



The Gospel of John

"Divine Words For Dark Days 5"

John 14:1-7

In times of despair: when we are grieving, confused, hurting, mistreated, scared and in despair— be encouraged by the words of Jesus in **John 14:1-7.**

In times of despair:

Don't let your heart be troubled

Believe in Jesus— He is God

Rejoice In Hope— Remember The Promises Of Jesus

In times of despair remember these promises:

- 1. In my Father's house are many rooms**
- 2. I'm going to prepare a place for you**
- 3. I will come back and take you with me**

Scripture

"Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

3 If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also.

4 You know the way to where I am going.",

5 "Lord," Thomas said, "we don't know where you're going. How can we know the way?"

6 Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

7 If you know me, you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” CSB

Quote of the day

Has this world been so kind to you that you should leave with regret? There are better things ahead than any we leave behind. — C.S. Lewis

In times of despair remember these promises:

2. I’m going to prepare a place for you v.2

In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that **I am going to prepare a place for you?**

The phrase translated “**I am going to prepare**” comes from two Greek words:

The phrase translated “**I am going**” comes from the Greek word “**Po eur o mai**” meaning to move from one place to another with a point of departure and a specified destination.

The word translated “**prepare**” comes from the Greek word “**Het oi mazo**” meaning to cause to be ready, to make preparations for receiving and entertaining someone.

This word also carries with it the idea of a person going ahead of others to prepare an unimaginable place of beauty, peace,

Two observations about Jesus going to prepare a place for us:

1. Jesus has a glorified body prepared for every person who has committed their life to Jesus Christ.

God created every person— mind, body, spirit and soul with His Kingdom in mind.

God took great care and consideration to create our earthly body

Psalm 139:13-19 “For it was you who created my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. 14 I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well. 15 My bones were not hidden from you when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began. 17 God, how precious your thoughts are to me; how vast their sum is! 18 If I counted them, they would outnumber the grains of sand; when I wake up, I am still with you.” CSB

I Corinthians 6:19-20 “Don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.” CSB

God is taking great care and consideration to create our glorified body

I Corinthians 15:51-53 “Listen, I am telling you a mystery: We will not all fall asleep, but **we will all be changed**, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. 53 **For this corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal body must be clothed with immortality.**” CSB

“The Week” is a magazine that runs a column called **"What's Next?."**

What’s Next, is a regular contest based on current events. In an issue from June 27, 2013 the team from **“What’s Next”** asked readers to submit answers to the following question:

The late TV chef Anthony Bourdain advised: "Your body is not a temple, it's an amusement park. Enjoy the ride." What would be a good name for a theme park ride based on the typical American's body?

Here were some of the best answers:

Sedentary Mountain

Cholester-Roll

Plumper Cars

Tunnel of Love Handles

The Tragic Kingdom

The Expanding Universe

SORRY—ride closed due to poor maintenance

Citation: The Week, "The Week contest—Theme park rides" (6-27-13)

With this thought in mind I asked myself this question “What does the Bible say about What’s Next for those who follow Christ?”

Our glorified body will be the realization of God's design for humanity.

I Corinthians 15:20-22 “But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man. 22 For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.” CSB

The resurrected body, will be a transformed, physical, flesh and bone body. The resurrection of Jesus (who is the first fruits from the dead) is a model of what believers can anticipate. We will know others and they will know us, we will walk, talk, eat food, have purpose. Our glorified bodies will not have flaws, sickness, disease or any physical limitations. **WE WILL LIVE FOREVER AS COMPANIONS WITH THE KING IN HEAVEN.**

Philippians 3:18-20 The Apostle Paul describes the difference between who do not live for Jesus and those who do live for Jesus:

Those who are NOT committed to follow Jesus:

Paul says in vv.18-19 “For I have often told you, and now say again with tears, that many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction; their god is their stomach; their glory is in their shame; and they are focused on earthly things.”

Those who ARE committed to follow Jesus:

Paul says in vv.20-21 “Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. 21 He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject everything to himself.”

The promise of a new and glorified body gives us hope!

There is a resurrection from the dead and eternal life in heaven. The hope of the return of Jesus motivates us to live faithful lives as pilgrims on the earth while we are servants watching and waiting for His return.

Two observations about Jesus going to prepare a place for us:

2. Jesus has prepared a dwelling place for us in heaven

In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that **I am going to prepare a place for you?** CSB

The word translated “**place**” comes from the Greek word “**Topos**” referring to a place to live, a geographical area such as a village, city or kingdom. Topos also refers to an inhabited structure such as a building or house.

Heaven is a real place prepared for everyone who has committed their life to follow Christ.

Five observations about heaven in Scripture

- 1. Heaven is a real place**
- 2. Heaven is paradise**
- 3. Heaven is unimaginable**
- 4. Heaven is eternal**
- 5. Heaven is our reward**

In times of despair remember these promises:

3. I will come back and take you with me v.3

“If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also.” CSB

One of the most profound and significant truths in the Scripture is found in **I Thessalonians 4:13-18**. This truth gives us peace in our darkest hour, gives us strength to go on, and gives us bright hope for tomorrow.

Everyone who dies with their faith in Jesus Christ can live with confidence knowing there is a resurrection of the righteous.

The context of **I Thessalonians 4:13-18** is this. Believers at Thessalonica were wondering what happens to our loved ones when they die, what can we look for in the future? The Apostle Paul said, “Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 “We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, concerning those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For we say this to you by a word from the Lord: We who are still alive at the Lord’s coming will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout,, with the archangel’s voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are still alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

Because of the resurrection of the righteous there is peace and comfort for every person that has placed their faith in Jesus Christ.

We find peace and comfort in this life because:

We Have Hope v.14

“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.” CSB

We can find peace and comfort in the face of death because **we have a certain hope** not a grasping at straws kind of hope!

A man sentenced to death obtained a reprieve by assuring the king he could teach his majesty's horse to fly within the year—on the condition that if he didn't succeed, he would be put to death at the end of the year. His friend said you are going to die an awful death— you can't teach the king's horse how to fly in a year's time. The man responded, “Within a year,” the king may die, or I may die, or the horse may die. Furthermore, in a year, who knows? Maybe the horse will learn to fly.” Bernard M. Baruch

A little over a month before he died, the famous atheist Jean-Paul Sartre declared that he so strongly resisted feelings of despair that he would say to himself, “I know I shall die in hope.” Then in profound sadness, he would add, “But hope needs a foundation.” Our Daily Bread, April 17, 1995

The foundation of our hope is the resurrection!

We find peace and comfort in this life because:

We Have A Promise v.15

“For we say this to you by a word from the Lord: We who are still alive at the Lord's coming will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.” CSB

A promise is a declaration or assurance that a person will do a specific and exact thing.

Idaho Student camp story— My dad made me a promise

Knowing that Jesus made a promise to every believer— we have hope this world cannot fathom.

We find peace and comfort in this life because:

We Have A Savior v.16

“For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel’s voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.” CSB

In a world that is broken, chaotic, confused, filled with fear, trouble, difficult times, grief, pain, and despair **it is comforting to know that we have a Savior.**

One of these days, I believe it is coming soon— In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, God will give the command the archangel of God will blow his trumpet and the whole world will hear it. It will be a sound so deafening the world will stop in its tracks. What many thought to be rumor, conjecture, fantasy and folklore will become so real it cannot be ignored, mocked or disregarded.

Church don’t give up, don’t lose hope, we have a savior, the one who saved us is coming back for us!

We find peace and comfort in this life because:

We Have An Appointment v.17

“Then we who are still alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.” CSB

In my life I have had some very important appointments!

On the evening of September 11th, 1987 I had a special appointment. That was the evening I proposed to Angela and asked her to be my wife!

July 9th, 1988, at 2:00 p.m. was a very important appointment! That was the day Angela and I got married.

When Angela and I heard the heartbeat of our children for the first time at the doctor's office were special and very important appointments!

However, the greatest appointment I will ever keep will be the day Jesus comes back for me! Whether I am alive or dead I will be caught up with every other believer and together we will meet the Lord in the air and will forever be with Him!

Are you ready for your appointment with Jesus in the air?