Peace in a Troubled World!

#3103 0114 24P—John 14:1-15

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AV John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me."

The apostle counsels those listening to *not* be troubled or worried but choose to reject fear of what could happen. He is assuring us that believing in the *living God* is the same as believing in the *risen Savior*—He whom they *knew* and had a close *personal* relationship with.

Because of all that is going on in the world—the distrust among people, nations, and governments; as well as the increase in crime, theft, violent assaults, and the world seemingly out of control on all levels, it would be easy to feel *troubled*, but Jesus promises *peace* if we will *believe* that He will give it to us.

His promise of peace includes eventually receiving an entirely new living environment with all the world's troubles totally absent. This is not just an apartment but a *mansion*—something that would be seen on a wealthy estate here on earth.

AV John 14:2 "In my Father's house are many mansions [resting-places WEY]: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

Jesus says there are *many* mansions, and we know He can only tell the truth, so we should be at peace and rest assured that such a marvelous home is awaiting all true believers. If that is not true, He would not have said it—but since it *is* true, we have *peace* while the world is *troubled*.

AV John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again [return wey; come back NIV], and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

If we *believe* what Jesus *first* says, then we should *also* believe what He next says in His End Time prophecies Matthew 24; Luke 21—that a mansion is being *made ready*, and that He will *return* to rapture all true believers—taking them *back* to Heaven with Him.

It is the promise of the apostle's letter 1 Thessalonians 4:1 when he writes about having brotherly love toward one another; to be pure in our thoughts and ways; to lead a quiet life and work with our hands so that our daily life would win the respect of outsiders. He then adds NIV "We instructed you how to live in order to please God."

The apostle also speaks on the rapture—AV 1 Thessalonians 4:16 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Knowing of that—we would certainly *not* be troubled but be *joyful* that this coming kingdom is real, and that we can be part of it simply by *believing God* and keeping our *faith in* the *Lord Jesus* who paid any debt we had with His sacrifice at Calvary.

AV John 14:4 "And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know." Or WEY "Where I am going, you all know the way."

We would think that the apostles *would* all know the way, but we can't assume they fully understood. Thomas was just honest enough to admit that he did *not* understand what the Lord meant.

AV John 14:5 "Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?"

There are times when maybe we should be more honest with ourselves and admit that we don't always know the right way to *go*, or the scriptural response to *make*. We may be reluctant to say we don't know—especially if we have been in the Truth for many years.

AV John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Thomas *should* have known the *Way*, he was familiar with the *Truth*, and he was living the *Life* of a disciple—but he still says: *We don't know where You are going*. Jesus says that He and the Father are One—and if Thomas knew who *Jesus* was, he would know who *God* was—the Creator of the universe!

NKJV John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

AV John 14:7 "If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him." NLT "If you had known who I am, then you would have known who my Father is. From now on you know him and have seen him!"

It was a gentle rebuke to Thomas and others that they should have known by that time who Jesus was—God incarnate! Whatever an *All-Power-ful God* could do, *Jesus* could do! He meant—now you know that *I am* who I said *I am!*

AV John 14:8 "Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us." WEY "Master, cause us to see the Father: that is all we need."

Jesus reminds them again that since the beginning of His ministry, they were with Him to *hear* His teaching, to *see* His miracles, and to *learn* from the many lessons He taught as they traveled from town to town and preaching the Gospel.

AV John 14:9 "Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?"

Another mild rebuke. The disciples had been with Jesus for years and had been witnesses to His many miracles—miracles that only God could do. They should not have to ask to see the Father because if they saw the Son; they saw the Father! AV John 10:30 "I and my Father are one."

AV John 14:10 "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself [not on my own authority WEY]: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works." Or NLT "Does his work through me."

The Two are One since the same Holy Spirit resides within—making the Holy Trinity. Since the Father is the source of all Truth, Jesus only *says* what the Father tells Him to say.

AV John 14:11 "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake."

Jesus said to the Pharisees who did not believe Him—AV John 10:37 "If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. 38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him."

AV John 14:12 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he

do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. 13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."

It all hinges on knowing the living God who created everything; it is all about trusting Him in faith; about believing Jesus in faith; and about being empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a godly life by faith. We are obligated to carry the Torch of Truth for the Lord to an unbelieving world today—"because I go unto my Father."

We are to *pray* to God and *ask* in Jesus' Name—then *believe* He will do whatever scriptural request we have placed before Him in faith.

AV John 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my command-ments."

Millions of Christians say they *love Jesus*, but far too few *keep His commandments*. The man who wanted *to have eternal life*, was told AV Matthew 19:17 "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."

The man said AV Matthew 19:20 "All these [commandments] have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?"

He realizes something is missing, so Jesus says, "keep the commandments," and mentions six of the ten—do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not lie when giving testimony; honor your parents; and AV Matthew 19:19 "Love thy neighbour as thyself."

This last one is considered the First and Great Commandment. AV Matthew 22:37 "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

The man claimed he had kept *all* the commandments since he was young. Jesus knew what

spiritual lack the man had, and which would have prevented him from entering Heaven.

The man's faith in God was not perfected on finances. AV Matthew 19:21 "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me."

The man *didn't* accept that advice, and went away "sorrowful," but until he learns how to trust God in faith for everything in life—including how to trust Him for needed money each day, he will eventually be much more sorrowful if he misses the rapture.

Jesus just proved that the man's money was his god—it was an idol to him.

Peace in a troubled world is possible...

- 1. Be willing to *believe* that God will do what He promises.
- 2. Be *assured* of Heaven as we keep our faith in Jesus.
- 3. Jesus explained the *Way*; He gave us the *Truth*; and He showed us the *Life*.
- 4. *Keeping* His commandments is *keeping* divine love in our heart.



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