

## “I go to prepare a place for you”

*John 14:1-6*

*1 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 "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. 4 "And you know the way where I am going." 5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

/Here begins a time of unmatched intimacy and tenderness – and truth.\ Jesus is with His own special brothers. They have followed him through thick and thin. Just as He longed to share the Passover meal with them, now He desires earnestly that they would come to fully understand Him. To know who He is in all His glory.

But they can't really do that, not yet anyway. Their flesh is weak. And the Spirit has not yet been given to them.

*John 7:39*

*39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

/During His public ministry, Jesus had taught the Jews many things about Himself and His Father and they refused to believe in Him. \

His disciples witnessed these same things. They heard His words.  
/But did they really understand them?\

How well did they come to know Him??

/Our passage this morning says a lot about our human nature. \  
It's easily distracted, for one thing.

It's prone to abandon the truth when pressed. It is prejudiced and easily tempted to fall back into old habits and old ways of thinking.

And of course it's famously selfish.

Were His disciples paying attention when Jesus told Martha that He WAS the resurrection and the life?

Did they miss the point of his saying that He was the door for His sheep?

Did they stop and consider the amazing implications of His statement that He and the Father were one?

*John 8:31-32*

*31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."*

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Jesus had told the Jews what it took to be His disciples. They wanted no part of that. What about the twelve? These words also applied to them.

/Did they comprehend the freedom that Jesus had spoken about?\

Did they connect it with what Peter said when most of Jesus' followers left Him?

*John 6:67-68*

*67 So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" 68 Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.*

/Did they realize that they were hearing and seeing things that had been hidden since before the foundation of the world?\

*Matt 13:17*

*17 "For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.*

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/Right now, they were overwhelmed by grief and worry and fear and despair.\

One of their own will betray Jesus? That can't really be true, can it??

Jesus said He was going to leave them and they wouldn't be able to follow Him.

Was it all for nothing, then? He's just going to walk away and abandon them?

It was a lot to try to take in. /His disciples were broken, and they were ill-prepared for a future fast approaching.\

Jesus was not intimidated at all.

/He was ready to take on all their sorrows and griefs, their sins, and failures.\

In the wake of this turmoil, Jesus settles their souls with a large helping of comfort.

/This will all end well.\

/Keep your eyes on Me.\

/Soon it will dawn on you fully who I REALLY AM!\ Everything I said and did will make perfect sense to you.

*John 14:25-26*

*25 "These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. 26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.*

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*John 14:1 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 "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. 4 "And you know the way where I am going."*

I am going - but I am going HOME! When I get there, I will set about preparing rooms for each of you. Then I will come back to get you and bring you home. Home is where my Father lives. Soon, we will all be living in my Father's mansion.

“ And you know the way where I am going....”

You DO know, don't you??

Have you been distracted by circumstances? Can I have your attention please!

Just then Thomas confirms Jesus' suspicion:

*John 14: 5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?"*

Talk about bewilderment. What had Jesus just said?!

I am going to My Father's house to prepare a place for you. Then I will come and receive you to Myself.

OK but where are you going?

Were you asleep? I am going to My Father's house.

OK but we don't know the way there.

But I just told you: I am going to come back and bring you there Myself!

/You don't need a map – all you need is ME!\

Well this is just maddening, but Jesus is unfazed. He knows their limitations.

/He knows how weak we all are. He knows that His sheep need their shepherd.\

Ps 23

*23 The Lord is my shepherd,*

*I shall not want.*

*2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;*

*He leads me beside quiet waters.*

*3 He restores my soul;*

*He guides me in the paths of righteousness*

*For His name's sake.*

/Jesus was going about restoring their troubled souls.\

*6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,*



*And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

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Because in My Father's house there are many dwelling places...

*John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

I believe Jesus took a moment to look into the eyes of each of His disciples, and then with great tenderness and authority, said

*/I am the way.\*

*John 10:7-11*

*7 So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.  
8 "All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*

*11 "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.*

I AM the way. I don't just know the way. I AM the way.

He gave them a moment to take that in. He was not finished.

I am the way , and – and there is something else you need to know about Me

/I am the truth.\

Your heart has always yearned for the truth. What's really going on. But who can you trust to always give you nothing but the unvarnished truth - about everything?

Well, you have found Him. Actually, correction - He has found you!

If you continue in MY WORD, you will know THE TRUTH

*2 Sam 7:28*

*28 "Now, O Lord God, You are God, and Your words are truth, and You have promised this good thing to Your servant.*

David said this in Psalm 31:

*Ps 31:5*

*5 Into Your hand I commit my spirit;  
You have ransomed me, O Lord, God of truth.*

And Jesus said, "I AM the truth."

/And the only one who can truthfully make that statement is the Lord God.\

And another Psalmist said boldly –

*Ps 119:160*

*The sum of Your word is truth,  
And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.*

Quite simply, Jesus IS the word of God. In the beginning was the Word. Now Jesus is putting the pieces together for His disciples.

I am the way. And I am the truth. But there's one more thing

/I am the life.\

You said I have the words of eternal life. But it's even more astounding than that.

I AM eternal life.

As I revealed to Martha, so I now say to you :

I AM the resurrection. I AM the life.

/I AM life itself. There is no life apart from Me.\

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.