

Daily Devotional, July 22, 2020 I Am Coming Back to You

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. [John 14:27-29](#) (NIV)

This command from Jesus is, don't be troubled or afraid. But if we stop there, we'll come up short every time. Fear's a funny thing. It's hard for us to control. It's evasive and nurtured by uncertainties.

That's what was happening to the disciples in this passage, fear was preying on their uncertainty of the future. The disciples were afraid because they didn't understand what Jesus was getting at. What was all this talk about leaving, about going away? Things were just starting to come together! You said you were going to die, and now you're back from the dead! Things are really looking up! And now you're leaving? They couldn't see far enough down the road. They were afraid.

And so, Jesus says, “Don't be troubled or afraid.” OK. Sure. If only fear were such an easy thing for me to overcome in my life! Don't be afraid. Easy for you to say! Don't be afraid. You're really flying the coup? Don't be afraid. OK—here's my best power pose. Fear's gone. Next! If only it were so easy.

But Jesus doesn't stop there. It's what he says next that is most meaningful in this passage:

“Don't be troubled or afraid. ***Remember what I told you...***”

And what did he tell them? ***I'm coming back.***

It's interesting how this passage blends fear, memory, and the future. Our memory of what Jesus says, directly effects our fear of the future. Jesus makes a connection between what we do with His words and how we handle fear. Into the disciples' doubt about the future, Jesus speaks a most specific word: I am coming back to you *again*. And, evidently, that understanding – remembering those words – has the power to strip them of their fear. *And to open up the door for peace in their minds and in their hearts!*

I am coming back to you again, he says. You are not alone. Or more accurately, you are not *left* alone. The Father's designs for this world – including your life and all of its details – will be accomplished. I will come back to you again.

Take a moment today to identify areas of fear in your life. Where might insecurity over the revealing of God's plans be creating fear in you? Now, take that fear and put it alongside what Christ has said: *I am coming back to you again* – and pray that *confidence* into your fears.

How does this assurance about the future – this certain truth that Jesus is coming back – change the reality you confront? What are the implications of Christ's return for the situation you are facing today?

For whatever situation you face—whether it be personal, universal, and everything in between, that might be igniting fear within you, remember and pray these words of Jesus: *I am coming back to you!*

Prayer: Lord, I come before you ready to pour out my worries, anxieties, and fears at Your feet. I am claiming Your promises for blessings of peace and strength over my life. Bring a peace into my soul that passes all worldly understanding and make me a light for others to see Your strength. Until the day that you return, may I trust in You and Your promise. Amen.