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The Text Opened

“Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in
God,
believe also in Me.” John 14:1–3

These words are a part of our blessed Savior’s last sermon upon earth just before His passion, which begins (as is probable) at the 13th verse of the 13th chapter of this gospel, and ends at the last verse of the 16th chapter. In this verse our Lord tells His disciples (however dear they were to Him, yet) that in the world they would have persecution, tribulation; of which He had often told them before in effect that they should not expect their heaven here, but His cross they must bear if they would wear His crown; tribulations of all kinds, outward and inward, you must endure; it is your portion here, and you are thereunto appointed. Man is naturally born to trouble, as the sparks naturally fly upwards, and newborn to trouble also, and commonly to new and more troubles (Acts 14:22; 2 Timothy 3:12). “All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution,” of hand, or tongue, one way or another. Indeed, such as can be content with a profession of a

godliness that may suit with the times, who can please themselves with any kind of godliness, or with a form, any form of godliness, and who can change their forms when they please, such may avoid persecution; but all who will live godly in Christ Jesus, in the power and spirit of Christ Jesus, and resolve to live up to the example and rule of Christ Jesus, they shall have persecution; there is no avoiding it. There is no entering into the kingdom of God but by tribulation. But notwithstanding this, our Lord lays this positive command on His disciples, "let not your heart be troubled."

These poor disciples were likely shortly to sustain a heavy loss of their dearest Lord. He was now going away from them, and a greater loss they could not have; and yet Christ said, "let not your hearts be troubled." This command is repeated and explained in the 27th verse: "let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

What! Might they say, "Must we not be troubled at all? Must nothing trouble us?" No, we must not be troubled for any outward loss; for any outward tribulation, for parting with the nearest and dearest relation, we must not be troubled. Yet we are not forbidden to be troubled for Zion. It is a grievous sin not to be grieved for the afflictions of Joseph; surely we must be troubled for God's dishonor, because men break God's commandments. Trouble of heart, except for sin, is sinful trouble. Where sin lies heavy,