*“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God[a]; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that 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.”*

**John 14:1-6**

**Let** us begin by saying that Chapter 14 of the Gospel of John is about giving comfort to those who are suffering. The beginning of this chapter is used often during funerals to give assurance to those who are suffering that God is with them. Chapter 14 is necessary because in Chapter 13:33 Jesus is telling His disciples that He is going to leave them. This created a great deal of disturbance and confusion in the life of the disciples. Who would lead them? Who would guide and teach them when He is gone?

**This** is a very important question in every life. When the foundation that holds us together is gone, who will lead us? Who will take care of us? Who will be the glue that holds us together? They could not conceive of Jesus leaving. Their understanding of who Jesus was supposed to be was quite different from His. They thought, they hoped, that He would become the Warrior King that would turn back the oppression of the Roman government. Jesus would restore the kingdom of God on earth in their lifetime.

**This** is why Chapter 14 begins with the assurance that the disciples needed to sustain them during the rest of their training. “**Let not your**

**hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in Me**." Let us stop there. Jesus is saying to the disciples then and to those who for whatever reason cannot feel the presence of Jesus in their midst right now: "Don't fret, do not allow yourself to be troubled. If you believe in God, believe in Me." Verse 2 is very important because it gives the foundation for trusting in Jesus. **Verse 2 "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, I would have told you that, I am going there to prepare a place for you.**" Jesus says, My leaving has a purpose. It is not to abandon you. It is to go and prepare a place so you can be with Me. If there were any other way, I would have told you. I have no secrets from you regarding the kingdom of God and your comfort. Jesus hopes to ease their minds and calm their fears in **Verse 3. "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.**" Jesus is teaching them in **Verse 4. "You know the way to the place where I am going.**" They really didn't know, and Thomas made it clear they did not know. Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way." Thomas thought Jesus was talking about a journey and Jesus was talking about a destination. A destination that would require a spiritual map. Jesus is talking about a relationship with God the Father. This relationship begins with a path to be followed and concludes in a destination where the only currency that can open the gates of heaven is faith.

Jesus says to Thomas and the rest of the disciples. "**I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but by Me.**" When we read this the text is saying there is only way one way to gain entrance. Jesus is saying "**I am the way.**" Jesus is saying I am the path. My life reflects the road that must be traveled. My life is the life

that must be emulated, duplicated, and imitated. I am who you should imitate, pattern your life, pattern your ways after Me. This is what the way means. Jesus goes on to say, "**I am the way the truth, and the life.**" Jesus uses the word life. Jesus is saying look at My life and pattern yourself after My life. The second part of that scripture "**No one comes to the Father except through Me.**" This has two meanings, both are applicable. One, no one can see God without having the same kind of faith in God that Jesus has. Jesus is telling us the starting point of any relationship with God the Father. Believing in Me, Jesus jumps starts our relationship with God. Any faith, peace, strength, empowerment, and wisdom, begins with our relationship with Jesus. If you want to have peace in the midst of your trouble it begins with believing in and trusting in Me. Believing the way I believe. Trusting the way I trust. Loving the Father the way I love God the Father. Jesus is saying to His disciples and to us: I will not abandon you in your time of need. Even when I left, I sent the Holy Spirit to strengthen you, empower you, and give you peace in the midst of all your conflicts.

Blessings,
*Pastor Gool*