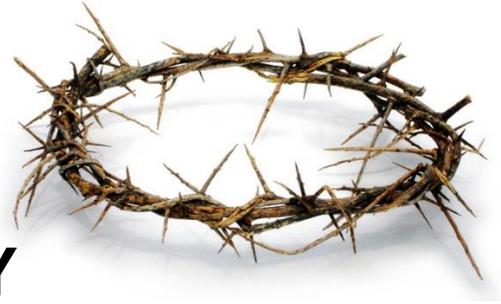


Reading from
GOOD FRIDAY
to
RESURRECTION SUNDAY



Encouragement for Troubled Times

Jesus had shared some difficult news with the disciples in the upper room. He told of the coming betrayal, of his own impending death, and of Peter's denials.

Surely they were anticipating coming trouble, and yet he tells them not to be troubled!

In his parting discourse, John 14-16, he gives them reasons why peace is possible, even in troubled times. These are good encouragements for us as we celebrate the Resurrection this Sunday while our world is in crisis, and we are scattered in our various homes.

Read the following sections of this discourse and identify the resources we have to experience peace amid trouble.

John 14:1-7

Where is the place Jesus is preparing for us, the place he promises to take us? What is the way there...and, can anything stop believers from receiving this promise?

John 14:8-14

What recourse is available to the one who believes in Jesus, at any time and circumstance?

John 14:15-31

When we are loving Jesus, how is that shown? And when we are, are we ever truly alone? Why do you think the Holy Spirit is named here the "Helper"?

John 15:1-11

What two things will result from the believer "abiding in Jesus" (v. 5; v. 11)? What encouragement to these bring, even though troubles come?

John 15:12-17

What benefit comes in times of trouble when believers fulfill the commandment Jesus gives here? Have you experienced such benefit in some way through the current Corona Virus Crisis? Have you taken the opportunity to love someone in a practical way?

John 15:18-27

Perhaps this is encouragement that comes through the back door. What does the hatred of the world indicate about the believer's relationship to God and their future hope?

John 16:1-16

Why is Jesus' departure and absence (a very troubling thought) actually going to be for the advantage of the believers? When they face challenges and uncertainty, what help will they receive?

John 16:16-24

What will bring joy when sorrow is past? How enduring will that joy be?

John 16:25-33

Jesus plainly states that his intention in sharing these final thoughts with the disciples was that, though he will be going back to the Father, and though they will face trouble in the world, they will have peace in him. As he finishes these thoughts, what is the final and ultimate reality that can provide peace even in times of trouble, v. 33?

How are you doing as we go through a season of world crisis caused by the invasion of a virus?

It is perhaps a different kind of trouble, and a new experience for all of us. Yet Jesus offered to his disciples, and now to us, words of comfort and encouragement that may be found through faith in Jesus in just such times of trouble! Let his words minister to your hearts, and let the DCC body of Christ minister to you on his behalf if you are struggling at this time.

Give us a call with your prayer request or need, 503-658-3179.

Let's love one another well and walk together with courage and hope because of the wonderful promises of God.



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