

20200510 (5th Sunday of Easter, Christian Family Sunday)

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; John 14:1-14

Jesus Christ's Lesson on Trust

INTRODUCTION

1 N.S. Students Won't be Returning to the Classroom this School Year (Anjuli Patil, CBC News, May 08, 2020)

Nova Scotia students and teachers will not be returning to the classroom this school year. At-home learning will continue until June 5, when the province's school year will end.

"That means your kitchen is a classroom for a little bit longer," Premier Stephen McNeil said during a COVID-19 press briefing on Friday.

I was disappointed by his words, "Your kitchen is a classroom for a little bit longer."

To me, it is not "a little bit" but "a lot." My kitchen has been a classroom for 8 weeks already and I am tired of providing meals, persuading my children to study, and staying with them all the time. Another 4 weeks? Just a little bit longer? Come on, I need a break. I need some positive words from Premier McNeil.



2 Words that Troubled Hearts

The disciples left everything to follow Jesus for 3 years. Finally, they were in Jerusalem, the centre of power and religion. They expected something good to happen and some positive words from Jesus. Against their expectations,

- Jesus spoke of betrayal and death (Jn 13:21)
- Jesus said that he was leaving them (Jn 13:33).
- Jesus told them that Peter would deny him (Jn 13:38).

For the disciples, these words troubled their hearts greatly.

Theme: What is a remedy for the anxious and troubled heart?

BODY

1 REMEDY #1: TRUST HIS WORDS

1.1 The Biggest Lies (Compiled from multiple Internet sites; submitted by Jerry De Luca)

Some of the biggest lies ever told:

“The cheque is in the mail.”

“You get this one; I'll pay next time.”

“My wife doesn't understand me.”

“Of course I love you.”

“I never watch television except for PBS.”

“But we can still be good friends.”

“She means nothing to me.”

“Sorry, we can't come to the phone right now.”

“Trust me, I'll take care of everything.”



You may have heard these words yourself. However, were you able to tell if they were spoken in truth or as a lie?

1.2 Lie or Truth

“Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.” (John 16:1)

The disciples weren't sure whether His words were true or not.

Jesus didn't say that the disciples had no reason to be troubled.

Jesus had told them that there was a traitor, that He would leave them that night, and that one of them would deny Him.

Jesus urged His disciples to put their trust in God and in Jesus Himself because of God's love instead of focusing on their troubled hearts.

“And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love” (Romans 8:38, NLT).

We know Jesus himself was troubled as well. But as he would trust in God the Father, God's love would bring comfort and peace to his troubled heart.

Jesus knows that we have lived and continue to live a troubled life. But He promised that we could have comfort and peace when we continue to trust in the Father and His love.

2 REMEDY #2: TRUST YOU HAVE A PLACE IN HEAVEN

2.1 My Father's Home in Korea

My father has lived in the same apartment in Busan, South Korea for twenty years.

It was brand new when he first settled down. Now it's a bit old and looks small.

You may live in a bigger or newer or better house than the one my father lives in.

But I would not exchange your house with my father's.

I sometimes call it "my father's house," but more often refer to it as "my father's home" because the person who is important to me lives there.

I know although there are not many rooms in my father's home, I have a place to stay when I visit him.

I know he will open his arms and welcome me.

I know he will enjoy coffee breaks, walking in the park, and making conversation with me.

2.2 My Father's Home in Heaven

"In my Father's house are many rooms... I am going there to prepare a place for you" (Jn 14:2-3, NIV).

① Most of us take "my Father's house" as heaven because heaven is usually described as the place where God dwells. American Biblical scholar Gail O'Day warns that we should not take "my Father's house" as a synonym for heaven. He concludes, "Throughout the Gospel, location has consistently been a symbol for **relationship**."



② God Is What Makes Heaven from Leith Anderson's "Next Life in the House of the Lord" Heaven is not streets made out of gold, great fountains, lots of fun, and no smog. What makes heaven is God. It is being there with him. With his presence comes peace and contentment, a fulfillment, a sense that all is well.

The person who has a loving relationship with his or her father enjoys privileges in the father's house.

3 Remedy #3: TRUST YOU HAVE A MISSION IN JESUS

3.1 Korean Documentary, Stalled on Refugee highway

Recently, our family watched a documentary regarding refugees from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria making the treacherous journey to Europe.

- Refugees risked their lives in a small rubber boat to cross over to Lesbos Island, Greece from Turkey.
- Many refugees were carrying babies and young children in their arms.
- They slept on streets prior to moving to their next destination.
- They rode tightly packed trains to continue their journey to find a better place to live.

Within the midst of all the struggles and fears were people helping others.

- Some Arab bystanders on the main highway tossed supplies to the refugees such as water, bags of toast, etc.
- A Christian helped push a stroller carrying a sleeping toddler.
- Korean missionaries handed out clothes and visited the refugee camps.



3.2 We Have a Mission to Continue

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father” (Jn 14:12, NLT)

Jesus tells us that God wants a relationship with us, both in this life and beyond. He assures us to continue this wonderful mission in the world.

We know that Jesus’ earthly ministry was limited to a few years and to a small area. However, his disciples went into more places on earth. They did so for many centuries empowered by the Spirit.

We see the promise being fulfilled through the work of the church today: helping refugees, homeless people, those who are isolated, etc.

We can expect Jesus to continue fulfilling the promise until he returns.

CONCLUSION

Refugees risk everything to start their lives over in a place where they feel they have a future. They are looking for a home free from terror, anxiety, and hopelessness.

As Christians, what is a remedy for anxious and troubled hearts?

It is to trust His words.

It is to trust that we have home in Father's house.

It is to continue our mission in this world.

“But I am trusting you, O Lord, saying, ‘You are my God!’

My future is in your hands. Rescue me from those who hunt me down relentlessly” (Ps 31:14-15, NLT)

Thanks be to God. Amen.