

Morningside Church Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: Hope For a Troubled Heart Date: October 26, 2025

Scripture Text: John 14:1-6

Notes:

In today's passage, we find Jesus with His disciples the night before His crucifixion. He has been celebrating the Passover with them. There is worry among His disciples regarding what is about to happen. Jesus tried to comfort and assure them that everything will be just as God planned. The church is described in Eph. 5:32 as the bride of Christ. To understand references Jesus makes in today's passage, it is important to understand the elements of a Jewish wedding in the 1st century.

Traditional 1st century Jewish wedding	The church as the bride of Christ
Groom leaves father's house to find a bride	Jesus came from His Father's house (heaven) to call His people, the church
Groom pays purchase price for bride	Jesus paid the price for His bride, shed His blood for the remission of sins
Groom returns to his father's house. Uses portion of inheritance to prepare a place for him and his bride	Jesus returns to His Father's house to prepare a place for His people
Groom returns for his bride to take her to the place he has prepared	Jesus will return for His bride (the church) to take them to the place He has prepared

I. Jesus is Our Peace (John 14:1)

The disciples were troubled, concerned and anxious. Their expectations of what was happening did not align with what was really happening. They anticipated an earthly king to run the Romans away. Jesus sought to give them comfort and affirmation. He didn't want them to get distracted by the swirl of events about to occur, but to stay focused on Him and God.

- Jesus encouraged His disciples not to lose their belief in Him. How can maintaining faith in Jesus Christ help in uncertain times?
- Describe a time when you were distracted by your circumstances and lost your focus on Christ.
 - o What happened?
- How can we maintain our belief in Christ when troubled or uncertain times occur?

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II. Jesus is Preparing a Place (John 14:2)

Jesus tells His disciples that He will be preparing a place for them in His Father's house – heaven. As nice as it will be to have a place set aside in heaven for those who accept Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, the true blessing will be dwelling with Christ for all eternity.

- Describe your perfect vacation destination.
- How do you think heaven will compare?
- How might Jesus' words about preparing a place have encouraged His disciples and set their mind at ease?
- How can the assurances of Jesus put our minds at ease?

III. Jesus Makes a Promise (John 14:3-4)

The disciples are not only assured they will have a place set aside for them in heaven, prepared by Jesus, but Jesus would one day return to receive them so they can be together.

- We see in the book of Acts and some of the other epistles, the disciples lived life with an imminent view of Jesus' return. What distinguishes a life lived in anticipation that Jesus could return at any minute from the life that is lived without recognizing Jesus' return?
- How can our relationship with Christ be affected by living life with anticipation of His return?
- What impact could it have on the church? The culture?
- What changes can you make to live life in view of Christ's imminent return?

IV. Jesus is the Way (John 14:5-6)

Jesus tells His disciples that they know how to get where He is going in vs. 5. Thomas replies, 'but we don't know where You are going and we sure don't know the way'. Jesus tells them that <u>He</u> is 'the way, the truth, and the life. No one can go to the Father but through Him'.

- What did Jesus mean when He said He was 'the way, the truth, and the life'?
- What are other ways to heaven people claim?
- Why are no other ways valid?
- What would you say to someone who feels they are going to heaven because they are a 'good person'?
- How do you know you have a place in heaven waiting for you?

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