



SERIES: John Believe
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Saturday, March 25, 2023
Scripture: John 14:1-4
TITLE: Don't Panic!

“Don't Panic!” Those words are written on the cover of the novel, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. And if you've ever read or watched that series, you know it's good advice.

Let's face it, life can get pretty crazy. When we look back over the past few years, that would have been sound advice. Don't panic. But that's easier said than done. But when we have someone who knows everything and is in control of everything, that should be possible.

Here's what Jesus told the disciples as they were in panic mode. John writes this in John 14:1-4.

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going."

Jesus says, "Let not your hearts be troubled." In today's language, "don't panic." Why are the disciples panicking? Well, Jesus is being hunted by the religious elite. He's been predicting His death and He's declared that it is imminent. He's identified Judas as the one who will betray Him. Peter has been called out for a future trio of denials. And then Jesus said, "I am leaving. And where I am going, you cannot come." It's fair to say, their panic is understandable.

But Jesus knows they are troubled. He wants to calm and encourage them. He says, "Don't panic. Believe in God. Believe in me." Jesus' words should calm the storm that is their heart. He's saying, "You know I am God. The Father and I are one. We knew this would happen. We know everything. Oh, and just in case you doubt, we are in control of everything. I am God."

And because their panic is high due to the apparent abandonment, He says, "In my Father's house are many rooms. I am going to prepare a place for you."

Where is He going? Heaven. Every person has a room or an apartment in heaven. What I love about Jesus' words is we get a place in God's house. It's not a house over there or a shack down the road. We dwell in God's home. Revelation 21:3 says that God will dwell among his people. Incredible.

Not only is He preparing a place for all of His children, but He will also come and get us. He is preparing. And He will guide us.

Don't panic. God is there. God cares. Jesus is preparing a place for every child of His. We don't have to struggle to find our way to God or our heavenly home. Jesus is the way and will guide us on that glorious day when we are reunited with our Savior.

What does this message mean for you? How do Jesus' words bring you comfort and hope? What questions do you have? Please, share in the comments below.

If you're still panicking, it's okay. Jesus' disciples were in His presence, and they didn't know what to do. Remember, Jesus is God. He is powerful. He is in control. And He will always be there for you.