

Introduction: Pg. ____

“In this world you will have trouble.” Those are not my words. Those belong to Jesus.

What troubles you? What keeps you up at night? What concerns distract you and weigh you down? What causes your stress levels to begin to boil?

“In this world you will have trouble.” The skies are not always blue. There are a lot of cloudy days filled with worry, fear, doubt, trouble. Is anyone willing to say, “Pastor T, I got some troubles in my life.” If you didn’t say it, you lying which means you have trouble and you are in trouble!

Finances: housing, bills, retirement

Relationships. Finding housing. Finding a job. Finding a spouse.

Marital difficulty. Marital bliss: will it continue? Will my kids be committed to God?

Health concerns? Job performance

We all possess vulnerabilities. We all get anxious. We all have trouble.

[[Anxious... Confession... Transparency.]]

In this world... And here’s a real quick sidenote... God is not pumped about the brokenness of our world. That was not part of his original design. Definitely not what he wanted or wants. That said, God is in his mercy, uses our trouble to humble us proud people in ways that we would never be humbled without those troubles. You follow me? A wise friend reminded this proud person of that grace this week. We all have trouble. God can use those troubles for our good, and God actually wants to carry us through those troubles.

We see this with the disciples as we continue to look at the final days of Jesus earthly life. They were Troubled, and justifiably so. . . .

In a series of statements that fell like bombshells, Jesus says:

- “I’m about to leave you for good. I’m going to die.
- And I’m going to die because one of you is going to betray me into the hands of envious, bloodthirsty men.
- And you, Peter, who say you will die for and with me, you’re going to deny me three different times before the sun rises.”

Can you imagine how these men felt? They were just men. Their hopes were in the process of being crushed. Their mentor and man they believed to be the Messiah was abruptly departing. Put yourself in the shoes of the disciples. Of course they were troubled.

That is why the words of 14:1 should jolt us.

In light of all this, Jesus says: “Let not your hearts be troubled.”

Let me be blunt with the immediate implication of this statement. When *everyone* else is justifiably troubled, when everyone else should be anxious and worried, the follower of Jesus carries an unseen reservoir of resources that enable them to possess peace in place of perplexity, faith over fear, & tranquility in the face of trouble.

John 16:33 “In this world you will have trouble,” Jesus said that, but do you know what else he said?

“In this world you will have trouble, but TAKE HEART I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

John 14 is going to show us how Jesus is...

**“The Way out of Trouble”
John 14:1-14**

Jesus says, “You got trouble? I got this.” But it’s going to take you...

The Point: Trust[ing me] Jesus to be your way out of every trouble.

John 14 has been called “one of the most comforting chapters in the Bible.” I want to walk through these verses by giving you reasons you can trust Jesus.

I. Trust Jesus because he is victorious over all trouble (14:1-3).

In this call to belief, Jesus immediately gets them looking ahead.

- When we experience difficulty, it is so difficult to take our eyes off our current circumstances. Oftentimes, they cripple us because they feel so consuming.
- That’s why Jesus says, “Let me give you some hope. There is a better day coming, and I can promise you that, because I am the one who is going to accomplish it. Look at *verse 2*.”
- Upon reading these verses, we may have the picture that Jesus, who was the Son of a carpenter after all, has been executing a building project for the last 2,000 years! But I think there is a deeper and truer reality to these words that will strengthen our confidence to “not let our hearts be troubled.”

Here’s the progression:

- Jesus goes to prepare a place by first dying on a cross and rising from the dead.
 - Jesus wins. His arms are raised in victory over death.
 - What do you have to be worried about? If death can’t stop you, what can? Do not let your hearts be troubled.
 - *Romans 8:32*
- Jesus then will ascend and go to be with his Father.
 - So not only does he have his foot on death, he reigns over all things.
 - All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus, which is why we can be confident that he has the power to bring us out of all our trouble.
- But he also promises that he will come back (in the words of C.S. Lewis) “as God without disguise.”
 - The picture is of a reunion. The very definition of heaven is actually being with Jesus.
 - I was reminded of this at about 8:30am yesterday morning. I was hanging out with the girls in our living room and I heard a faint knock at the door.
 - Was that a knock? If it was a knock, who’s dropping by unannounced this early? So I look through the top of our door and see the storm door is open and discover the delivery man has a bald head that looks curiously familiar. So I stretched up on my tiptoes to discover that this is the happiest delivery man I’ve ever seen, grinning from ear to ear.
 - That is because that delivery man was a man who had driven 17 hours through the night to see our family. That delivery man was my dad.
 - Does it matter what we do over the next few days? Does it matter if he brought a gift for the kids? No. He’s the gift. Time with him is what matters.
 - And that is an infinitely small foretaste of what it will be like when we go to be with Jesus after death or he returns in his second coming to take us to be with himself.

- The presence of God is what makes heaven, heaven.
- What excites you most about heaven?
 - It's more than a Disney World for adults, for Free, for Eternity, a kind of whatever would thrill us and entertain us and please us is there waiting for us.
 - All of our notions of heaven fall incredibly short of how spectacular and astonishing it will be because heaven is the glory of God on Full Display.
 - Jonathan Edwards puts it like this: **"The enjoyment of God is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of earthly friends, are but shadows; but God is the substance. These are but scattered beams, but God is the sun. These are but streams, but God is the ocean."** - Edwards
 - And, here's something else you need to know about this place Jesus is preparing for us: It is the place where we will dwell with God and where our joy will continually increase for all eternity.
- Sam Storms, in a *must listen message titled "Joy's Eternal Increase"* (google it on memorial day) said this: **"There never will come a time in heaven when we will know all that can be known or see or feel or experience or enjoy all that can be enjoyed. We will never plumb the depths of gratification in God nor reach its end. Our satisfaction and delight and joy in him are subject to incessant increase. When it comes to heavenly euphoria, words such as termination and cessation and expiration and finality are utterly inappropriate and inapplicable."**
- How is that? Because God is an infinite God. There is always more, and it will always keep getting better.

T: If that strikes a chord in your heart, you my friend, are not far from the kingdom of God. In fact, you might be ready to say, I need that, I want that, I was made for that, let me in on that. But how do I get in on that? How do I get there? This is the question that one of his closest followers named Thomas asked. Look at *verses 4-6* with me.

II. Trust Jesus because he is The Way out of our troubled destination. (14:4-6)

Is there life after death, and how can I experience it? The is one of life's oldest questions. If God made us to experience eternal life, how do we get there? If life is a journey toward something more (deep down, don't we all want that to be true? I think the most convinced atheist has to share those thoughts to a degree in this troubled world.)

But how do we arrive safely at that destination? Because here's our problem... We all went our own way. **Isaiah 53:6: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."**

So let me be clear: instead of choosing God's way and living according to his wisdom, we have trusted in our own wisdom and gone our own way, and the consequences are dire, tragic, and eternal. Not only is our relationship with God currently broken because we have walked out on him, but it will be forever broken and we will spend eternity separated from him, which is the very definition of hell. If his presence makes heaven, heaven, I can assure you his absence makes hell, hell. We can't play games with this. No one wants that! No one at all.

- The disciples clearly wanted to experience eternity with Jesus, but as we see them ask in verse 5: "Lord, we do not know where you are going..." which leads Jesus to drop one of the most pivotal

statements in all of Scripture: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

- In the 6th of 7 "I AM" statements, Jesus says: "I am the Way."
- People referred to the earliest Christians as belonging to "The Way."
- Why? Because they were constantly telling people... Jesus is the Way.
 - Jesus is the Way back to God.
 - Jesus is the Way home.
 - Jesus is the Way to the life you always wanted.
 - Jesus is the Way to the life you were made for.
 - Jesus is the Way to peace.
 - Jesus is the Way to wisdom.
 - Jesus is the Way to REST.
 - Jesus is the Way to power.
 - Jesus is the Way to healing every hurt.
 - Jesus is the Way to having your guilt erased and to embrace grace.
 - Jesus is the Way to unbroken friendship with God *and* those around you.
 - Jesus is the Way to fulfillment in every sphere of life.
 - Jesus is the Way to everlasting joy.
 - Jesus is the Way.
- Have you found your way back to God through Jesus. God is pursuing each one of us.
- Jesus is the way because he is the truth. He alone is the revelation of God.
- Jesus is the way because he is the life. He alone is the giver of eternal life because he alone lived a perfect life, becoming the perfect substitute for our sin on the cross. Our life comes through his death.

Jesus boldly says: I am the Way and I am the only Way. This kind of exclusive claim to God does not settle well in our culture, but let me just suggest a few talking points for your consideration: **Is One Way to God too Exclusive?**

1. Consider the source. If someone takes issue with Jesus being the only Way, it is really not a problem with Christians but **a problem with Christ**.
2. Consider the source. Some people feel it arrogant to say there is only one way, but here are two thoughts on that.
 - One: Arrogance is thinking more highly of yourself than is warranted. BUT if this is true, it is not the height of arrogance but the height **of love**. It is not really exclusivity. It is the height of inclusivity that God would welcome us home after we ran from him.
 - Two: Would it not be just as narrow and exclusive to say "Our way of thinking that there are 100s of paths to God" is right and your way of thinking there is one way is wrong? In the words of Peter Berger: "Relativity relativizes itself all the way down."
3. Consider the source. We should weigh this claim against **everything else this man did**. Look at **his works** If he caused the lame to walk and blind to see, and died voluntarily on a Roman cross for us, and rose from the dead, by his own power, would he not have the right to say: "I am the way."

T: Trust Jesus because he is our way out of a troubled destination, and finally.

III. Trust Jesus because he reveals the glory of the Father (14:7-14)

- The unity of Father & Son
 - Jesus is the revelation of the Father.

- John 1:18: "No one has ever seen God..."
- Hebrews 1:3 "He is the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of his nature."
- Colossians 1:15 "He is the image of the invisible God."
- Now we get to display his glory through our works (because we are one with him)
 - Greater works! What?!
 - In part, because it is after his sacrifice and resurrection, and in part, because the Spirit is going to empower them to expand his kingdom all over the globe.
- Now we get to display his glory through our prayer in his name (because we are one with him)
 - We ask in Jesus name (in alignment with his purposes and will... and for his sake).
 - Prayer is faith breathing.
 - *"The success of the disciples' mission was to be intimately connected with prayer in Jesus' name." - Kruse*

Conclusion:

What troubles you? What source of anxiety do you need to turn over today? Could we pray for you about that? I'd love for everyone to take your CONNECT Card (**CONNECT CARD SLIDE**) and if there is any source of anxiety that is really weighing you down, please share that with us. We will pray for you this week.

Perhaps your concern is not a temporal trouble but your eternal destination. I have been praying this week that someone would say: Jesus is the Way and I want him to be my way HOME to God. Is that you? Let me invite you just to say: God, I'm turning from my own way, so that I can have a new life through the way, your Son, Jesus Christ.

If that's you, I want you to let us know that through your CONNECT CARD, and I want you to cry out to God as we pray together.