

56. Jesus Said He Was Going to Prepare a Place for Us

Judas left Jesus and the other disciples. Then, we see that Jesus began to teach the rest of the disciples some very important lessons to prepare them for the future. We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn these same lessons so that they will be prepared when opposition comes from those who reject Jesus. In this topic, we are going to see that Jesus told the disciples why they did not need to be troubled or afraid.

Jesus had just told Peter that he would deny Him three times that evening. Then, Jesus went on to tell Peter and the other disciples not to be troubled. John 14:1-4 says, “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.” The word translated “troubled” means *to be anxious, distressed or to take away calmness of mind*. Jesus also used this word in John 14:27 where we read, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” In this verse, we see that peace is the opposite of being troubled. Jesus wanted the disciples to experience peace in their hearts.

Jesus told the disciples just a few verses earlier that He was going away and that where He was going they could not go immediately. Jesus reminded the disciples that they believed the Father and encouraged them to believe Him in the same way. Then, Jesus said that He was returning to His Father’s to prepare a place for them. The word translated “mansion” is only used one other place in the New Testament and that is in this chapter. John 14:23 says, “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.’” In this verse, we see that the word is translated “home.” Then, in verse 26, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to make His home in the human spirit of each believer. These verses point out the fact that we actually have all three members of the Trinity living in our lives as Christians.

Jesus also promised the disciples that He would come back for them and for all Christians after He prepares a home for us. At that time, Jesus said that He will receive us to Himself. The word translated “receive” means *to take with one’s self or to join with one’s self*. Paul used this word when he said in Colossians 2:6-7, “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.” Just as we received Christ Jesus as Lord at the moment of salvation, He is going to receive us into heaven to spend all eternity with Him. Jesus told the disciples that they knew where He was going and that they also knew the way to heaven.

That statement by Jesus caused Thomas to ask a question. John 14:5-7 says, “Thomas said to Him, ‘Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.’” Thomas, and possibly the other disciples as well, did not understand what Jesus had

said a few minutes earlier about the fact that He was returning to the Father. That was why Thomas asked this question so that the disciples could have full understanding.

First, Thomas made the statement, “Lord, we do not know where You are going.” Here, we see that Thomas did not understand where Jesus was going. Jesus did not actually answer this part of the question at this time. Instead, that part was answered at the time Jesus returned to heaven. Acts 1:9-11 says, “Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’” We see that Thomas and the other disciples had the opportunity to see Jesus return to the Father and then had two angels explain to them exactly where Jesus had gone.

Second, Thomas asked the question, “How can we know the way?” Jesus has said that He was going to the Father in verse two. Now, Jesus went on to explain the only way that a person can get to heaven and to the Father. To answer that question, Jesus used the words “I AM” for the sixth recorded time in the book of John. We see that Jesus explained that He is three things in just one sentence. First, Jesus is the only way to the Father. Jesus had explained earlier that there are only two ways that people can go. Matthew 7:13-14 says, “‘Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.’”

Then, Hebrews 10:19-22 explains why we must enter the narrow gate through Jesus when those verses say, “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” The blood of Jesus made it possible for us to enter into the presence of the Father because of the fact that Jesus is the only One without sin.

Second, Jesus is the only One that is truth. John 1:14 says, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” Then, John 1:17 adds, “For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” Grace and truth could not come through the law but only through Jesus. Third, Jesus is the only One that gives life. Jesus had said in John 10:10-11, “‘The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.’” Later that night as Jesus prayed to the Father, He said in John 17:2, “‘As You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.’” Jesus is the only way to have eternal life that makes it possible to come to the Father. Jesus went on to say that those who knew Him also knew the Father.

That brought the next question from Philip. John 14:8-12 says, “Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show

us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.’” Here, we see that Philip said that He would be satisfied if Jesus showed Him the Father.

Jesus began his answer to Philip by reminding him that Jesus had been with him and the other disciples for over three years. Then, Jesus said that if they had seen Him, they had seen the Father. Later that evening in His prayer to the Father, Jesus said in John 17:20-21, “‘I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.’” Jesus said that He was in the Father and the Father was in Him. To see Jesus was to see the Father. Jesus also said that He did not speak of His own authority. That was due to the fact that Jesus came to do the will of the Father. John 7:16 says, “‘Jesus answered them and said, ‘My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.’” Here, we see that Jesus said the things that He did and taught were from the Father.

Jesus said that they could believe what He said for two reasons. First, they could believe Him because the Father was in Him. Second, they could believe Him because of the works that Jesus did in the name of the Father. Then, Jesus went on to give a wonderful promise to everyone who would believe in Him. Jesus said that all those who believe in Him will do greater works than He did while He was here on the earth. Jesus said that this would be possible because of the fact that He was going to the Father.

Jesus went on to explain the meaning of this statement in the following verses. John 14:16-17 says, “‘And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.’” Jesus explained how the followers of Jesus would do greater works than the works that Jesus did while He was on this earth just before He returned to heaven. Acts 1:8 says, “‘But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’” Those greater works would be taking the Gospel to the end of the earth. We want to help our physical and spiritual children understand that we are laborers together in these greater works as we continue to spread the message of the Gospel. May the Lord richly bless you as you show your children how to be a part of these greater works.