

## John 14:1-6

When hearing today's gospel, I typically think of a funeral because it is so often chosen for funerals. Many families find it comforting that Jesus says in His Father's house there are many rooms and that He goes to prepare a place for their loved one.

Our gospel falls within what scholars call Jesus' farewell discourse (John 13 – 17). Jesus washes the feet of His disciples at the Last Supper in chapter 13 and explains the events that are to come with his suffering, death, and Resurrection in chapters 14 – 17.

Today, we hear, "*Do not let your hearts be troubled.*" Our Lord has been speaking about his betrayal and being handed over. Whose heart would not be troubled upon hearing such things? Think about some of the more difficult news you have heard and how you responded. I still remember the phone call from my father in 2006 when he said, "Len, I have some bad news to share with you." My dad then told me about his terminal illness of ALS. One needs time to reflect and of course, pray when he or she hears such things. In response, our Lord says, "*You have faith in God; have faith also in me.*"

We then hear about the dwelling places in the Father's house. Our Lord uses a lot of metaphors for heaven. My favorite is the wedding feast. In the Book of Revelation, we hear about Jerusalem coming out of heaven like a bride adorned for her husband. Here, we have heaven as the Father's house. Heaven is family – God's family.

Our Lord gives us the comforting thought that the Father's house is spacious, i.e., it has lots of rooms. In other words, in heaven there will be a rich series of relationships united with Christ.

Finally, we have the famous line where our Lord reminds us, "*I am the way and the truth and the life.*" I still remember a nice little talk by Bishop Campbell in the early 2000s where he said we cannot experience the life of Christ unless we follow the way. We must first become a disciple, and then we will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (Jn 8:32). In other words, if you refuse to follow Christ, you will not know the truth nor will you experience His life.

There is a reason that this gospel is chosen for so many funerals! In losing a loved one, it is natural that your heart is troubled. It is comforting to know, however, that the Father's house has many rooms. It strengthens our hope! And it is encouraging to know that in our walk with Christ, we come to know the truth and experience the abundance of life that our Lord has for us! ~St. Thérèse, pray for us!