

## **Troubled Hearts**

*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. – John 14:1*

There was an invisible storm cloud hanging over the apostles as they partook of the Passover with the Master in the upper room. These men, in typical fashion, had failed to grasp Christ's warnings up to this point. But something in His demeanor had shifted more toward the somber in the past several hours, and they could now sense the palpably foreboding spirit of the moment. Some things transpiring within the past several minutes right here in this room contributed to their unrest – the Lord's sober washing of their feet; His prophesying of the betrayal of one within the circle; Judas' enigmatic exit into the darkness of the night; and finally, the Master's foretelling of Peter's soon-coming denial. These events built in a crescendo that climaxed in a visible uneasiness amongst the Twelve – a consuming dread of where the swift moving current was carrying each of them. It was this specific torment that Jesus decisively rebuked in our text, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me..."

"Let not your heart be troubled..." Jesus invites His disciples – and us – to enact our will. Trouble is going to molest us (many times over) as we travel our pathway from cradle to grave. Difficult times are either here or coming. More than occasionally, the problems we face will seem insurmountable. We, like the apostles, will be feeling the pressure mounting as we realize we have little or no control over the leviathan that is staring us down. But our Lord assures us that we need not permit our hearts to succumb to the fire. We simply need to refuse to permit our spirits to drown in the torrent. "Let not your heart be troubled..." But is it really that simple? If we grasp our Lord's qualifier, the answer becomes evident...

"Ye believe in God." There is a reason you do. This belief is more than mental acceptance. It is faith born of experience. You are a believer because you have already wrestled with your unbelief. You have subjected your reason to saving faith, which opened up an eternal perspective that you cannot now abandon due to some temporal ill. Remember who you are – one of God's own.

"Believe also in me." Our God is not merely an ethereal spirit in some distant corner of the universe. His thoughts about you are overwhelmingly humbling. He loved you so much that He became like you. He took not on Him the nature of angels, but you. The Lord Jesus humbled Himself unto death and received a Name above every name. You can believe in your Christ. His love is transforming. His Word is sure. His grace is sufficient. He is for you.

What is troubling you today? Is it too big a thing for your Lord to conquer? He humiliated Satan on a cruel cross, He conquered death and hell through an empty grave, and He is soon going to appear in flaming fire taking vengeance on His enemies and banishing all evil from His kingdom. Your present problem is undoubtedly real, but it is not mightier than your Savior. Let not your heart be troubled.

-- D. Murcek