



Words of Comfort

Jesus in John 14

Part 16 of the series – Three Years That Changed the World

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.”
(John 14:1)

- ✓ These words; ***“Let not your heart be troubled”*** are noteworthy for several reasons:
 - The heart is not just an organ that pumps blood throughout our bodies to keep us alive, it is the center of our personality – the very essence of our individual uniqueness.
 - When we allow ourselves to be connected to God through faith, our heart can be guided, sustained and comforted even during the most tragic losses we might have to endure.

“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it” Proverbs 4:23

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.”
(John 14:1)

- ✓ These words; ***“Let not your heart be troubled”*** are noteworthy for several reasons:
 - The 11 remaining disciples (excluding Judas Iscariot) just witnessed the declaration by Jesus that one of them was going to betray him.
 - Imagine the troubled and no doubt anxious thoughts that were swirling in the minds and hearts of Jesus’ closest followers in the confines of the upper room. This was literally **the night before** Jesus would be nailed to a cross and die.
 - Although prior to this; Jesus tried to prepare them for what was about to take place but now he would begin to help them to understand why.

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.”
(John 14:1)

- ✓ These words; ***“Let not your heart be troubled”*** are noteworthy for several reasons:
 - Jesus knew the heart (the depths of their very soul and spirit) of each of the disciples and he already knew that each of them were deeply troubled
 - These words were not just words of comfort to them but a command to “stop it” and trust him.
 - A very similar command was given to Abram when he was concerned about a future heir; After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: *“Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward”* Genesis 15:1)

“Let not your heart be troubled; **you believe in God, believe also in Me.**”
(John 14:1)

- ✓ These words; “***you believe in God, believe also in Me***” are also noteworthy for several reasons:
 - Jesus once again affirms his deity
 - This statement meant Jesus was equal with God and they should have the same faith in him as they had in God
 - Because he is equal with God, they could trust Jesus the same as they trusted in God
 - The disciple could place all faith and hope in Jesus because he is God
 - The equality with God that Jesus is claiming here expects the disciples to believe as Abraham did, as Moses did and as David did.

“Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness”
(Genesis 15:6)

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

“In you, Lord my God, I put my trust.” (Psalm 25:1)

Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for **you are God my Savior,** and my hope is in you all day long. (Psalm 25:4-5)

“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”

(John 14:2-3)

- ✓ Jesus was telling his disciples that their separation from him would not be permanent. If it were not true, then he would not be God.
- ✓ What house is Jesus referring to? The most logical conclusion (based on the context of this passage) is that Jesus is referring to heaven.
- ✓ Heaven is vast and beyond the disciples and our limited comprehension

“If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.” (Hebrews 11:15-16)

“But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly” (Hebrews 12:22)

“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”**

(John 14:2-3)

- ✓ Heaven is vast and home to thousands upon thousands of angels and other people who because of their faith in God have transferred from their earthly dwelling place to their heavenly one either by death or at the rapture. (I Corinthians 15:51-54, I Thessalonians 4:13-18)
- ✓ Given the number of heavenly dwellers (those who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ), the reference to “many rooms” or “many dwelling places” or as in the KJV “many mansions” simply describes a place/home where God dwells and where he has added enough rooms to accommodate those who are His.
- ✓ This is a glimpse of what Jesus is preparing: (Read all of Revelation 21)

“I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ” (Revelation 21:2-3)

“You know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:4-6)

- ✓ By this point in the conversation – the disciples must have concluded that Jesus was telling them he was going to die.
- ✓ Their understanding of things beyond death (the grave) were limited. There was no evidence, either from their understanding of revealed scripture nor from what has been recorded in the 4 gospel accounts that either of the 11 remaining disciples fully understood what Jesus was saying.
- ✓ Thomas was bold enough to make the statement showing their lack of understanding – *“Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way”*. They had the information they needed but it won’t be until Jesus dies and rises from the dead along with the indwelling of the Spirit before they fully understand.

“You know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” **Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”** (John 14:4-6)

✓ This is the 6th of the seven “I Am” statements (deity claims of Jesus) in John’s Gospel

1. “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35)
2. “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12)
3. “I am the door/gate” (John 10:7)
4. “I am the good shepherd” (John 10:11)
5. “I am the resurrection and the Life” (John 11:25)
6. **“I am the way, the truth and the life”**(John 14:6)
7. “I am the true vine” (John 15:1-5)

✓ Jesus is the Way because he is the Truth and the Life

“You know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” **Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”** (John 14:4-6)

✓ **Jesus alone is the way to God:**

“Therefore, Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:7-9)

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

“You know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” **Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”** (John 14:4-6)

✓ **Jesus alone is truth:**

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth”
(John 1:14)

“You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me” (John 18:37)

“To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32)

“You know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” **Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”** (John 14:4-6)

✓ **Jesus alone is life:**

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **In him was life**, and **that life was the light of all mankind**. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:14)

“For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself” (John 5:26)

“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26)

“If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?” (John 14:7-9)

- ✓ This was probably a continued response to the question by Thomas in which Jesus is helping them to understand exactly who he is:
 - Thomas asked; “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so **how can we know the way?**”
 - Jesus responded; “**I am the way** and the truth and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through me**”
 - By saying; “I am the way” – Jesus is claiming to be equal with God, the only way to God because Jesus is God manifested in the flesh. **There can be no other explanation**

“If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus answered: **“Don’t you know me, Philip,** even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?” (John 14:7-9)

- ✓ Had the claims of Jesus been false or even proven false (which they never have) he could not be God for that would make him a liar.
- ✓ It won’t be until Jesus rises from the dead (after his crucifixion) and ascends to the Father, before his closest disciples fully grasp the deity of Christ and the relationship of Jesus to the Father.
- ✓ How each person reacts to Christ’s claim will determine his or her eternal destiny:

“But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins” (John 8:24)

“Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me?” The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. **Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;** or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves” (John 14:10-11)

- ✓ It would be easy to criticize the disciples in this moment and perhaps Jesus’s mild rebuke to Thomas and Phillip was all that was needed to get his point across
- ✓ The disciples had the privilege of being with Jesus but each of them in their own way would come to a full understanding of who Jesus is over time. Just like us – the disciples (by faith) had to trust and believe that Jesus was who he claimed to be
- ✓ Paul will later write these words to help us all understand:

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: **Who, being in very nature God,** did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, **being made in human likeness.** And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,** in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and **every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,** to the glory of God, the Father.” (Philippians 2:5-11)

“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it” (John 14:12-14)

- ✓ All you have to do is read the book of Acts to see this come true. The “works” were greater in outreach (beyond just the region of Palestine) not greater in power
 - Peter heals a lame man (Acts 3:1-10)
 - Multiple healing, miracles and casting out demons (Acts 5:12-16)
 - Phillip cast out demons, and many others were healed (Acts 8:4-8)
 - Aeneas (paralyzed and bedridden for 8 years was healed (Acts 9:32-36)
 - Tabitha (Dorcas) became sick and died. Peter commanded her to arise from the dead and she did. (Acts 9:36-43)

- ✓ There were many more instances of miracles, wonders and signs performed by the Apostles who received power and authority from the Holy Spirit, and all done in the name of Jesus. (Acts 1:8)

“If you love me, keep my commands.” And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” (John 14:15-17)

- ✓ The expectations for a proper display/pattern of love has been set by Jesus himself
- ✓ Their love for Christ was to be shown through obedience to his commands

“We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. **But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them.** This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did” (I John 2:3-6)

“If you love me, keep my commands. **And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth.** The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” (John 14:15-17)

- ✓ This is the first of several references to the Holy Spirit during the “Upper Room” discourse by Jesus as recorded in John 14-17.
 - The word “advocate” is also translated “helper” or “counselor”. The “advocate” is identified here as the “Spirit of truth”
 - The Spirit of truth is the Holy Spirit – the third person of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). One God yet manifested in three distinct persons.

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14:26)

“If you love me, keep my commands. **And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth.** The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” (John 14:15-17)

- ✓ The use of the Greek word (*allos*) in this text which is translated “another” in English, refers specifically to “another of the same kind” and not (*heteros*) which can be translated as different in nature.
- ✓ This is the promise Jesus makes to them – the Father will send “another” exactly like himself. The Spirit of truth will teach them, strengthen them, and intercede on their behalf. **The Holy Spirit would be with them forever!**

“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.” (John 15:26-27)

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. **The world cannot accept him**, because it neither sees him nor knows him. **But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.**” (John 14:15-17)

- ✓ An unbeliever (one who refuses to believe in Jesus) cannot comprehend spiritual truth for they have no “spiritual life”

“The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 2:14)

“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. (1 John 2:20-23)

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.” (John 14:18-20)

- ✓ This departure is in reference to his death on the cross (something Jesus was preparing them for), but he had no plans to leave them without support.
- ✓ The disciples would experience the loss of the very one they have followed, trusted and believed in but Jesus tells them that this loss will only be temporary
- ✓ They will see him again – for Jesus will rise from the dead and will once again walk with them, teach them and prepare them for the anointing of the Holy Spirit who will be with them forever. (John 20:1-31, Acts 1-2)

*“After his suffering, he presented himself to them and **gave many convincing proofs that he was alive.** He **appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.** On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but **in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**” (Acts 1:3-5)*

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- ✓ The “world” (those who choose to not believe in Jesus) was put on notice that they may crucify the one who came to save mankind from his sin **but that rejection come with the consequences** of not seeing him anymore.

“As for you, you were **dead in your transgressions and sins**, in which you used to live **when you followed the ways of this world** and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient” (Ephesians 2:1-2)

“But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will **follow their own ungodly desires.**” These are the people who divide you, **who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.** (Jude1:17-19)

“And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:15)

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, **but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.** On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.” (John 14:18-20)

✓ **The disciples would see Jesus again after he rose from the dead:**

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, **Jesus came and stood in the midst,** and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. **Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord**” (John 20:19-20)

✓ **Because Jesus live the disciples would also live:**

“**But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,** the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, **so in Christ all will be made alive.**” (I Corinthians 15:20-22)

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. **On that day** you will realize that **I am in my Father**, and you are in me, and I am in you.” (John 14:18-20)

- ✓ This reference “on **that day**” probably encompasses the resurrection, his appearance to them, the 40 days he spent with them, his ascension into heaven and the indwelling of the Spirit at Pentecost.
- ✓ After all those combined events how could there be any doubt in the minds of the disciples as to who Jesus is!

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: **Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him**, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. **But God raised him from the dead**, freeing him from the agony of death, **because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him**” (Acts 2:22-24)

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.” (John 14:18-20)

“You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, **he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you**.” (Romans 8:9-11)

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39)

“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?” Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.” (John 14:21-24)

- ✓ Keeping the commands of Jesus shows that the person loves him. It has always been that way as it is a sign of obedience.
- ✓ Obedience isn't the cause of salvation, but it is the result of it
- ✓ You cannot reject Christ and at the same time; truly know, love, or honor God

“Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.” (John 5:22-23)

“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” **Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”** Jesus replied, **“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching.** These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.” (John 14:21-24)

- ✓ The one asking the question is **Judas** (son of James – Luke 6:16), also called **Thaddeus** (Matthew 10:3) and it is connected to this earlier statement by Jesus; ***“Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live”*** (John 14:19)
- ✓ Those who show love for Jesus by obeying his commands will be loved by God, he will dwell with them, and they will have eternal life and be with God forever (John 3:16)
- ✓ Those who do not love and obey Jesus will lose the privilege of seeing him and lose the privilege of spending eternity with him. (John 3:17-21)

“All this I have spoken while still with you. **But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, **will teach you all things** and **will remind you of everything I have said to you**. Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid”

(John 14:25-27)

✓ This response by Jesus is addressed to the apostles and intended to bring comfort and hope to them:

➤ The Holy Spirit will come and dwell with them as he does with all believers

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8)

➤ The Holy Spirit will teach them everything they need to know and many of the apostles will write those words down to share with all believers.

“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. **Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.** Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (John 14:25-27)

- ✓ Even though the unbelieving world is at odds with God, there is still hope because it is not too late to be reconciled to Him and enjoy true eternal peace.

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, **we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” (Romans 5:1-5)

- ✓ Because the sacrifice of Jesus satisfied God’s holiness, we are now made holy

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God”
(II Corinthians 5:21)

“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. **Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid**” (John 14:25-27)

- ✓ When we trust in the goodness, faithfulness and provision of God, he fills us with all joy and peace because we trust him to do so.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13)

- ✓ Believers can and should allow Christ’s peace to help us remain in harmony and at one with him. That is the purpose of **at-one-ment**.

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” Colossians 3:15)

“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. Come now; let us leave.” (John 14:28-31)

- ✓ Jesus once again reassures his closest disciples that although he is going away (this is in reference to his death on the cross), he is coming back to them.
 - This is true when he rose from the dead and then spends a period of 40 days with his disciples – ***“After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God”*** (Acts 1:3)
 - It will also be true at the rapture of the church (I Thessalonians 4:13-18)

“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ **If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.** I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. Come now; let us leave.” (John 14:28-31)

- ✓ Although Jesus will no longer be visibly present with them, he would still be with them and take care of them through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit
- ✓ Jesus was looking toward the cross (something the disciples didn't fully grasp) where he will lay down his life for them and all who believe and but voluntary chose to be in submission to the Father's will. (Hebrews 2:9, Philippians 2:9-11)
- ✓ Jesus knew the Father would raise him from the dead and return him to his rightful position at his right hand in heaven
- ✓ The phrase, **for the Father is greater than I** does not make Jesus a lesser god/created being (as some teach), only that he was submissive to the Father until his task was done

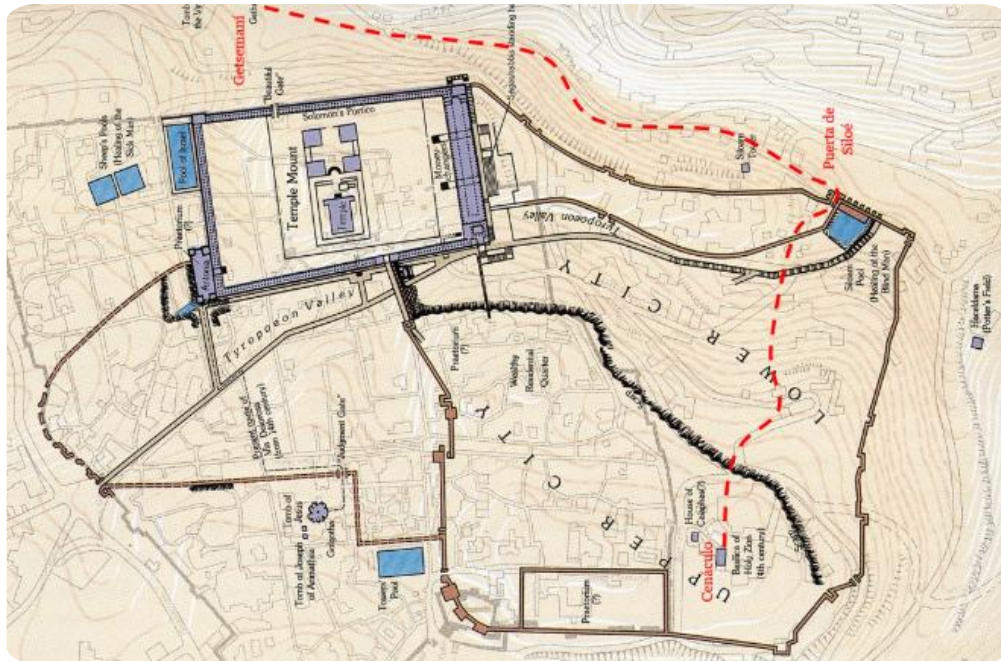
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- ✓ It is interesting to note that the disciples previously affirmed to Jesus their belief that; “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God” (Matthew 16:15-16) but still struggled with doubt.
- ✓ Don’t be too critical of the disciples as we struggle with doubt too!
- ✓ In the same way that God used his prophets to foretell the future to bring hope and peace, Jesus is doing the same here so his disciples would trust him despite what was about to happen.

“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. **I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.** Come now; let us leave.” (John 14:28-31)

- ✓ The reference to the “prince of this world” is clearly speaking of Satan or the Devil
 - He is not the legitimate ruler of this world but an imposter or usurper
 - Perhaps this is better understood to mean that he is the ruler of the “evil world system” (those who reject or stand in rebellion against God).
- ✓ Whatever power Satan has (and he is a very powerful being), he has no power over Jesus. Perhaps Satan will think he has won when Christ is crucified, but after 3 days (when Jesus rises from the dead) Satan’s defeat is secured.

Possible route to Gethsemane



“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. **Come now; let us leave.**” (John 14:28-31)

- ✓ At some point, Jesus and the disciples leave the upper room and begin walking through Jerusalem on their way to Gethsemane where Jesus will eventually be betrayed by Judas Iscariot.
- ✓ As they make that journey - Jesus will continue to teach and prepare the disciples for what was about to take place. We will pick that narrative up in John 15.