

## **WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY**

### **The Glory of Heavenly Hope**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Behind the New Commandment that Jesus gave His disciples was the reality that He was going away. *“Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’”* (John 13:33, ESV)

As the Master teacher, our Saviour continues to give comfort to the disciples. They have questions, of course. Those questions (as good questions often do) lead to even deeper understanding. With the Apostle Paul this is my prayer as we draw strength from this text: That the ...

*“... eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,”* (Ephesians 1:18, ESV)

**Text: [John 13:36-14:14](#) (ESV)**

#### **Exposition**

If we extract the 3 questions from our Lord’s instruction, we can clearly see His flow of thought. We will deal with Peter’s, Thomas’, and Philip’s questions in another sermon. Notice the flow of thought:

- He first gives 2 imperatives (or commands): *“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.”* (John 14:1, ESV)
- Then he provides a word of encouragement: *“In my Father’s house are many rooms . . .”* (John 14:2a, ESV)
- Then He gives 2 promises: *“... 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.”* (John 14:2b–3, ESV)

#### **Two Imperatives**

Notice again the 2 imperatives. *““Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.”* (John 14:1, ESV). Now if you have trouble seeing the 2 imperatives, don’t be alarmed. This verse is difficult to interpret. In the Greek text there are 3 possible examples of how to read this verse:

1. It could be just as it is written in the ESV: *“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.”* That’s 3 commands. *“Let not”, “believe” and “believe”.*
2. It could also be *“Let not your hearts be troubled. For you have believed in God and have believed in me.”* I found no expositors that believe that to be a good translation.

3. The best translation of the verse can be seen in the NKJV and the NIV. The NIV reads: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.”* (John 14:1, NIV)

The NIV (as does the marginal reading in the ESV) interprets the text in English to basically say, “Don’t be troubled. You have believed in God; now put your trust in me.” Two commands. Don’t be troubled; and Believe in me.”

Is this not something we already know as believers? We deal with fear, through faith. Jesus is going to provide promises on why they should trust Him. But before we leave this point let me offer a word of warning. Don’t expect God to always eradicate the circumstance that is causing you anxiety. Notice Psalm 46:

*“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah”* (Psalm 46:1–3, ESV)

We will not fear **THOUGH** the earth gives way; though the mountains be moved; or though the mountains tremble. Likewise, we read in Psalm 23:

*“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”* (Psalm 23:4, ESV)

I will fear no evil, **THOUGH** I walk through . . .

Jesus told them that He is going away. Translation? He is going to suffer and die. Jesus also intimated that they would follow Him. But just as they have trusted in God, trust Him. Here is why.

### **One Word of Encouragement**

He says, “In my Father’s house are many rooms.”<sup>1</sup> Notice that there is no doubt, no speculation on Jesus’ part. He spoke like He had been there (for surely, He had). He was familiar with His Father’s House. He knew of its existence. He knew of its reality.

“The imagery of a dwelling place (“rooms”) is taken from the oriental house in which the sons and daughters have apartments under the same roof as their parents.”<sup>2</sup> Notice that there are “many rooms”. “Jesus imagines heaven as a huge home, telling them of the “many rooms” waiting for them, all furnished by Christ himself. The emphasis is not on the lavish nature of the rooms (this is why the

<sup>1</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 14:2). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>2</sup> *Expositor's Bible Commentary, The*, Pradis CD-ROM:John/Exposition of John/III. The Private Ministry of the Word (13:1-17:26)/B. The Last Discourse (13:31-16:33)/1. Questions and answers (13:31-14:31)/b. The question of Peter (13:36-14:4), Book Version: 4.0.2

“mansions” of the KJV is not a good translation), but on the ample provision Christ has made. There is more than enough room to hold all the saints.”<sup>3</sup>

The simplest explanation is that the “Father’s House” means heaven. Oh, there are so many questions about Heaven. Randy Alcorn has written a hardcover book on Heaven that is nearly 600 pages. We constantly ask, “What is Heaven like?” I wondered recently if my father and mother are aware of my life and my family?” Questions are many, but the certainty of Heaven is without question: “Believe me,” Jesus said.

Why I remember this, I don’t know, but when I was young my parents sent me to a Brethren Bible Camp in northern Ontario called Camp Mini-Yo-We. My favorite chorus that I still remember today was:

*Heaven is a wonderful place,  
filled with glory and grace,  
I want to see my Saviour’s face.  
Heaven is a wonderful place.*

It is my deepest desire that you will be the kind of person that longs for Heaven and longs to see Jesus. May it be so. With that encouragement Jesus gives 2 promises:

### **Two Promises**

“ . . . I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>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.”<sup>4</sup>

What a comfort to know that His stated purpose was to prepare a place for them. Jesus was anticipating their certain arrival with Him in His Father’s House – the place we call Heaven. Did He not know that these men would drop the ball? They would desert him. Hide. Peter would betray Him. Notice the certainty of the promise: “I go to prepare a place **FOR YOU**.” “Though he did not elaborate on the promise, the guarantee is unmistakable. His return is as certain as his departure, and he would take them with him to his Father's house.”<sup>5</sup>

And secondly, Jesus says, “I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. This is the language of taking a wife, adopting a child [*paralēpsomai hymas pros emauton*].<sup>6</sup> It’s the picture of the consummation of a marriage. Stephen Wellum writes, “Jesus, the Messianic

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<sup>3</sup> Osborne, G. R. (2018). *John: Verse by Verse*. (J. Reimer, E. Ritzema, D. Thevenaz, & R. Brant, Eds.) (p. 334). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

<sup>4</sup> *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. (2016). (Jn 14:2–3). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>5</sup> *Expositor's Bible Commentary, The*, Pradis CD-ROM:John/Exposition of John/III. The Private Ministry of the Word (13:1-17:26)/B. The Last Discourse (13:31-16:33)/1. Questions and answers (13:31-14:31)/b. The question of Peter (13:36-14:4), Book Version: 4.0.2

<sup>6</sup> Brant, J.-A. A. (2011). *John* (p. 213). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

bridegroom (John 3:29), said he would prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house and then come to take them home to be with him."<sup>7</sup>

### **The Messianic Bridegroom**

Charles Ryrie helps us understand the cultural understanding behind these words: "I will take you to myself". He writes,

"Jewish marriage included a number of steps: first, betrothal (which involved the prospective groom's traveling from his father's house to the home of the prospective bride, paying the purchase price, and thus establishing the marriage covenant); second, the groom's returning to his father's house (which meant remaining separate from his bride for 12 months, during which time he prepared the living accommodations for his wife in his father's house); third, the groom's coming for his bride at a time not known exactly to her; fourth, his return with her to the groom's father's house to consummate the marriage and to celebrate the wedding feast for the next seven days (during which the bride remained closeted in her bridal chamber)."<sup>8</sup>

So, before the groom returned to establish a home for his new bride, it was said that he would say these words, "Do not be anxious. I go to my father's house to prepare a place for you. If I go I will return and take you for myself. There you will live with me forever."

In the agrarian culture the husband would then leave and take his inheritance from his father. He would build a home and start his business. And just as promised he would return some day and take his wife and they would live forever in their own home.

### **Conclusion**

If you are a Christian, you are the Bride of Christ. We read in Revelation 21:

*"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband . . . Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb."'" (Revelation 21:1–2, 9, ESV)*

And again, in Ephesians 5:

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<sup>7</sup> Wellum, S. J. (2017). [Incarnation and Christology](#). In E. A. Blum & T. Wax (Eds.), *CSB Study Bible: Notes* (p. 1695). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

<sup>8</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, [Come Quickly, Lord Jesus](#) (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1996), 67.

*“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.” (Ephesians 5:25–27, ESV)*

Your marriage to Christ was foreordained before the foundations of the world. The price has been paid. The covenant of marriage has been established. Your Husband has entered Heaven to prepare a place for you. Someday He shall return and take His Bride to be with Him forever. It is then that His Bride will celebrate the great Wedding Banquet in eternity. Turn with me in closing to Revelation 19:

*“Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”” (Revelation 19:6–9, ESV)*

Have you heard and accepted the invitation to the marriage supper of the Lamb? Have you responded in faith knowing, as John records, “These are the true words of God?” Then . . .

*““Let not your hearts be troubled. [You have believed] 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.” (John 14:1–3, ESV)*