



# Calvary of Albuquerque

A Theology for Messy Lives - John 14:1-6

From the Series, Believe:879

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## MESSAGE SUMMARY

Life can be pretty messy sometimes: plans fail, people leave, money diminishes, and taxes rise. There are plenty of reasons to be troubled these days but there are better reasons not to be! Life was about to get real messy for those disciples around that Jerusalem dinner table. At times like that, there are some basic instructions we need to fall back on so our hearts inside us won't be swallowed up by the mess around us.

## OUTLINE

I. Messy Lives Should be Controlled (v. 1.a)

II. Messy Lives Must Have a Cure (vv. 1.b-4)

1. Think of Who You Know
2. Think of Where You'll Go
3. Think of What's Ahead

III. Messy Lives Can be Confused (vv. 5-6)



## Pondering the Principles:

1. What is your greatest fear? How do you face it? What do you tell yourself when those fears assail you? Do you face it alone? Why? How can Jesus' words change your relationship to fear?
2. What does "trusting God" mean to you in practical terms? Take out a dollar bill or a quarter and read it. How many people can really say, "In God We Trust"?

## DETAILED NOTES

### I. Introduction

- A. Life can be a mess; challenge our theology
- B. "Life isn't like a book. Life isn't logical or sensible or orderly. Life is a mess most of the time. And theology must be lived in the midst of that mess." —Charles Colson in his book, *Loving God*.

### C. For the disciples

1. Hopes had risen
  - a. Jesus' coming to Jerusalem
  - b. Raised Lazarus from the dead
  - c. Riding the donkey into Jerusalem; crowds shouting, "Hosanna!"
  - d. Positions of authority in the kingdom
2. Hopes fell
  - a. "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." (John 12:24)
  - b. Jesus spoke of betrayal by one of them
  - c. Jesus spoke of his impending death
  - d. What if...
    - i. Jesus does die?
    - ii. This is the end of all we have come to know and believe these last 3.5 years?
    - iii. This is it?

### D. For us

1. "Last night, while I lay thinking here,  
Some Whatifs crawled inside my ear  
And pranced and partied all night long  
And sang their same old Whatif song:  
Whatif I'm dumb in school?

Whatif they've closed the swimming pool?  
 Whatif I get beat up?  
 Whatif there's poison in my cup?  
 Whatif I start to cry?  
 Whatif I get sick and die?  
 Whatif I flunk that test?  
 Whatif green hair grows on my chest?  
 Whatif nobody likes me?  
 Whatif a bolt of lightning strikes me?  
 Whatif I don't grow tall?  
 Whatif my head starts getting smaller?  
 Whatif the fish won't bite?  
 Whatif the wind tears up my kite?  
 Whatif they start a war?  
 Whatif my parents get divorced?  
 Whatif the bus is late?  
 Whatif my teeth don't grow in straight?  
 Whatif I tear my pants?  
 Whatif I never learn to dance?  
 Everything seems swell, and then  
 The nighttime Whatifs strike again!"—Shel Silverstein

2. What if...
  - a. I lose my job?
  - b. I lose my home?
  - c. I get sick?
  - d. The economy gets worse?
3. We need truth
  - a. That will haul us out of the mess and place us in the capable arms of a powerful and loving God
  - b. That when we feel like stopping, gives us the courage to keep going
  - c. We have it!

## II. Messy Lives Should be Controlled (v. 1a)

- A. "Let not your heart be troubled" is a commandment
  1. Present passive imperative
  2. Not: don't ever start worrying or being troubled, but stop something already going on.
    - a. "I know you're already troubled; I know your know life is messy. Stop being troubled! Get a grip!"
    - b. "Let not your heart continue to be agitated" (Wuest translation)
- B. Ταράσσω, tarassó: stirred up; agitated
  1. "For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water;" (John 5:4)
  2. "Now My soul is troubled" (John 12:27)
- C. Since it is a command, our response can be controlled
  1. Whenever God gives a command, He gives the built-in capability to keep the command
  2. He would never give you a command you can't keep (i.e., jump over the moon)
  3. If Jesus says, "Get a grip!" a grip can be gotten
- D. As a Christian, you have the power to control your thought life
  1. "Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ," (2 Corinthians 10:5)
  2. "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind," (Romans 12:2)
  3. "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind," (1 Peter 1:13)
  4. "So think clearly and exercise self-control." (1 Peter 1:13 NLT)
- E. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, the most commonly reported mental health issue in America is anxiety:
  1. 13 million Americans spend the better part of their day feeling anxious
  2. They are not managing the mess; the mess is managing them
- F. Christians should be realists (not idealists or pessimists)
  1. Idealist
    - a. Sees life as ideal; through "rose-colored glasses"
    - b. Dangerous, because when life doesn't go according to plan, they crumble
  2. Pessimist
    - a. Always negative; always bad
    - b. Sees Satan everywhere
  3. Realist (believer)
    - a. Sees a fallen, skin-scarred world
    - b. Knows there is a God who has the answers and resources to deal with that world
    - c. Jesus knows there are many reasons to be troubled in this world, but there are many more reasons not to be

## III. Messy Lives Must Have a Cure (vv. 1b-4)

- A. Jesus doesn't tell us just to stop worrying; He gives concrete reasons
  1. Not, "Don't Worry be Happy" (Bobby McFerrin)
  2. Consider:
    - a. How does what you believe affect your life in the mess?
    - b. Does your faith really matter?
    - c. What you really believe comes to the surface when times are bad
    - d. Your faith is tested
  3. "The difference between a great Christian life and any other kind lies in the quality of our religious concepts . . . i.e., what

we think of God, what we believe about Him." —A.W. Tozer

B. Think of Who You Know

1. "You believe in God, believe also in me": You trust God; trust also in me
2. Jesus knew His disciples were in for the trial of their lives (watching the One they loved betrayed, crucified, and put in the tomb)
3. Disciples have no reason not to trust Jesus
  - a. Jesus multiplied the bread and fish
  - b. Jesus calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee
  - c. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead
4. In the Upper Room, the disciples didn't have the big picture
5. We today have more reason to trust Him than the disciples had
  - a. They didn't understand the crucifixion would mean salvation
  - b. They didn't understand the cross would be followed by a resurrection
  - c. They didn't understand Jesus would conquer death and offer that hope to millions of others
6. In our own lives, sometimes we don't have the big picture
  - a. "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." (Romans 8:28)
  - b. Trust stops tension; faith stops fear; worship abates worry

C. Think of Where You'll Go

1. The Father's house: heaven
2. The Bible speaks of heaven 532 times
  - a. Country; heavenly country: speaking of its vastness (See Hebrews 11:16)
  - b. City: speaking of the innumerable people (See Hebrews 11:16; Hebrews 12:22)
  - c. Kingdom: God is King, reigning over all
  - d. Paradise: indescribable beauty
  - e. Place of rest: end of toil, tribulation, temptation
3. Heaven is a real place:
  - a. Variety: many mansions
    - i. Greek: Μονή -moné lodging, dwelling-place, room, abode,
    - ii. Latin: mansio- a stopping place, resting place; a room
    - iii. In the Middle East, families grew by adding rooms to their house: there's plenty of room for everyone
    - iv. We will die and go to heaven, eventually we come back to a renewed earth called the Millennial Kingdom for 1000 years
    - v. After that : a new heaven, a new earth, a New Jerusalem (See Revelation 21:10-17)
    - vi. The New Jerusalem will be 15 thousand times the size of London; According to Henry Morris, 20 billion could easily inhabit it with only 35% used for dwelling places. Each person with a cubicle block with 75 acres on each face
  - b. Personalized
    - i. Jesus was a carpenter on earth; He is a custom builder now
    - ii. He has been preparing it for 2000 years
    - iii. He prepared it by dying on the cross: the sacrifice is the preparation that gets us to heaven
    - iv. If Jesus can do what it takes to get you to heaven, don't you think He can help you in the mess now?
  - c. Relationship
    - i. My Father's house
    - ii. Home in the truest sense of the word
    - iii. Not what you have; who you have
    - iv. The Father, the Savior, and believers who have died before will be there
    - v. Jesus will bring with Him all those who sleep in Jesus (See 1 Thessalonians 4:14)

D. Think of What's Ahead

1. Some will die; "Valley of the shadow of death" (Psalm 23:4)
2. Rapture of the church; "Twinkling of an eye" (1 Corinthians 15:52)

IV. Messy Lives Can be Confused (vv. 5-6)

A. Where I go you know and the way you know

1. Jesus had shared incredible truths in the Upper Room
2. He had told them plainly, and they should have known it

B. Thomas:

1. Honest: We do not know, how can we know the way
2. When you are in a mess, you get preoccupied with how you are feeling
  - a. Distracted thoughts keep you off track
  - b. Be honest and clarify what you believe:
    - i. Do I believe that God is good?
    - ii. Do I believe there is life after death?

C. "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (v. 6)

1. Narrow, exclusive dogmatic
2. "I alone, in contradistinction to all others, am the road and the truth and the life. No one goes to the Father except through me." (Wuest translation)
3. "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." (Matthew 7:13-14)
4. Peter: "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

5. There is no other way (no works, ceremony or religion)
6. Truth by nature is dogmatic
7. Heaven is an exclusive place: Do you know the One who prepared it for His own?
  - a. If you know Him, and you know where you are going, that helps you manage life in the mess
  - b. If you refuse to know him, it's going to get a lot messier for you

Greek terms: Ταράσσω, tarassó: stirred up, agitated; Μονή, moné: lodging, dwelling-place, room, abode;

Publication referenced: *Loving God*, by Charles Colson; *What if?* By Shel Silverstein; *Don't Worry Be Happy*, by Bobby McFerrin;

Figures Referenced: A.W. Tozer; Henry Morris;

Cross References: Psalm 23:4; Matthew 7:13-14; John 5:4; John 12:24; John 12:27; Acts 4:12; Romans 8:28; Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 15:52; 2 Corinthians 10:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:14; Hebrews 11:16; Hebrews 12:22; 1 Peter 1:13; Revelation 21:10-17