

A PLACE TO BE IN THE END

John 14.1-7

We all will suffer from a troubled heart

Jesus begins by addressing the “troubled hearts” of the disciples. They are unsettled because Jesus told them they would be separated (John 13.33). At Christmas time, while there are joys, we also think of change, loss, and regrets.

We live in a time full of anxiety and depression. Jonathan Haidt’s *The Anxious Generation* highlights the prevalence of troubled hearts.

Jesus commands His followers “let not your hearts be troubled” (John 14.1). He gives reasons for this command.

There is a place to be in the end

Many people do not think there is a place to be in the end. Mark Twain, for example, joked, “I do not fear death. I had been dead for billions and billions of years before I was born and had not suffered the slightest inconvenience for it”.

Jesus has prepared a place for His followers. He is talking about the “eternal state”, what we more commonly call “heaven”.

The place has “many rooms”. It will not be a place of scarcity. The Church is commanded to invite others to come in.

We tend to think that we prepare a place in heaven by our own efforts. In fact, Jesus does the preparing.

Jesus speaks to individuals about a future corporate reality. There is a reunion among the faithful with the Lord Jesus (John 14.3; 17.24).

Heaven will be a place of shalom - “a webbing together of God, humans and all creation in justice, fulfillment, and delight” – Cornelius Plantinga.

Jesus is the way to get to the place in the end

We should appreciate Thomas’ honest question (John 14.5). He’s basically asking how we get to heaven.

Jesus answers saying that He is the way to heaven (John 14.6). Jesus states the truth positively and negatively. Modern sensibilities do not like Jesus’ claim to exclusivity.

“Christianity stands in a very different relationship to the person of Christ than the other religions do to the persons who founded them... Christ is Himself Christianity. He stands, not outside, but inside of it”. – Bavinck, *Magnalia Dei*

Other leaders teach morality, but the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus are the essence of the Christian profession.

Jesus leaves no room for confusion. He's exactly who we need in a world of the directionless.

Jesus gave His life for sinners to bring everyone home.

Jesus' claim demands a response from His listeners.

Key Idea: Follow Jesus to the place He has prepared for you.

Application Questions:

How does this passage address the longing for a place to be in the end?

How does this passage inform our view of the life to come for the faithful?

Why does Jesus' claim to exclusivity offend the culture? Why does this church see His claim in John 14.6 as the source of freedom?