

Sermon Notes: Week 6: *CROSSING THE LINE* — A Clear Direction

QUESTION: Why is our faith in Jesus the balm for a troubled heart?

John 12:27–29

²⁷ “Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

John 13:1

¹ It was just before the Passover Feast. **Jesus knew** that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

John 13:31–33

³¹ When he was gone, **Jesus said**, “Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. ³³ “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

John 13:36–38

³⁶ Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.” ³⁷ Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” ³⁸ Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

John 14:1–14

¹ “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.”

OUR WELFARE IS FOREMOST ON THE MIND OF JESUS

- **THIS PLACE EXISTS**
- **THERE IS ROOM FOR ALL**
- **JESUS IS COMING AGAIN!**

John 14:5-7

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. ⁷ If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

PEACE IS FOUND IN THE “WHO” NOT IN “WHERE”

- **Jesus is the fullest revelation God has provided to mankind.**
- **Jesus is the Savior of the world**

John 14:12-14

¹² I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

OUR FAITH OFFERS CLEAR DIRECTION AND A GRAND PURPOSE

- **We will do what Jesus has been doing**
- **We will do even greater things**

Connect Group Discussion Guide: Week 6

— A Clear Direction

OPENING

Read John 9:1-2. Why do you think the disciples were so quick to apportion blame in the face of suffering?

GOING DEEPER

- Does this chapter deal primarily with physical healing or spiritual healing? Physical blindness or spiritual blindness?
- John 9:3 gives Jesus' answer to the disciples' question in v. 2. Several truths are implied: (1) sin and sickness are not automatically linked, and (2) problems often provide the opportunity for God's blessing.

Reflect on these words: “. . . once theologians move from generalizing statements about the origin of the human race's maladies to tight connections between the sins and the sufferings *of an individual*, they go beyond the biblical evidence (whether from the Old Testament or the New). That a specific illness or experience of suffering *can* be the direct consequence of a specific sin, few would deny (*e.g.* Miriam's revolt, Nu. 12; notes on Jn. 5:14; *cf.* 1 Cor. 11:30). That it is invariably so, numerous biblical texts flatly deny (*e.g.* Job; Gal. 4:13; 2 Cor. 12:7).¹

CHALLENGE:

Read through the Gospel of John. In particular, prepare for next week by concentrating on John chapters 10: "I am the Good Shepherd".

¹ Carson, D. A. (1991). *The Gospel according to John*. The Pillar New Testament Commentary (361). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.