

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

July 14, 2021

John 14: 1 - 6

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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 unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. 4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. 5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Pastor Tom explained that we will look at II Timothy 3:13 as a prelude to our verses in John 14 tonight.

II Timothy 3:13

But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

*These are some of the conditions as the end times draw near. There will be 1) evil men (bad, the devil, evil people) and there will be 2) seducers (imposters, someone who tried to get you to do something you should not be doing and with a sweetness about them).

*The waxing is happening now, today. Think about how events/lifestyles/ways of thinking in our country are getting worse and worse. Deceiving means to lie to someone with the goal to get them to believe the lie. Control.

*Being deceived means that you were deceived in the first place and you are deceiving someone else and believing that it's not wrong. When we lie for so long, we actually believe the lie. And when confronted with the truth, we get angry as the other person and maybe at ourselves for being deceived.

Pastor Tom recalled again a person in the hospital that he confronted with a truth and the person snapped in reaction to the truth.

Now continuing with John 14:1-6 which we read aloud in unison.

*This section of scripture contains the most pointed and exclusive verse in verse 6. There are no exceptions to this rule! Jesus is clearly saying there is only one way to heaven and this matches with the ideas of the last days in II Timothy.

*Many, many memorial services or funerals will include these verses from John 14.

Pastor Tom was thinking of Ginny Wilson who shared with him that she is sad about not being able to be in church recently (she is 92 years young and had a fall just a few weeks ago). She has attended Mount Olive Church faithfully all her life. And yet there are people now who make every excuse for NOT being in church on Sundays!

Verse 1

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

*How many of us have heart trouble? Meaning spiritual heart trouble not physical heart trouble. Jesus said let not your heart be troubled but in our times of late it is hard not to.

*An observation from the use of this verse at funerals: There is a direct connection between our heart belonging to God, that is our belief in God and our heart troubles. When we believe in God and belong to Him we react/respond differently to heart troubles whether it's the loss of a loved one or just general stressful times.

* Ginny's spiritual heart is troubled because she is not able to get to church.

Pastor Jon added that everyone instinctively knows there is something beyond us God/Heaven or Hell. And people are more receptive to the message at funerals because death is most evident there. Reactions at funerals are different when faith is evident to the family and friends.

Pastor Tom continued: He has observed when there is a difference in faith values among family members there is often a physical divide amongst the family also. You can feel the tension in the room.

*But Jesus said Let not your hearts be troubled. Secular solutions to troubles are insufficient and temporary just as the sources of happiness are temporary. For example, you don't wash a truck as much after it's a month

old. We try to get 'things' to substitute for true happiness to make our heart troubles go away.

*But Jesus says there is only one thing that will get us through troubles and will be long-lasting. And that is to believe in Him and His Father who sent Him.

Tom mentioned how he and Sherri pray that God will do whatever it takes to get children into a right relationship with God. Be careful! This is a dangerous prayer. Tom wants to be the fixer but only one thing will fix it...Jesus! Nothing can be the solution except for Jesus!

As in the nursery rhyme Humpty Dumpty, "All the King's horses and all the King's men, couldn't put Humpty Dumpty together again." Jesus is the only glue that will put us all together again!

Verse 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.

Pastor Jon spoke about how the 14th chapter of John is one of the most important chapters in all the Scriptures because it presents us with the trinity. It contains the Christology or doctrine of Christ. The Father's House is referencing the 3rd heaven, the dwelling place of God. The 1st heaven is the firmament above earth and the 2nd heaven is what we refer to as space.

*Jesus gives us the Hope that we will have a Home in Heaven. He promises to come again so we must not lose heart - if we get consumed with all the evil in the world - keep your eyes on the Truth of Hope.

*When you get to verse 7, you can't help but see God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit as ONE.

Pastor Tom had the kiddos at VBS give a description, their vision, of heaven. Quite interesting.

*Mansion - word is often 'dumbed down' to room or dwelling places in some Bible versions. In 1 Corinthians 13:12, the Love chapter often used at weddings, Paul says, "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." So right now our vision of heaven is unclear, we won't know what it's like until we see clearly when we get there.

*1 Corinthians 2:9 comes out of Isaiah, saying, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." Key word in this verse is 'prepared' as used in John 14:2. Jesus prepared a place for you with you in mind - designed exclusively for us.

Pastor Tom told a story about a woman who has lost her husband and Tom will do the Memorial Service soon. She is having a hard time with the loss and cannot wait to get to heaven to be with him again. Someone responded to her by telling her we won't know/recognize anyone in heaven anyway! What an uncompassionate response!

Open discussion included:

-We prepare for company or returning family members to our homes by cleaning and cooking. Everything has to be just right. Won't Jesus even more so prepare our mansions for us?!

-No more tears or sorrow because we will be so focused on praising Jesus in heaven. And we have the time to prepare ourselves NOW!

-Once we are in heaven we won't know if others still on earth are saved or not because the glass which makes it difficult to see heaven from earth (or understand heavenly things) also fogs our view from heaven to earth. It goes both ways.

Verses 3 - 6

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. 4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. 5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Go in peace, go in joy, go in love!

May the Lord watch between me and thee

While we are absent one from the other.
