

Sermon for May 3, 2026 – The 5th Sunday of Easter

John 14:1-6 NIV84

Theme: **Trust replaces trouble when you know:**

- 1) Who God is,
- 2) What Jesus is doing,
- 3) And how Jesus alone brings you to the Father.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ² In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Imagine being a disciple on the eve of Jesus’ crucifixion - celebrating the Passover with the Lord you love. It ought to be a joyful time. But Jesus talks about being betrayed, handed over, and leaving this world.

Then He says that you will abandon Him. Could that be true? With Peter, our pride shouts, “Never!” Yet His words still sting because, deep down, you know you are capable of denying Him.

Confused, sad, and afraid of denying Jesus under pressure – can you imagine feeling that way? I think we all can. Our situation is different from the disciples’, but the overall temptations and turmoil inside are the same.

For example, a loved one becomes seriously ill. You pray and pray, but nothing seems to change. Anxiety rises. You feel the urge to bargain with God, or even blame Him, because you can’t imagine how any good can come from this.

Or maybe you fall again into a sin you hate – a habit that won’t let go. You try to break it, but something always triggers you, and you fall. Shame and guilt flood your feelings. You believe Christ forgives sins, but you start to wonder, “Will He really forgive me?”

Our hearts are often troubled with such guilt, shame, fear, and sadness that we cry out: “Lord, in your mercy, save me! Help me! Do not forsake or abandon me.”

To such anxious hearts Jesus speaks the words of our sermon text, inviting us to **replace trouble with trust by remembering:**

- 1) Who God is,
- 2) What Jesus is doing,
- 3) And how Jesus alone brings you to the Father.

Part One: Remember who God is.

Jesus says:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.”

Why do we face trouble in life? We face it because sin has infected every part of this world - including our own hearts. Sin separates us from the everlasting life God created us to have with Him. Because of sin, this world is under a curse, and life is filled with pain and problems.ⁱ

Yet God allows these troubles, not because He delights in hurting us, but to wake us up to our need for Him. Our sins have broken our relationship with Him and made us deserve hell. We are not OK on our own; we need His merciful love and forgiveness.

When troubles drive us to cry out to Him, Jesus responds:

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God.

Yes, trust in who God is: holy, almighty, all-knowing, and all-loving. Scripture says He does not take pleasure in anyone’s death, but wants us to turn from our evil ways and live.ⁱⁱ God does not delight in human suffering, but uses it for His own good purpose of exposing our sins, drawing us back to Himself, and loosening our grip on this world so that we cling more tightly to Christ. He transforms even our darkest trials into mercies we could not have anticipated.

“Trust in God,” Jesus says - the God who calls himself not only holyⁱⁱⁱ, but also love.^{iv} How does He show His love? The apostle John tells us: *For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*^v

That's why Jesus not only invites us to trust in God, but adds:

Trust also in me.

Why trust Jesus? Because He is God: the Son the Father sent to save us. In just hours, Jesus would be arrested, tried, and crucified. He had the power to stop it, but He didn't. Why? So He could offer His perfect life in place of ours, paying for our sins so fully that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

How are our troubled hearts calmed? Only by trusting in who God is and what He has done to save us. And where do we see God’s heart most clearly? In Jesus, who is the fullness of the deity in bodily form.^{vi}

Understand, then, that the fullness of God’s love towards you is not measured by what you feel or experience in life. It is revealed in Jesus and His cross. Your God has not abandoned you to loneliness, guilt, fear, or shame. He loves you. He is with you, even if you do not see Him. Trust in Him. Trust His Word, for only in the Gospel do you find Jesus and hear the great things He has done and still does for you.

Part Two: Remember what Jesus is doing.

Jesus continues:

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

Think about the word “home.” Even if our earthly homes were not ideal, the very idea of home evokes feelings of safety, peace, and belonging. We all long to love and be loved in a family where we truly belong.

God implanted that longing in our hearts. Why? Because He wants us - rebellious runaways by nature - back home with Him.

The Father's house is immense, never lacking space. More importantly, He wants you as a member of His family: rejoicing in Him with your brothers and sisters in Christ and living forever under His loving care.

That is why He sent Jesus to prepare a place for you in heaven. How did He do it?

- By perfectly keeping God's law in your place, never once giving in to temptation.
- By dying for your sins on the cross.
- By declaring “*It is finished,*”^{vii} announcing that the way to the Father's house is open.
- By rising from the dead to prove all sin is forgiven,
- By ascending into heaven to send His Spirit so you could receive His salvation in faith and be welcomed home in His Father's house on the Last Day.

For much of my adult life, I lived far away from my mom. Whenever I planned a visit, she would clean my room, plan activities I would enjoy, and cook my favourite meals. She put a lot of love into preparing for my arrival.

As special as that was, it pales next to the loving care Jesus pours into preparing for your arrival in heaven. He, your almighty Creator and Saviour, genuinely delights in the thought of sharing eternity with you in paradise.

Oh, how great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are.^{viii} We are His children, solely by grace.

Jesus continues:

³ *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*

What a beautiful promise: Jesus is coming back to bring you home. Not only will He do this at the hour of your death, when His angels will carry your soul to Him in heaven; He will do this on the Last Day, when He himself will come to raise the dead – believers to everlasting life, and those who rejected him to everlasting shame and contempt.^{ix}

Even now, He does not leave you waiting empty-handed. In His Word and at His table, He comes to you – giving you His body and blood as a foretaste of the heavenly feast He has prepared for your homecoming. Every time you receive His Supper, He is present, assuring you, “Your sins are forgiven. Your room is ready. I am coming soon.”

Whenever anxiety grips you and your heart feels torn by troubles, turn again to Jesus in repentance and faith. Remember what He is doing for you. Even if you feel forgotten, He has not abandoned you. His Spirit is with you. Your room is prepared. It is ready to be received through faith. And He is coming to take you back home to Himself in heaven – for only He can bring you to the Father.

Part Three: Remember that Jesus alone brings you to the Father.

Jesus says:

⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Even though Jesus' words seem clear to us, I understand why Thomas didn't feel the same. We have the benefit of hindsight; the disciples didn't. They just heard Jesus speak about betrayal, denial and death without fully understanding what He meant. No wonder they felt confused.

Thomas asked, “*Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?*”

Jesus lovingly reminds him: He is going to the Father, and the only way to the Father is through Him - not through our works, not through our merit, only through Jesus.

This is vital to remember because the world speaks differently. The world claims that how you live or what you believe doesn't matter because all roads lead to heaven. “Just be yourself and do what you think is right because that’s all that matters.”

God's Word speaks differently. It says, “*There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it is the road to death.*”^x There is only one way to God: through faith in Jesus alone.

Jesus says:

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Christian faith is, in a sense, the most inclusive and exclusive religion in the world.

- Inclusive: Jesus paid for the sins of the whole world – regardless of who you are, what you’ve done, or where you come from. God reconciled the world to himself in Christ, not counting any person’s sins against them.^{xi} Everyone is invited to receive this gift through faith
- Exclusive: This salvation is only received through repentance and faith in Jesus. He is the narrow gate to heaven.^{xii} Only He can bring us to the Father, because only He came from the Father and returned to Him.^{xiii}

Because this is true, Jesus is *the way* – the only way – by which we come to God. We must submit ourselves to His Word because only He can tell us *the truth* about God and our relationship with Him.

The Bible says that, just as no one really knows a man’s thoughts except the man’s spirit, so no one knows God’s thoughts except God’s Spirit.^{xiv} And that Spirit lives in Christ, in whom *all the fullness of God’s being dwells bodily*.^{xv}

And what truth does Jesus reveal? Simply this: that we are sinners, separated from God and unable to save ourselves — and that He is the Saviour who paid for our sins and reconciled us to God.

In Him alone you have life, because He is the life. Sin separated you from God, leaving you spiritually dead. But, by reconciling humanity to God, Jesus reunites us with the Father. Through faith in Him, you become spiritually alive, as He himself said: *“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even if he dies. And whoever lives and believes in me will never perish.”*^{xvi}

Jesus has raised you from spiritual death to life by creating faith in your heart through the Gospel. And He will come again at the end of time to give your body everlasting life with Him in paradise on the Last Day.

Therefore, brothers and sisters in Christ, do not let your hearts be troubled by anything.

- Trust in who God is: holy, almighty, and overflowing with undeserved love for you in Christ.
- Trust in what Jesus is doing: preparing a home for you in His Father’s house and coming again to take you there.
- Fix your eyes on Christ alone, for He alone brings you to the Father. He is faithful, keeping everyone of His promises.

Yes, dear Christian, because of Jesus you can confess with the Apostle Paul in all your troubles:

The Lord will rescue me from every evil work and will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.^{xvii}

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- ⁱ Cf. Genesis 3:16-19; Romans 8:18-25
ⁱⁱ Cf. Ezekiel 18:32
ⁱⁱⁱ Cf. Leviticus 19:2
^{iv} Cf. John 4:8,16
^v John 3:16 EHV
^{vi} Cf. Colossians 2:9
^{vii} John 19:30 EHV
^{viii} 1John 3:1 NIV84
^{ix} Cf. Daniel 12:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18
^x Proverbs 14:12 EHV
^{xi} Cf. 2 Corinthians 5:19 EHV
^{xii} Cf. Matthew 5:14, Luke 13:24, John 10:7-9
^{xiii} Cf. John 3:13,31-36
^{xiv} 1 Corinthians 2:11 EHV
^{xv} Colossians 2:9 EHV
^{xvi} John 11:25-26 EHV
^{xvii} 2 Timothy 4:18 EHV