

In My Father's House

Please note that this article is also available as an audio file if you wish to hear it read instead of reading it yourself.

The reading this morning is John 14:1-7.

Introduction

In just seven verses John packs so much in, that this short passage alone provides enough material for a whole series of sermons, but in this short address today, we will only be able to unpack one or two points at most. Contained within these seven verses though, are two well-known sayings of Jesus, so we'll limit ourselves then, to looking at these two verses. The first of which is verse 3, where Jesus says:

“In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.”

My Father's House

I have to admit, this is one of my favourite sayings of Jesus because it so beautifully sums-up the Christian hope. In this verse, Jesus tell us two important things:

Firstly, there is life after death – I mean real life not metaphorical or imaginary, but real. And secondly, Jesus will personally make sure that those who belong to Him (the 'chosen' as we discussed last week) will be with Him in His Kingdom, because He personally, will make sure there is a place for us.

Life After Death.

Picking up that first point then, about life after death - we need to be clear about this. The Christian faith is not just a collection of myths, legends and vague airy-fairy promises - not at all. The Christian faith deals with reality; real life - life both in this world and, crucially, the next as well.

Be in no doubt then, that those who say there is no life after death are wrong – plain wrong; and they deceive both themselves and those who listen to them. They are wrong because they know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.

Just look at how beautifully Jesus makes His point when speaking to His disciples: *“if it were not true”*, He says, *“I would have told you.”* In effect Jesus is saying them, Look, I'm not lying to you; I'm telling you the truth – and if the truth were different, I'd be honest with you about that too. So the

question then, that you have to ask yourself is this - do you believe Him? Do you believe that Jesus is indeed telling us the truth about these things – about preparing a place for us in the Father’s House?

Understand that the phrase, “*My Father’s House*”, refers to the Kingdom of God; not God’s Kingdom on earth but His heavenly Kingdom. Jesus is talking about taking us to be with Him, in heaven, when the time is right.

Now heaven is a place that we know very little about. Although what we do know (from elsewhere in the Bible) is that it is a place of unimaginable beauty; a place of peace and eternal life; a place where every last vestige of sin and evil has been eliminated. As it is written:

*“He will wipe every tear from their eyes.
There will be no more death or grieving
or crying or pain;
for the old order of things has passed away.” (Rev 21:4).*

Heaven is real, and furthermore, it’s open to anyone – anyone who knows the way. And, as Jesus said to His disciples:

“You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Do You know the Way?

So, let me ask you another question, if I may. Do you know the way? Do you know the way to “*the Father’s House*” ?

If you can’t answer this question, then how do you know that you’re on the way at all? How do you know that Jesus is preparing a place for you? Because if you don’t know the way, then it’s unlikely there will be a place prepared for you. But fortunately, Thomas asks Jesus this very question and Jesus gives us the answer. He says:

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.”

This is the second of the two famous sayings of Jesus in this passage.

The Father

Access to the Father, and therefore access to heaven and eternal life, is controlled exclusively by Jesus. This “I am” saying, makes that point crystal clear, in other words, it’s not negotiable. He - Jesus - is the way to the Father; the only way. No-one can know the Father or draw close to Him, except through Jesus. As St. Peter declared to the Jewish Council, in Acts chapter 4:

“Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men, by which we must be saved.”

If someone claims to believe in God, or be a worshipper of God, yet do not acknowledge Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, who deny His death and Resurrection - they deceive themselves. Access to God the Father is not possible except through God the Son. Jesus was sent into the world by the

Father, to reveal and reconcile the Father to mankind. Understand therefore, that those who reject Jesus, also reject the one who sent Him.

Supreme

Jesus is at the very heart of our faith and “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him” (cf. Matt 28:18) and every knee will bow before Him – every knee! He is supreme above all others. He is at the centre of creation and everything in it revolves around Him. He is the Alpha and Omega; the Beginning and the End. The reason that Jesus occupies such an exalted position is because that is the place the Father has given Him. Only the Father Himself occupies a higher position.

Therefore the only way to the Father is through a genuine, living and active faith in Jesus Christ. If we acknowledge Jesus for who He really is, and are determined to follow His teaching and obey His Word, then you can be sure, that Jesus has prepared a place just for you. That’s His promise to us and it’s a promise you can trust with your life. Amen.