

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
 - A. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)
 - B. The Son of God Rejected (5:1-12:36)
 - C. Conclusion (12:37-50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
 - A. Introduction: He knew His hour had come (13:1)
 - B. Jesus Prepares the Disciples for His Departure (13:2-17:26)
 - C. Jesus Departs this world to the Father (18:1-20:29)
 - D. Conclusion: Purpose of the Gospel (20:30-31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

Dealing with a Troubled Heart

Gospel of John, Part XLVIII

John 13:38-14:4

Stuart W. Bryan

I. True Wisdom

"Nearly all the wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves." John Calvin

II. Where are you going?

- A. Peter's Question & Jesus' Response (36)
- B. Peter's Assertion & Jesus' Response (37-38)
- C. Jesus' Encouragement to the Twelve (14:1-4 cf. 1:29; 2:16)

III. Dealing with a Troubled Heart

A. Causes of Trouble

Notice in our text today we have several different causes of trouble. Jesus has announced that one of the Twelve will betray Jesus (21), that He is departing from them (33), and that Peter, their spokesman and the strongest among them, will deny Jesus (38). Who wouldn't be tempted to discouragement?

B. Dealing with Trouble

- 1. Beware your strengths (6:66-69; 15:5; 19:10-11; cf. Ez 36:27; Phil 2:12)

Peter is living in the wrong story. He is living in the story where Jesus' *glorification* means Jesus' *military victory*. But that is not the story Jesus is living. Jesus says to Peter, "*Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?*" Peter can't face that story. He cannot see a pathway to glory that includes suffering. So he denies the Lord.

The source for a thriving, strong spiritual walk and a thriving, strong spiritual community is the _____ of God. Chrysostom (c. 349-407) reminds us, "*your love is of no account unless grace from above is present. From this it is clear that Christ permitted [this] fall of Peter's because of His concern for him... so that [Peter] might learn his own weakness.*"

The Westminster Confession of Faith declares that believers' *"ability to do good works is not at all of themselves, but wholly from the Spirit of Christ. and that they may be enabled thereunto, beside the graces they have already received, there is required an actual influence of the same Holy Spirit, to work in them to will, and to do, of His good pleasure..."* (WCF, 16.3). In other words, holiness is not something produced by us out of gratitude for God's previous work in our lives, it is something produced by Him as we continue to look to Him in faith (cf. Phil 2:12; Ezek 36:27).

2. Trust God's Sovereign Plan (cf. Ps 46:1-3)

How does faith in the Triune God, the Father and the Son and the Spirit, enable us to face trouble? First, we can trust God's sovereign _____. The Twelve did not understand what Jesus was telling them. How would all these things work out? How could His departure be for their advantage? They couldn't see the whole story. So they are troubled.

And Jesus says to them, *"Look, I know what I am doing! I am in control. This is part of the plan. Don't despair! Judas' treachery is part of the plan; Peter's denial is part of the plan; My departure is part of the plan! Trust Me!"* He says the same to us in the midst of our troubles.

3. Trust God's Forgiving Grace (2:16; Heb 9:23-28; 1 Thes 4:16-18; 1 Jn 2:1-2)

Second, we can trust God's forgiving grace. His plan includes our salvation. The only other time Jesus uses the phrase *"My Father's house"* in John's Gospel is in 2:16. There He rebukes the money-changers, *"Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"* *"My Father's house"* is the _____.

So Jesus is assuring the Twelve that they will, through His work, dwell with God forever. They will enter into heaven itself and enjoy peace with God. As Paul will later explain in the book of Hebrews:

Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

IV. Conclusion