

John 14:1-12

Easter 5; May 10, 2020

There once was a time that you needed to know how to get from point A to point B by looking at a map. You would wrestle with that map by folding it different ways so you could see your route from point A to point B. Then there came a time that you could use a website named MapQuest, and you could print out the directions from point A to point B. So instead of wrestling with a big map, you would just have to look at a couple sheets of paper. Yet, using those sheets of paper, it still meant taking your eyes off the road to look at them. Then there came a time where you could use a GPS unit or a phone to give you directions. That GPS could speak the directions to you so that you didn't have to take your eyes off the road.

But could imagine what it would be like if all those different sources were telling you different ways to get from point A to point B all at the same time? Could you imagine what it would be like if each way was contradicting each other. Which way would be the right way? Do you turn left or right? Do you turn around or do you keep going forward? Can you imagine how confusing that would be? Which way is the right way to get to your destination?

Yet, there are many different religions in the world that are telling people different ways to get from point A to point B; That there are different ways that we can from life here to a life in heaven. Think of how confusing that would be? Which way is right way? What happens if life changes direction? How do you feel? Those are the questions that we ask ourselves with the question that have been asking for the past several weeks – **What do we do when our plans fall through?** This morning we ask ourselves also the question: *When our hearts are troubled?*

What a week the disciples had gone through? On Sunday, they entered Jerusalem as the people waved their palm branches. But then things began to change. He spoke about he had come into this world to die. Jesus is supposed to be coming into Jerusalem as a King, now he is talking of dying. He talks about the hardening of the hearts of the people for him.

The conversation between Jesus and his disciples in our text is happening on Maundy Thursday. Jesus has been sitting with his disciples in the upper room celebrating the Passover. The evening began with Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. Then he speaks about how one of them was going to betray him. He talks about how Peter was going to deny even knowing Jesus.

He speaks about how Jesus was going to be leaving them soon. How could he leave them? For three years they have given up everything to follow him. Their world was collapsing around them. What's going on? How could their hearts not be troubled? Jesus could see their troubled hearts. So, he says these words to these troubled men: **“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”**

How do you feel? What is it that troubles you? Is it the guilt of a sin or sins you committed years or months or weeks or days ago that just doesn't seem to let you go? Is it fear over the unknown for yourself or a loved one, a fear that holds a tight grip on your heart and threatens to choke the hope of eternal life out of you? Is it grief over the loss of a loved one that just never seems to leave you? Is it worry over the troubling events of the present, of the scary economic and political situations of our nation and communities or of the health problems and the piling bills and the family

arguments and the selfish attitudes and the stress of an overfilled schedule all happening now? What troubles your heart? To our troubled hearts, Jesus responds, **“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.”**

Jesus wanted us and his disciples know that there is only one thing, one person that can make right with God again. That person is Jesus. He looks at them and says: **“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”** Did you catch the hope and promise in Jesus’ words? Did you hear how these words calm troubled hearts? Jesus doesn’t say that he is **A** way to heaven. He says he is **THE** way to heaven. Not just the way to heaven, but he is truth and he is life.

Jesus is like a bridge of a deep valley of sin. People have tried all kinds of ways to get from point A to point B. They have tried all kinds of ways to get from here to a life with him in heaven. But what happens if that bridge comes out a couple of inches short of getting to the other side? It will fall down. It will collapse. With Jesus, it is the perfect bridge for us to be connected to God.

That’s what those disciples in that Upper Room needed to hear. He knew they were scared and frightened. He knew how confusing this was for them. He knew how hard it was for them to trust him. He knows how hard it is for us to always fully trust him. In the midst of the troubles of this life, Jesus promises that he is preparing a place for them and you. If he is preparing that place for us, he will come back to take us to heaven with him. He knows that troubled hearts need to know that everything will be okay with him. The answer to the question: *What do we do when plans fall through; when our hearts are troubled?* The answer is simple, we trust Jesus and join the hymn writing in singing:

**I will wait for You
I will wait for You
Through the storm and through the night
I will wait for You
Surely wait for You
For Your love is my delight.**