

Remnant Life Church
February 7, 2021
Peace and Hope in a Troubling Time
John 14:1-7

In **John 14:1** Jesus says, “*Do not let your hearts be troubled.*”

- How have you done with that this past year?
- I will be honest, there were many times in 2020 when I struggled greatly with what I was witnessing
 - I have been concerned about the health of my family and people that I know and love
 - It was very difficult when the weeks we could not meet together as a church family turned into 4 months
 - I did not know how all of this would impact our ability to continue as a church
 - Would we make it?
 - Would we be unable to find a place to meet?
 - Would Remnant Life survive or become just another statistic?
 - I struggled mightily, and still do to some degree, with how the events dictating our lives are being manipulated by a select and elite group of people who do not care the least bit about you and me
 - I was deeply troubled when elected officials abandoned whole sections of once beautiful cities to senseless mobs intent on violence and destruction, not social change as they claimed
 - I was disgusted when affluent people, millionaires many of them, who have more than any 25 people together will ever have, bashed and bad-mouthed the country that provided them the opportunity
 - I was sickened by the double-standard of politicians who said I must live a certain way for the health and safety of the masses but did not adhere to it themselves because they consider themselves above the law
 - I have become fed up with the entire journalistic industry that no longer provides information from which we can assess and decide things for ourselves but instead manipulates and controls the information in order to present a singular narrative to accomplish a predetermined objective
 - I am dismayed that the very fabric of this great nation, based on the articles of freedom spelled out in the Constitution and Bill of Rights, is being arbitrarily rewritten or in most cases ignored with no regard for the law – and it is being done by those who swore to us they would defend and uphold it
 - And I am brokenhearted that at every turn evil appears to win and can operate with impunity, seemingly impervious and immune to justice, punishment, and consequence
- Yet, Jesus said, do not let your hearts be troubled
 - What does He mean when He says this?
 - Are we to walk around with fake, plastic smiles on our faces acting as if everything is fine?

- Are we to ignore what we see with our eyes and comprehend through logical thinking, as we attempt to weed through what are revealed more and more to be lies and disinformation?
- Should Christians approach the troubles of the world emotionless and without reaction?
- The answer to those questions is a resounding “no!”
 - You and I are created as emotional beings
 - God created us to respond in the ways that we do to both the positive and negative
 - Emotion is not something to be avoided
 - The Bible tells us that Jesus stood at the entrance to the tomb of Lazarus and wept
 - Jesus also wept when he looked out over the city of Jerusalem, knowing the depth of their sin and depravity
 - Much in the same way Christians should be viewing this country today
- Then how do we live the way Jesus tells us to and keep our hearts from being troubled?

The heart is the word used most often used in the Bible to mean the soul, emotions, and core of a person

- It is that place from which comes those things that make you who you are
- First and foremost, it is the very seat of God’s presence in your life when you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior
- It is your inner parts, your soul, character, conscious, emotions and passions
- We read the words of Moses in **Deut 10:12** - *And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,*
- It is our hearts are filled with the unconditional love we receive from God and those closest to us and it breaks when we are wounded to the very core of our being

Did Jesus somehow not understand this when He spoke those words?

- Go back to **John 13:18-21**
- He understood
 - After telling those closest to Him that one of them would betray Him He then says don’t let your heart be troubled
 - In spite of the circumstances, don’t let your heart be troubled
 - We can see three reasons why His words are true...

1. Our hearts should not be troubled because we believe and trust in God
 - a. Paul writes in **I Thess 4** that we, as children of God, are not a people without hope
 - b. Regardless of what we see or experience we are not like those without God who have no hope
 - c. **Dan 2:21** - *He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.*
 - d. I have heard many say, as I have, that we should be more concerned about our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren
 - e. But your belief and trust in God is for them as well
 - f. Words written by a father in the midst of this past year

“Don’t feel sorry for or fear for your kids because the world they are going to grow up in is not what it used to be. God created them and called them for the exact moment in time that they’re in. The timing of their life wasn’t a coincidence or an accident. Raise them up to know the power they walk in as children of God. Train them up in the authority of His word. Teach them to walk in faith knowing that God is in control. Empower them to know that they can change the world. Don’t teach them to be fearful and disheartened by the state of the world but hopeful that they can do something about it. Every person in all history has been placed in the time they were in because of God’s sovereign plan. He knew Daniel could handle the lion’s den. He knew David could handle Goliath. He knew Esther could handle Haman. He knew Peter and Paul could handle the persecution. He knows that your child can handle whatever challenge they face in their life. He created them specifically for it! Don’t be scared for your children, but be honored that God chose you to parent the generation that is facing the biggest challenges of our lifetime. Rise up to the challenge. Raise up Daniels, Davids, Esthers, Peters and Pauls! God isn’t scratching His head wondering what He’s going to do about this mess of a world. He has an army He’s raising up to drive back the darkness and make Him known all over the earth. Don’t let your fear steal the greatness God has placed on your children. I know it’s hard to imagine them as anything besides your precious little ones, and we just want to protect them from anything that could ever be hard on them, but they were born for such a time as this.”

- g. YOU were born for such a time as this and God will go with you everyday, every step of the way.
- h. Believe and trust in God!

2. Our hearts should not be troubled because we believe and trust in Jesus

- a. Jesus said to His disciples, you trust in God now trust in me
- b. They had been with Him for 3 years now
- c. They had witnessed the miracles, the healings, the driving out of demons
- d. And they had witnessed the power of God
 - i. That power would continue after they were dead
 - ii. The Romans were the primary focus of the Jewish people
 - 1. They believed Jesus would deliver them from the oppressors
 - 2. They were in shock at Jesus’ death with nothing having changed (so they thought)
 - iii. Yet the message of Jesus would continue to spread
- e. But it required an ongoing faith in that message and the power of Jesus
 - i. Is that message different today?
 - ii. Has that power weakened over time?
 - iii. No – and we know that because of the promise of His return
- f. Satan has always tried to stop the work of God’s continue but continues to fail – because God is greater!
 - i. He used Saul to persecute the church, but after an encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, Paul became the first great missionary
 - ii. He used the Romans to oppress the people and crucify Jesus but 300 years after His death and resurrection, under the Roman Emperor Constantine, Christianity would become the official religion of Rome

- g. When Jesus returns it will not be as a human much less a child
 - i. When Jesus returns He will be at the head of an angelic army too numerous to count and too brilliant to be comprehended
 - ii. An evil will be defeated for all eternity

- 3. Our hearts should not be troubled because we know there is more to life than this
 - a. Consider this statement in two ways
 - b. The first is there is more to life here than allowing the circumstances of our lives to control the quality of our lives
 - i. That takes a concerted effort on your part to balance your life
 - ii. It also takes looking at things in a different way than you may have before
 - iii. It comes with a simple but critically important question *What of those things that have me so upset am I going to change or improve by being so upset?*
 - 1. The answer to that, depending on the circumstances, is probably very little
 - 2. Now, if you are upset by things in your personal life that is one thing
 - 3. But if you are talking about national or global issues the answer is nothing
 - iv. The single best thing you can do for this nation or the world is, first, pray, and then guard the joy and peace of your own life
 - c. The second way we consider that there is more to life than this is to know that God is preparing a place for you
 - i. **John 14:2** - *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?*
 - ii. How would you prepare a room for your son or daughter?
 - iii. It would be filled with the things they love
 - iv. It would be created to bring joy, peace, and happiness
 - v. Heaven is a real place and Jesus has gone there to prepare a place for you as a child of God
 - vi. Keep this place in right perspective never forgetting that we are passing through
 - vii. Our eternal home is with God in paradise

Trust in God, trust in Jesus, He is preparing a place for you

To recognize the importance of these things in your life is to bring all that is going around you into a right priority

- It will bring peace into your heart and your words and actions will be changed
- It will bring joy back into your life
- It will change the environment of your life and the lives of the people around you