

## “Heaven...a Prepared Place for a Prepared People”

### I. **INTRO:**

- A. **Well it's good to be back with you.** 1st Sun I was in Belize; next 2 on vacation w/family.
- B. **I want to thank:** *Pastor Larry's* for his message on **Being on mission w/God.**  
*Pastor Dan* his message on **The 5 C's when Lost** [Confess; Climb; Conserve; Comm; Comply]  
*Pastor Jeff's* for his message on **what to do when your hurting.**
1. Continuing on that theme, **Jesus is going to take the time to quiet & exhort his disciples hearts.**
- C. This next section in John (ch.'s 14-17) contain some of the **deepest & most spiritual** of our Lord's teaching. **It has been described thus:**
1. **Ch.14 - Consolation**, an exhortation to **Faith**;
  2. **Ch.15 - Instruction**, an appeal to **Love**;
  3. **Ch.16 - Prediction**, an incentive to **Hope**;
  4. **Ch.17 - Intercession**, an anticipation of **Glory**.<sup>1</sup>
- D. As Jesus *nears the end*, all He could speak of was **His Father**. **His Father's house**, where *a perfectly prepared mansion* awaits each of His sons/daughters.
1. The 1st **20 verses** of ch.14 link together a chain of counsel so **strong & secure** that it will help us weather even the most unpleasant of circumstances
- E. (J. Howard Payne, poem) *“Mid pleasures & palaces though we may roam,  
 Be it ever so humble, **there's no place like Home.**”*
1. Our homes are designed to be a hint of heaven.
  2. *There's no place like Home* reminds us of **Dorothy** in her adventures in **Oz**, repeating that phrase *over & over*.
    - a) Troubled by her dream, Dorothy takes comfort in **being home** - safe in her own bed, cuddled in her own blanket, surrounded by her own family & friends. *Kansas & auntie Em never looked so good!*<sup>2</sup>
    - b) For **Christians**, our pilgrimage here on earth is **like Dorothy's journey** down *the Yellow Brick Road*. It's filled with illusory dreams, frightening experiences, & disappointing realities, in spite of our hopes. **And** the farther we travel down that road, the more our intuitive self insists that **this is not our home**; *heaven is!*

<sup>1</sup> Griffith Thomas; The Apostle John; John 14:1-6.

<sup>2</sup> Charles Swindoll; John; pg.93.

## II. **Heaven...a Prepared Place for a Prepared People! (1-6)**

A. **TROUBLED HEARTS!** (1)

B. Really, no break between ch.3 & ch.14. So why would their hearts be troubled?

1. Well, what was He just talking about? **3 Things** that might trouble them:  
 [1] Jesus was going to leave them [2] Judas was going to betray Him  
 [3] Peter would deny Him. [fears of death; betrayal; denial]

C. These **fears** are often like **hurricanes** sweeping over a **serene harbor**. Anchored in the shallows, **our little boats of faith** are easily dashed against the rocks by **fear's** fury.

1. *But then* came these words of **comfort** from Jesus! (*Let not your heart be...*)

D. **Our hearts** - **Not** here the physical organ of life, **but** the **seat** of spiritual life, the **centre** of **feeling** and **faith**, "*the focus of the religious life*".

E. This really sounds like **our part** to *not let our hearts be troubled, or agitated, anxious, worried, bothered, disturbed, uneasy, apprehensive, fearful, perturbed, bothered, distressed, disquieted, fretful, nervous, edgy, antsy, on edge, tense, overwrought, worked up, keyed up, jumpy, or worried sick.*"

1. We are not to allow our hearts to be troubled. **But, how is this possible?**
2. A common response to **fear** is to **pull out our hair** or **bite our nails**. **Yet**, then we are only left with *a handful of hair* where there could have been **character**; **& 10 throbbing fingers** where there could have been **faith**.
3. This is stress management 101!

F. "Believe/trust" - They must continue in their **belief** in **Him!**

1. **Personal faith** in a **Personal God** brings **Personal strength**.

a) The verbs are *present imperatives*, with the sense of: "*Keep on believing in God...keep on believing in Me.*"

b) The disciples **had** trusted Jesus to put them in the boat of salvation; **now** they must trust Him to bring them through the storm & safely to harbor.

(1) **Every test** that blows are way can **either** fill our sails with **faith**, **or** break our mast from the strain of **unbelief**.

2. If God is real there is no **heartbreak**, **but** if we **forget** Him all will go wrong. Only **believe**, & there will be **peace**(vs.27).

a) Is.26:3 **You will keep him in perfect peace**(shalom, shalom), **Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.**

G. **A MANSION CALLED HOME!** (2)

H. **Mansions** = (lit.) “dwellings” “*abiding places*”, speaking of the **permanency** of our heavenly home. Originally a *staying or abiding*.

1. He pictured heaven as a **loving home** where the Father dwells.
2. Only used 1 other time, & its in this chapter, in vs.23 (*home*).
  - a) “Who could mind **the journey when the road leads home?**” James M. Gray
3. Godet(Swiss Protest. Theologian)remarks: “The image is derived from those vast oriental palaces, in which there is an **abode** not only for the sovereign & the heir to the throne, but also for all the sons of the king, however numerous they may be.”

I. **What’s His house going to look like?** I don’t know but let’s look at His **backyard!**

1. Seatbelt yourself to a light beam, traveling at the speed of light(186,000mps). In 8 minutes you scream past the sun. 5 hours we’d zip past Pluto. Only 300,000 years to get from 1 end of our galaxy to the other. Then just think, there are some “100 billion” galaxy’s out there, & millions of light years separating each of these billions of galaxy’s...& that’s just His backyard! - Imagine His House? your room? His throne? His table?

J. The point is **not** the **lavishness** of each apartment, **but** the fact that such ample provision has been made that there is more than enough space for **every one** of Jesus’ disciples to join Him in His Father’s home. D.A. Carson

K. **Mid pleasures & palaces** though we may roam, Be it ever so **humble**, there’s no place like Home! “I’ve stayed a very modest Nepa Hut in Bacold w/ants, & also in the 3rd best hotel in all of Asia in Manilla. – I’ve slept in a dirty, smoke filled train car from Beijing to Xianjou & had just came from a 5 star hotel in Shanghai, that Pres. Reagan stayed in. **Mid pleasures & palaces** though we may roam, Be it ever so **humble**, there’s no place like Home!

1. Or as Robert Frost described, “when you go there, they have to take you in!”

L. **A Place** - heaven is a real place, not merely “a state of mind”.

M. Jesus now answers Peter’s question from 13:36 “**Lord, where are You going?**”

1. *Christ the Carpenter* is building a heavenly home for all who have trusted Him.
2. Heaven then, is a **prepared place** for a **prepared people!**<sup>3</sup>

N. **A REAL PLACE!** (3)

O. I go to **prepare a place for you** - *Prodomos* used to describe Jesus, is usually translated “*forerunner*” and would have had a picturesque meaning for the people of Jesus’ day.

<sup>3</sup> Warren Wiersbe; Outlines of the NT; Jn.14:1-6

1. Heb.6:19,20 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the **forerunner** has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever...
  2. The Harbor of Alexandria was very difficult to approach. When the great corn ships came into it, a little **pilot boat** was sent out to guide them in. It went before them, and they followed it as it led them along the channel to safe waters. That pilot boat was called the **prodomos**.
  3. In the Roman army the **prodomoi** were the reconnaissance troops. They went ahead of the main body of the army to blaze the trail and ensure that it was safe for the rest of the troops to follow.<sup>4</sup>
  4. These 2 things illustrate what Jesus is saying about himself in this passage:
    - a) He goes first, **to make it safe** for those who follow.
    - b) He blazed the way to heaven and to God, **that we might follow** in his steps.
- P. I will come again - Alexander Maclaren said, “The primitive church thought more about the **2nd Coming of Jesus Christ** than about **death** or about **heaven**. The early Christians were looking not for a **cleft** in the ground called a **grave** but for a **cleavage** in the sky called **Glory**. They were watching not for the **undertaker** but for the **uppertaker**.”
- Q. **And receive you to Myself** - “You may kiss the bride!” – sealing the vows!
- R. **THE LIVING WAY!** (4-6)
- S. Jesus doesn't *point the way in the distance*; or doesn't *send a map*; or *give directions* “*turn right here*”; but grabs our hands & says follow Me & **leads us there**.
- T. **E. Stanley Jones** told of a **missionary who lost his way in an African jungle**. He could find no landmarks and the trail vanished. Eventually, stumbling on a small hut, he asked **the native** living there if he could **lead him out**. The native nodded. Rising to his feet, he walked directly into the bush. The missionary followed on his heels. For more than an hour they hacked their way through a dense wall of vines and grasses. The missionary became worried: “**Are you sure this is the way? I don't see any path.**” The African chuckled and said over his shoulder, “**Bwana, in this place there is no path. I am the path.**”<sup>5</sup>
- U. How is Jesus **the way, truth, & life**, especially in relation to the Father?
1. He is the **way** to God & the only way; the personification of **truth**; the centre of **life**.

<sup>4</sup> William Barclay on John's Gospel

<sup>5</sup> Today in the Word, May, 1996, p. 24

- V. **Way** - He is not “*a way*” but “*the way*” to the Father!
1. Some say there are 100’s of religions, really there are **only 2**: **#1** Covers all who expect salvation by **doing**; **#2** All who have been saved by **something done**.
    - a) **The whole question is very simple**: Can you save yourself, or must you be saved by another?
- W. **Truth** - As being *the perfect revelation* of God the Father:
1. He embodies what men ought to **know & believe** of God;
  2. What they should **do** as children of God & what they should **be**.
- X. **Life** - He is “*the principle and source of life in its temporal development & future consummation, so that whoever has not received Him into himself by faith, has become a prey to spiritual and eternal death*” (Meyer)
- Y. *Thomas à Kempis* (a late Medieval Catholic Monk; 1380-1471) said it so beautifully, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. Without the way there is no going; w/o the truth there is no knowing; without the life there is no living. I am the way which thou shouldst pursue; the truth which thou shouldst believe; the life which thou shouldst hope for.”<sup>6</sup>
- Z. **End**: “Bwana, in this place there is no path. I am the path.”
- AA. How can sinners ever hope to get to heaven? Through Christ!
1. **Remember the story of the Prodigal Son?** The boy was lost, ignorant & dead.
    - a) **Lost** (Lk. 15:24 for this my son...was lost and is found);
    - b) **Ignorant** (15:17 when he came to himself/his senses);
    - c) **Dead** (15:24 for this my son was dead and is alive again).
    - d) He was **lost, ignorant, & spiritually dead, but he came to the Father!**
      - (1) He was **lost, but Christ is the Way!**
      - (2) He was **Ignorant, but Christ is the Truth!**
      - (3) He was **Dead(sp.), but Christ is the Life!**
    - e) And he arrived at **the fathers house** when he **repented & returned!!!!** 😊
- BB. A life given in *belief & faith* in Him, will pave the way to eternal fellowship with Him.

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<sup>6</sup> Thomas à Kempis, “Imitation of Christ,” iii., 56

CC.Parable – There is a story about a sailor, shipwrecked on one of the South Sea islands. He was seized by the natives, hoisted to their shoulders, carried to the village, and set on a rude throne. Little by little, he learned that it was their custom once each year to make some man a king, king for a year. He liked it until he began to wonder what happened to all the former kings. Soon he discovered that every year when his kingship was ended, the king was banished to an island, where he starved to death. The sailor did not like that, but he was smart and he was king, king for a year. So he put his carpenters to work making boats, his farmers to work transplanting fruit trees to the island, farmers growing crops, masons building houses. So when his kingship was over, he was banished, not to a barren island, but to an island of abundance.

1. **It is a good parable of life:** We're all kings here, kings for a little while, able to choose what we shall do with **the stuff of life**. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Matt. 6:19-20).