical situations, we fail to be fully present to those who need us.
  - 2. If we are always afraid of what people think of us, we may fail others who depend on us to stand up for them.
  - 3. If we are afraid of not experiencing life as we ought, we will never be know contentment.
- D. What is the solution to our fears?
  - 1. There is a lot of good advice out there.
    - a. Physical activity can help us manage fear.
    - b. Mental management can help us manage our fears.
    - c. But those techniques can only help us manage the *physical* experience of our fears.  
—They cannot remove the main motivation behind our fears.
  - 2. The main motivation is still *the fear of death*.
    - a. The fear of death is the fear of what lies beyond the grave.
    - b. We fear the threat of nonexistence.
    - c. It is because we fear death that we fear failure, rejection, and not fully experiencing life.
  - 3. But what would happen if this fear of death were to be removed?  
How would you live your life?  
What new possibilities would be opened for your life?  
What new energies would be unleashed from your life into the lives of others?

**The good news that God wants you to receive is that this fear of death can be removed if you go to Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God and the Savior of the World, is the One who ends the fear of death once and for all.**

**\*Questions for reflection:** (1) In what way can fear be helpful? In what ways can fear be unhelpful? (2) What are *your* biggest fears? (3) Who alone can free us from our fears?

## **II. The Gospels**

- A. There are four books in the Bible called “Gospels.”
- B. The purpose of the Gospels is to show how the Lord Jesus saves us from death by means of his holy life, his teachings, his own death for our sins, and then his rising from the dead.
- C. The Gospel of John focuses on the deity of Jesus Christ.
- D. When we come to John 14, we are nearing Jesus’ arrest and execution.
  - 1. The religious authorities of Jesus’ country did not believe his claim to be God.
  - 2. They charged Jesus with blasphemy, the sin of attacking God’s Name.
  - 3. Satan himself, God’s enemy, was behind the scenes pulling the strings.
    - a. Satan is using the religious laws of Jesus’ own country to get Jesus into trouble.
    - b. Satan knows that Jesus is going to be instrumental in ushering in the Kingdom of God.
    - c. He seeks to achieve Jesus’ death using the Jewish religious court system.
  - 4. Yet, all of this is still somehow in the plans of God.
    - a. God himself was weaving events together to achieve the death of Jesus.  
—Isaiah 53:10: “Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him...”
    - b. Why would God do that?  
—*Because the death of Jesus is needed to pay for all the wrongs that we humans have done, both to God and to one another.*

**\*Questions for reflection:** (1) What is the purpose of the Gospels? (2) What is about to happen shortly after the events in John 14? What big event is Jesus preparing the disciples for? (3) Why does Jesus need to die?

### III. Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled (John 14:1)

- A. The words of the Lord Jesus are comfort to our souls.
- B. But how can we afford *not* to be troubled? On what are we to rest our hope?
  - 1. Our Lord Jesus says, “Believe in God; believe also in me.”
  - 2. Essentially, God and Jesus are the basis of our hope.
- C. Jesus’ first disciples were Jews.
  - 1. Jews believe that God made the universe, and is the rightful King of all.
  - 2. When Jesus says, “Believe in God,” he is asking them stay true to the heart of their Jewish faith; to keep trusting in the Lord God of heaven and earth.
- D. Why does Jesus go on to say, “believe also in me”?
  - 1. Our Lord knew that his disciples’ faith in him may be shaken.
  - 2. When they see their Lord arrested and killed, the disciples may be tempted to lose their faith.
- E. Many Jews of that time believed that when God’s chosen King comes to save the world, he would destroy the enemies of the Jewish people.
- F. The suffering of the Messiah, though prophesied by the prophet Isaiah (Isa 53), was not a popular idea.
- G. Jesus was encouraging his disciples to hold on to him even when they see him suffer.
- H. By saying “Believe in God; believe also in me,” Jesus was showing himself to be God’s equal.
  - 1. In John’s Gospel, Jesus operates under the awareness that he is the Son of God, the One who is of the same substance as God himself (see Jn 5:18; 8:58).
  - 2. Jesus is God in human flesh (Jn 1:1)!

**\*Questions for reflection:** (1) On what basis can the believer have hope? (2) Why does Jesus ask his disciples to “believe in God”? (3) Why may Jesus be asking his disciples to “believe also in me”? (4) When Jesus asks his disciples to believe in him alongside God, what was he teaching about himself?

### IV. The Hope of Those Who Trust in God and Jesus (John 14:2-3)

- A. We come to Jesus’ promise to his disciples:  
—“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?”
- B. The use of home/house language is comforting to us.
  - 1. Home is where we are accepted even if we are rejected elsewhere.
  - 2. It comes as a comfort to hear Jesus using the language of a home to describe the hope of his disciples.

3. Although heaven is the place of God, heaven is also going to be the final home of those who believe in Jesus.
- C. The words “I go to prepare a place for you” explain Jesus’ return to heaven.
1. From other portions of the New Testament, Jesus is taken up into heaven to be enthroned as King (Phil 2:8-11; Col 3:11).
  2. But Jesus is also going to heaven to get the house ready, so to speak, for his disciples.

**\*Questions for reflection:** (1) What feelings does the word “home” bring to you? (2) Why is Jesus returning to heaven? (3) Jesus says, “I go to prepare a place for you...” What is the effect of these words on you?

## V. I Will Come Again and Take You to Myself (John 14:3)

- A. Jesus goes on to give this added assurance.  
—“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.”
- B. First, Jesus says, “I will come again.”
1. This is no doubt a reference to the second coming of Jesus.
  2. The Lord Jesus will return for his people.
  3. When he returns, Jesus will appear not as a little baby, but in all his glory and power.
- C. Jesus promises his disciples: “[I] will take you to myself.”

**\*Questions for reflection:** (1) What further promises do Jesus give to his disciples in 14:3? (2) When will Jesus come to take us to himself? (3) Do you believe in the return of Jesus Christ? What effect does this doctrine have?

## VI. Our Hearts Do Not Have to Be Troubled

- A. If we believe in God and Jesus, we really do not *have* to be troubled.
- B. Unless you have put your faith in Jesus and become one of his people, you do have plenty of reason to be afraid, because death is really the end for you.
- C. In John 3:18, we find these words from Jesus: “Whoever believes in him [referring to Jesus] is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”
1. Because of sin, the whole human race is already under God’s condemnation.
  2. The only way out of this state of condemnation is to believe in Jesus.
  3. But those who do not believe in Jesus will remain in their state of condemnation.

- D. There are worse things to fear than just failure, rejection, or not experiencing all that life has to offer.  
—God wants us to fear eternal condemnation from him.
- E. In fact, the Bible tells us that what awaits the unbeliever after death is *not* non-existence at all.
  1. The fact of the unbeliever is in fact a fully-conscious state of eternal punishment.
  2. This state of eternal punishment is called “hell.”
  3. Hell was prepared for the rebellious angels.  
—2 Peter 2:4: “God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment.”
  4. Hell is also the place where sinners will go after they die.  
—Matthew 25:41: “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”
- F. We escape hell by obeying the instructions that the Lord Jesus gave: “Believe in God; believe also in me.”
- G. And John 1:12 promises us: “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

**\*Questions for reflection:** (1) Why should you be afraid if you do not believe in Jesus? (2) What does John 3:18 teach us about the present state and future of unbelievers? (3) What does Matthew 25:41 teach us about the fate of unbelievers? (4) What does John 1:12 teach us about the fate of believers?

## VII. Fighting Our Fears As Children of God

- A. How do the children of God deal with the fears of life?
- B. If we believe in God and Jesus, Jesus promises us that both he and God will come and live in our hearts (Jn 14:23).
- C. God and Jesus help us deal with our fear of the future.
  1. Jesus does not promise that there will be no pain or bad experiences in our lives.
  2. Instead, Jesus promises us that the troubles we may encounter in the future will not ultimately destroy us.  
—John 14:19: “Because I live, you also will live.”
  3. Jesus also promises that we will emerge as victors in the end.  
—Romans 8:37: “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”
  4. So God and Jesus help us face the future by being our Future.  
—If you know that your future is ultimate God and his love, nothing else in this life really matters that much. You can handle life as it comes.

- D. God and Jesus help us deal with the fear of rejection.
  - 1. Jesus does not promise that everyone will like us just because we believe in him.
  - 2. In fact, for some of us, things could take a turn for the worse.
  - 3. Belief in Jesus could very well bring more rejection than you have ever had in your life (Jn 15:18-19)!
  - 4. But here's where the comfort lies:
    - a. Because belief in Jesus reconciles us to God himself, belief in Jesus weakens the power of man's rejection.
    - b. In fact, belief in Jesus makes man's rejection almost irrelevant.
    - c. What does it matter to me if my family or my colleagues reject me, when God already accepts me as his own son or daughter?
- E. God and Jesus help us deal with the fear of not experiencing all that life has to offer.
  - 1. There are many wonderful things in creation to experience.
  - 2. All the legitimate delights in creation have their basis in God himself.
  - 3. But if we have God (through belief in Jesus), we really *don't need* to experience all that life has to offer.
  - 4. We can enjoy what simple pleasures God gives us, and then, we can let them go when the time comes for them to be let go.
  - 5. "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you" (Isa 26:3).
- F. Divine peace in us is that it frees us to actually look out for others.

**\*Questions for reflection:** (1) What will God do to us when we believe in him? (2) How does having God and Jesus help us deal with our fear of the future, rejection, and not experiencing all that life has to offer? (3) How does having God and Jesus in us help free us to love others?