I. **INTRO:**

A. **Pray:** Back to school! Teachers & School Counselors (Public [Univ/College/HS/JrH/Elem]; Private School; Home School)

B. **Wed. Night Series:** Brushing up on Basics Series! - Starts this Wed.
   1. #1 Why should I trust the Bible is Accurate? (What are the Scriptures? How did we get the 66 books? Manuscript Evidence; How we got our English Bible? Why so many different Bible translations?)

C. **Left off** in vs.18 w/Jesus promising the disciples, I will not leave you orphans. Used of children w/o a father, but also of disciples w/o a master. (LKGNT; Barret)

D. Is anything troubling your heart today? What is it? Let not your hearts be troubled. Ok, but how?

E. **Story:** In the Philippines a driver of a caribou wagon was on his way to market when he overtook an old man carrying a heavy load. Taking compassion on him, the driver invited the old man to ride in the wagon. Gratefully the old man accepted. After a few minutes, the driver turned to see how the man was doing. To his surprise, he found him still straining under the heavy weight, for he had not taken the burden off his shoulders.
   1. When Jesus said, I will give you rest have you been like this old man who took Him up on salvation but not true rest, true peace?

II. **OUT OF SIGHT, BUT NOT OUT OF MIND!** (19-31)

A. **OUT OF SIGHT...!** (19-24)

B. (19) **The world** lives by sight, & when Jesus is out of sight, He’s out of mind.\(^1\)
   1. But Christians *live by faith* & see the eternal dimension of Christ behind their circumstances.
      a) We have confidence that whatever circumstance befall us, they can work together for the good of conforming us to Christ’s image.

   2. **Our ability to see** is influenced by what we have been trained to look for!
      a) A doctor will see more by looking down the throat of a sick child than any parent.
      b) An artist will appreciate a tour through a gallery much more than someone w/o those sensibilities.

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\(^1\) Chuck Swindoll; John 14; pg.98.
c) A seamstress will appreciate a finely tailored outfit much more than someone whose eyes have not been trained to notice such subtleties of style & precision.

d) The 1st time I went dove hunting I couldn’t tell a dove’s flight pattern from the other birds. Now I can spot them when there 100 yards away.

3. So, too if our eyes are trained to see God’s hand in our circumstances, then each pressure indenting the clay of our lives will be seen not to bend us out of shape but to mold us into vessels of honor - fit for a king.

C. (21-24) 3 principles that will strengthen our weak hearts:

1. Knowledge of the truth removes fear - Know (20).
   a) Information from God’s word takes away superstition & trauma of death (Belize conf)

2. Application of the knowledge reduces anxiety - Keeps (21).
   a) If you have His commandments, keep them! Make His word a vital part of your life.

3. Love for the Lord releases guilt - Love (22).
   a) Love, the highest of motivation. When we love the Lord we desire to please Him.

D. (22) If I was this Judas, I would make “not Iscariot” my middle name! [His question from vs.19]

1. But, also think it through from their understanding of what would happen when Messiah came (i.e. Displaying Himself to the world) [Will happen at 2nd coming]

E. (23) We will come to him - It is 1 thing for us to go to heaven & quite something else for heaven to come to us! (Warren Wiersbe)

F. Make our home with Him - God prepares a mansion for those who believe in Christ, & asks in return that we prepare our hearts as guest chambers for Him to dwell in.

1. As He enters the loving, cleansed, & believing heart, we hear Him say, This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it. Ps.132:14.

2. Yes I’m going to prepare a mansion for you in My Fathers house; but while you remain on earth in your temporary tents, We will come & make our home in your heart & actually dwell there.
   a) Just as the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle in the wilderness, so the Trinity will fill your heart with their majestic presence.

G. ...BUT NOT OUT OF MIND! (25-31)

H. (27a) My Peace is not the power of positive thinking; It is not feelings the disciples have to conjure up; nor circumstances they have to cover up!

I. My Peace=a heart untroubled; fearless in spite of suffering or conflict that comes our way.

   1. It’s an inner calm in the midst of tempestuous outer storms! [Read 16:33]
J. Illustration: 2 painters were once asked to paint a picture illustrating his own idea of rest. The first chose for his scene a quiet, lonely lake, nestled among mountains far away. The second, using swift, broad strokes on his canvas, painted a thundering waterfall. Beneath the falls grew a fragile birch tree, bending over the foam. On its branches, nearly wet with the spray from the falls, sat a robin on its nest.

1. The first painting was simply a picture of stagnation and inactivity.
2. The second, however, depicted rest.
3. Outwardly, Christ endured one of the most troubled lives ever lived. Storms and turmoil, turmoil and storms. Wave after wave broke over Him until His worn body was laid in the tomb. Yet His inner life was as smooth as a sea of glass, and a great calm was always there.

K. Rest is not some holy feeling that comes upon us in church. It is a state of calm rising from a heart deeply and firmly established in God. Henry Drummond

L. My peace I give in times of deepest grief, Imparting calm and trust and My relief. My peace I give when prayer seems lost, unheard; Know that My promises are ever in My Word.
My peace I give when you are left alone - The nightingale at night has sweetest tone.
My peace I give in times of utter loss, The way of glory leads right to the cross.
My peace I give when enemies will blame, Your fellowship is sweet through cruel shame.
My peace I give in agony and sweat, For My own brow with bloody drops was wet.
My peace I give when nearest friend betrays - Peace that is merged in love & for them prays
My peace I give when there's but death for thee - The gateway is the cross to get to Me.

M. My peace - Who is qualified & authorized to speak of & offer this peace?
1. No one except...He that is called the Prince of Peace!
   Who's Ministers are the messengers of peace!
   His Word is the Gospel of Peace!
   His Way is the path of peace!

N. Why does He give it now? Because anything left us by a dying friend is valued & esteemed all the more highly.
1. My peace I give to you - Picture Jesus reading His own Last Will & Testament:
   Lands & houses, the worlds goods, silver & gold, he had none to leave. But what He has He gives unto us.
   a) My Peace I give to you; My Love I give to you(15:9); My Joy I give to you(15:11)
2. An angel announce peace at His birth; He HImself bequeathed peace at His death, Peace I leave with you! [Proving once again, He loved them to the end!]

2 L.S.P. (not sure who this poet is); taken from June 13th, Streams in the Desert.
3. Were these words confined to them? No, they stood as the representatives of all His people...Read Jn.17:20-22.

   a) Yet not all people! Is.57:19-21 (NLT) May they have abundant peace, both near and far (Jew & Gentile), says the Lord, who heals them. But those who still reject me are like the restless sea, which is never still but continually churns up mud and dirt. There is no peace for the wicked, says my God.

O. (27b) Why should our hearts be troubled, if Jesus is the way to the Father; if He reveals the truth about the Father; & if He shares the life of the Father with us?

P. Also, Jesus’ words, let your heart not be troubled, infer that his disciples have the ability to keep their emotions afloat during the tempests they experienced.

   1. Ok, once again, how do we do that? - [1] Remember we have the Paraketos, the Holy Spirit to empower us [2] Jesus’ Promises, because fear usually grips us when we either ignore or forget what God said [3] We have His Peace

Q. (28b) If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, ‘I was going to the Father.’

   1. (Bruce Milne) Jesus invites them to rise above what His departure is going to mean for them, to consider what it will mean for Him. Their love for Jesus should allow them to be happy for Him that He is going away, since the journey, albeit through the horrors of the cross, will take him again to the intimacy of the Father’s bosom, & to the “glory I had with you before the world began.”

R. (28c) For My Father is greater than I - In what sense?

   1. JW’s argue from this statement that Jesus is a lesser god.

   2. So in what sense is He talking greater? The Father is greater in office & glory than the Son was in His humiliation on earth. By going back to the Father He would be exalted again in glory.

S. (30) I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming -

   1. His teaching time was now limited because Satan was moving his forces against Jesus through Judas.

   2. Satan thought Jesus’ death was a victory for him, but actually it was Jesus’ victory over Satan.

T. (30) He has nothing in me-no hold on me (NIV); no claim on me (ESV); no power over me (NLT)

   1. He sure has a lot on us! Imagine Satan dropping a match on all our sinful dry leaves. - But there is nothing flammable in Jesus!
U. (31) 2 more reasons why Jesus faced the cross - to show His love/obedience to His Father

V. (31b) Arise, let us go from here - Showing His willingness to suffer.
   1. I will not wait for the enemy; I will go & meet Him.
   2. I will go to the place where Judas will look for me.
   3. I will go to the garden of Gethsemane where I am to agonize, & from there to Calvary where I am to die!
      a) I have a baptism to be baptized with & how distressed I am till it is accomplished!

W. Obedience, motivated by love, gives Jesus a warm blanket of peace in the midst of the chilling storm front beginning to roll into His life.
   1. His obedience sets the perfect pattern for us when we find ourselves left alone in a torrential downpour of fateful circumstances!

X. END: Even though the wind & waves obey Him, Christ may not calm all your storms. But, He can take your fearful heart & transform it into a calm, inner eye of faith in the midst of your storms. First learn to trust Him!
   1. Is.26:3,4 You will keep him in perfect peace (shalom/shalom), Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, For in Yah, the Lord, is everlasting strength.

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³ Lk.12:50