



[Rev. Steven S. Billings](#)

Sermon for Easter 5

May 3, 2026

Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

John 14:1–14

¹ [Jesus says:] “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

⁵ Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

⁷ “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”

⁸ Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

¹² “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³ And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

Jesus told His disciples that He was going away, and although they didn't really understand what that meant, at least they knew that it implied a separation – a separation so severe that it would test their faith beyond anything they had experienced so far. Their hearts filled with dread at the very thought of the things which were about to happen, for they knew that, even as Jesus was talking to them, His enemies were gathering and preparing to capture Him. And though it was He Himself who would be taken prisoner, Jesus says: "Whatever happens, do not let your hearts be troubled. You trust in God; trust also in Me. Don't let anything rob you of your trust in God and your faith in Me."

And what does He then give them to strengthen their faith? He says: "You know the way to the place where I am going. No matter what the days ahead may bring, you know



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what the end will be: I am going to My Father's house in heaven. And in the Father's house there is not only room enough for Me; there are many mansions – room for all of you; and I am going there to prepare a place for every one of you." What comfort that must have been! Yes, they would certainly miss Him, but they knew where He was headed, they knew where He would be, they knew where to find Him. Oh, they might see hard times; they might even wind up homeless here on earth; but there was a home for them above – a home no one could ever take away. And Jesus Himself, their beloved Master, would precede them to prepare a place for them, for each one of them. What more could they possibly have wanted to know? If only they had remembered that, think of all the pain and sorrow, the fear and despondency, they could have been spared over those few days between His death and resurrection.

You see, the sorrow of a Christian differs considerably from that of the world. Worldly people are thrown into a state of panic when they lose money or property or health or reputation. A Christian feels this extreme urgency only when he experiences what the Lord foretold: "In a little while you will see Me no longer." And there are days when we can't see Him, aren't there. There are times when we can't see our Lord, or feel His presence, or taste His love. And this isn't necessarily only in times of trouble. Sometimes we experience this when everything seems okay. Suddenly, we see an overwhelming burden of sin and misery bearing down on us, our world, our land, even upon our church and congregation; we see the spirit of lying unbelief advancing and crowding out faith and the spirit of love, and our hearts weep and lament, and it seems as though the Lord has left us alone in the world, because we can't see Him. We look at our friends, maybe even our relatives, and see so many who couldn't care less about the Savior and His Word; and our hearts ache for them; it seems as though God really is dead. And then we look at ourselves; we see how far we fall short of what we want to be, how ungrateful we are for blessings we receive, how despondent we are, how little our faith is when the dark days come; and our hearts cry, because we can't see Jesus.

But Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled . . . You know the way to the place where I am going." Maybe we don't see Him; still we know where He went and that from the Father's house He rules and governs all things. And besides, He has told us: "I am going to prepare a place for you." This world is God's creation. He made this place for us to live in. With all its faults, it's still a wonderful place, full of the glories of God's creative power. It's a beautiful city, but not an abiding one. And when we return to dust, what then? Spring will come again with all its beauty, but you won't see it; the flowers will bloom again, and they will shed their petals on your grave; and where will you be? We know, don't we!

Beyond the smiling and the weeping,
Beyond the waking and the sleeping,



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Beyond the sowing and the reaping,
The Father's house is my home!

Beyond the parting and the meeting,
Beyond the farewell and the greeting,
Beyond the pulses' fevered beating,
The Father's house is my home!
(Horatius Bonar)

The Father's house! All the beauty of this world is but the hem of His garment. Where it is, no map can show; what it is, no painter can depict, no poet can tell, no music can describe; it is far beyond all human conception. There are many mansions in this world, many pleasant places for us. But remember: "We have here no continuing city"; the abiding city we seek is the Father's house. Do you find more sorrow than joy in life? Let not your heart be troubled; there is the Father's house, and soon He will call His children home. Do you worry what might become of your soul in that last dread hour of death? Remember that the Father's house has many mansions, and His grace will open the door for you and show you a room of your own. Do you mourn departed loved ones? Those who shared your faith in Christ you will find again in your Father's house. What in this world could possibly trouble our hearts when we know that our destiny is the Father's house?

And Jesus says that we know how to get there! Think about this for a moment. Many people hope for a heavenly homeland. But if you ask them: How do you know you'll get there? they won't know what to say. About the best answer you'll get will be some vague generality that means nothing. Oh, there are many mansions in the Father's house; but strait is the gate and narrow the way. Yes, many mansions, but only One who holds the key. Who is He? Who will lead you there?

"Let not your heart be troubled," Jesus says; "you know the way. I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Remember what He said: "In My Father's house are many mansions. It's *His* Father's house, isn't it. To enter that house you must be His brother or sister. "I go to prepare a place for you," He said. And He went alright – to Calvary, that gory road of the cross, to knock at the door of that house with bloody fingers. He went to the Mount of Olives, and when that cloud hid Him from the eyes of His disciples, He had entered that house, and He is even now preparing a place for you.

Yes, *He* is the Way – the *only* Way. "No one comes to the Father except through Me," He says. I know this is hard for some. But mark His words; everyone who boasts of the Father in heaven but denies the same honor to the Son, and would try to enter that door behind His back is in for a rude awakening: "No one comes to the Father *except through*



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Me." Who told us of the Father? Who taught us to pray: "Our Father, who art in heaven"? Who else but the Son, who is One with the Father, who has cleansed this world with His own blood so that we could have the right to call Him "Father?" Who else but Jesus, who was "delivered for our offenses and raised again for our justification"?

Friends, there is no other single truth of the Gospel which our liberal, "open-minded" world needs more than this: No one can come to the Father, or enter the Father's house, except through Christ. Far too many people seem to think that a little morality, a little nod toward some deity of their own choosing, a little wish to reach heaven at the end of their life, [that this] is somehow sufficient to save their soul. But no one comes to the Father except through Christ. No one on earth can truly call God Father unless he has become a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Yes, Jesus is the Way. He is also the Truth and the Life. He *has* life, and He *gives* life; but most of all He *is* Life; and whoever has Him has life, eternal life. Without this Way there is no going; without this Truth there is no knowing; without this Life there is no living. In our text, Thomas was so discouraged. When we look at the world around us, maybe we feel the same way. The battle drags on from year to year, and the fight isn't growing any easier. It seems like there's no victory in sight; many around us are surrendering or compromising. But Jesus Christ is still the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Since He is the Way, we are not lost. Since He is the Truth, we are not blinded by error. Since He is the Life, we are not trapped in a world of decay and death.

"Let not your heart be troubled!" Jesus says. Beloved, look to Him in faith; He will take you through everything, carrying you if need be, to the final goal. Put your faith in Him; trust in Him; lean on Him alone for your salvation, but do it today, for each moment we live we are one step closer, and we may be nearer to home than we think. In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen