



# “Let not your hearts be troubled.”

– *John 14*

John 14, or at least the first three verses are familiar to us. They are often read at funerals and have given the impression that Jesus is talking to his apostles about heaven. This is especially poignant as some versions of the text have Jesus telling his hearers that in his father’s house are “many mansions” which has conjured images of palatial white, columned houses surrounded by manicured lawns. But to fully understand the meaning of John 14 requires reading it in its entirety.

## John 14\*

<sup>1</sup>“Let not your hearts be troubled. <sup>2</sup>Believe in God; <sup>3</sup>believe also in me. <sup>4</sup>In <sup>5</sup>my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that <sup>6</sup>I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>7</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you <sup>8</sup>to myself, that <sup>9</sup>where I am you may be also. <sup>10</sup>And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>11</sup><sup>12</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, <sup>13</sup>we do not know where you are going.

How can we know the way?” <sup>14</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am <sup>15</sup>the way, and <sup>16</sup>the truth, and <sup>17</sup>the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>18</sup>If you had known me, you would have <sup>19</sup>known my Father also. <sup>20</sup>From now on you do know him and <sup>21</sup>have seen him.”

<sup>22</sup><sup>23</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, <sup>24</sup>show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? <sup>26</sup>Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>27</sup>Do you not believe that <sup>28</sup>I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you <sup>29</sup>I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>30</sup>Believe me that <sup>31</sup>I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else <sup>32</sup>believe on account of the works themselves.

<sup>33</sup>“Truly, truly, I say to you, <sup>34</sup>whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I <sup>35</sup>am going to the Father. <sup>36</sup>Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that <sup>37</sup>the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>38</sup>If you ask me <sup>39</sup>anything in my name, I will do it.

## *Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit*

<sup>40</sup><sup>41</sup>“If you love me, you will <sup>42</sup>keep my commandments. <sup>43</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another <sup>44</sup>Helper, <sup>45</sup>to be with you forever, <sup>46</sup>even <sup>47</sup>the Spirit of truth, <sup>48</sup>whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and <sup>49</sup>will be <sup>50</sup>in you.

<sup>51</sup>“I will not leave you as orphans; <sup>52</sup>I will come to you. <sup>53</sup>Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but <sup>54</sup>you will see me. <sup>55</sup>Because I live, you also will live. <sup>56</sup>In that day you will know that <sup>57</sup>I am in my Father, and <sup>58</sup>you in me, and <sup>59</sup>I in you. <sup>60</sup>Whoever has my commandments and <sup>61</sup>keeps them, he it is who loves me. And <sup>62</sup>he who loves me <sup>63</sup>will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and <sup>64</sup>manifest myself to him.” <sup>65</sup><sup>66</sup>Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it <sup>67</sup>that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” <sup>68</sup>Jesus answered him, <sup>69</sup>“If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and <sup>70</sup>we will come to him and <sup>71</sup>

make our home with him. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And <sup>z</sup>the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the <sup>a</sup>Helper, the Holy Spirit, <sup>b</sup>whom the Father will send in my name, <sup>c</sup>he will teach you all things and <sup>d</sup>bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> <sup>e</sup>Peace I leave with you; <sup>f</sup>my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. <sup>g</sup>Let not your hearts be troubled, neither <sup>h</sup>let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup> <sup>i</sup>You heard me say to you, <sup>j</sup>'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I <sup>k</sup>am going to the Father, for <sup>l</sup>the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> And <sup>m</sup>now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. <sup>30</sup> I will no longer talk much with you, for <sup>n</sup>the ruler of this world is coming. <sup>o</sup>He has no claim on me, <sup>31</sup> but I do <sup>p</sup>as the Father has commanded me, <sup>q</sup>so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

## Things to Discuss about John 14

1. In John 14, the Greek word, *monai*, means abodes, dwelling places, or rooms. In this context, does this mean something different than "house"?
2. In Greek, the word *oikia* means house or dwelling, but it also refers to the inhabitants of the family, but it can also pertain to property, wealth, or goods. As it relates to what Jesus is telling his disciples, what might the word house mean relative to family, property, wealth, or goods?
3. What does Jesus mean when he says that he is going to prepare a place for them that where he is, they may be also? What is the place, and what is he preparing?
4. At John 14:12, is Jesus talking about an end or a beginning?
5. At John 14:30, Jesus once again makes a reference to the "ruler of this world, as was previously discussed about John 12:31.
6. Taken as a whole, does what Jesus is telling his disciples acquire a different meaning for you?
7. What use might we make of Jesus' discourse to his disciples?