

Series: John
Title: A Place Prepared
Text: Jn 14: 1-3
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Last time we looked at this passage in its context. Peter and the disciples were troubled over many things. The Lord comforted them with the one need of the troubled heart: *Ye believe in God, believe also in me.* This time we will focus on one thing the Lord said after that.

John 14: 1: Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2: 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.

If you have been born of the Spirit of God, if God has given you faith to behold something of the holiness of God and your own sinfulness, if God has given you faith to believe the Father and the Son, if your heart is troubled or if you simply want to rejoice in your Savior, then get these words down in our hearts, Christ said, *"I go to prepare a place for you."*

For any who do not yet believe on the Lord Jesus, hear this sure word of the Redeemer and believe on him now. If you can it is because Christ did this for you. This is true of only those God the Father elected unto salvation for whom Christ laid down his life. He says of his people, of all given faith to believe on him, *"I go to prepare a place for you."*

Every word in this statement is packed full of instruction and assurance and comfort for every true believer—*"I go to prepare a place for you."* So let's jump right into this and get all we can get out of it.

WHO IS SPEAKING?

The cure for all our trouble is to believe on the One who said this. Even when we are in our unbelief, it is the One who spoke this that is faithful to save his people. The Lord Jesus, God in the flesh, said, *"I go..."*

So much is declared in this word, *"I go."* Holy God did not trust this work to any man he created. We sinned. We all have come short of the glory of God. Not one son of Adam could do this work. And not one of God's elect could work this. God came down in person. He came down in the person of the Lord Jesus the GodMan, Mediator. Christ is Immanuel, God with us (Mt 1: 23). The GodMan says, *"I go..."*

None other could go to the cross and accomplish redemption for God's elect but Christ. God said,

Isaiah 59: 16: And he saw that *there was* no man, and wondered that *there was* no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

Isaiah 63: 5: And I looked, and *there was* none to help; and I wondered that *there was* none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.

The fact he said, "I go"—and the fact Christ went to the cross alone—declares that his people are so ruined in sin that salvation has to be entirely of the Lord. It declares none but Christ could work the works of redemption and salvation, else he would not have went to the cross alone. But Christ said, "I go"

The cure for our troubled heart is to behold and believe by the Spirit of God that Christ is God who went to the cross in human flesh on behalf of all God's elect and accomplished our redemption.

WHAT DID HE ACCOMPLISH?

The comfort of our troubled heart is to behold and believe Christ accomplished the redemption of all his elect. This will lift us above life's troubles, hearing what Christ prepared—*"I go to prepare a place..."*

This place was prepared by our triune God in Christ his Son from eternity. The Lord gave the parable of judgment when Christ our King shall separate his elect, redeemed sheep from the rebellious, reprobate goats who passed through this life rejecting Christ. Notice what he said about this place Christ prepared.

Matthew 25:34: Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

The kingdom is Christ's people. You have no kingdom without a people who make up the kingdom. It means his people were prepared from eternity. Every chosen vessel of God's mercy was prepared from eternity.

Romans 9:23: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,

We were prepared by God the Father's electing grace choosing whom he will, not based on any good or evil in us but simply by God's grace.

We were prepared by Christ Jesus, the Son of God, entering covenant to save us before the foundation of the world for Christ shall not fail (Is 42: 4). God's elect were prepared entirely by Christ *accomplishing* atonement on the cross and entering glory for us. Solomon built a place on earth to burn sacrifice to the Lord. But he knew only Christ could build this dwelling place for his people. Solomon said,

2 Chronicles 2: 6: But who is able to build him an house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him? who *am* I then, that I should build him an house, save only to burn sacrifice before him?

The Lord Jesus, by himself, prepared the place for each of his people by his blood at Calvary justifying us from our sins.

Psalm 98: 1: «A Psalm.» O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

This dwelling place is in God's holy presence. In order for a sinner to dwell with God we have to be holy and righteous as God is holy and righteous. This dwelling was prepared by Christ destroying our body of sin in him on the cross (Rom 6:6-7). Christ created us anew by what he alone has done.

So this dwelling had to be prepared through a Lamb sacrificed for us. He is the Lamb of God who died in place of God's Israel. God's elect were crucified in Christ that our body of sin might be destroyed. And we arose in Christ a new creation, justified and righteous before God in and by him (Rom 6: 8-11).

We needed a High priest to enter God's holy house on our behalf to represent us to God. We needed a mercy seat and blood had to be sprinkled on the mercy seat because life is in the blood and without the shedding of blood is no remission of sin (Lev 17: 11; Heb 9: 25). God gave his Son who is the propitiation for our sins (Rom 3: 25; 1 Jn 4: 10). Our great High Priest laid down his own life, accomplished redemption and is entered into the holy place with his own blood (Heb 1: 3).

We need the incense of Christ's intercession. We cannot be accepted, nor our prayers, without the incense of Christ's merit and righteousness ever rising up before the throne on our behalf.

We need an Advocate with the Judge—Christ is our Advocate (1 Jn 2:1-3).

Christ cried, "It is finished!" (Jn 19: 30). It is prepared! The veil split from top to bottom because Christ is the fulfillment of the law for his people. Christ entered as our High Priest, our Lamb, our Mercy Seat, our Advocate and our Judge. He entered, accepted of God, and all his people entered accepted of God in him. Christ entered God's holy presence righteous and holy and without sin and all his people entered in Christ and we are seated there with him right now (Col 3: 1-4). Thus all is prepared.

How fully did Christ prepare this dwelling place! All is ready. In the first creation, after the Lord created all things and thus prepared a place for man. Then the Lord created Adam's body out of the dust and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. When Adam opened his eyes in life, all things were prepared for him by the Lord. So when Christ sends the Holy Spirit and regenerates Christ's redeemed to life and gives us faith—we find that all is prepared.

This dwelling has a sure foundation—Christ our one Foundation. This dwelling has a chief cornerstone who holds the whole house together—Christ is the Head of the corner. When God bids you to come, you can be sure all things are now ready.

Matthew 22:4: Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and *my* fatlings *are* killed, and all things *are* ready: come unto the marriage.

Let those who have never come to Christ, come now! Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. And let every believer rejoice to behold Christ seated. It declares his work of redemption is prepared. “This man, when he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down at the right hand of God, From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified” (Heb 10: 12-14). And all those Christ purchased with his blood are seated at the right hand of the Father in him. This is the argument God gives for sinners to come to Christ, all things are now ready, prepared!

Whatever our problem we can be assured it is far worse than we realize. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. He has prepared a place for all his people.

FOR WHOM DID CHRIST PREPARE THIS DWELLING?

The Lord Jesus said to his disciples, “*I go to prepare a place for you.*”

Sinner, have you been born of the Spirit of God? Do you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ? Is Christ alone all your hope of eternal life? Do you love the Lord and love his people? Do you hate your sin and long to be conformed to Christ’s image with no more sin? If so then this is for you—“*I go to prepare a place FOR YOU!*” Meditate on that truth.

What Christ has prepared is incomprehensible to us now. We cannot begin to comprehend it. But he has prepared it for you that wait for him.

Isaiah 64:4: For since the beginning of the world *men* have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, *what* he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.

He said, “*In my Father’s house are many mansions.*” God is Christ’s Father and he is the Father of each of his elect. By his “*Father’s house*” he means heaven. He means where God dwells. God is holy and his dwelling is his holy habitation in heaven.

Deuteronomy 26: 15: Look down from thy holy habitation, from heaven, and bless thy people Israel,...

Our Lord used this word “mansions” to give us some understanding that heaven is a real dwelling place. Our new body will be a real dwelling. And where God is in heaven is a real dwelling. We have all seen a mansion on a hill surrounded by pasture land with cattle grazing with servants running about. Now picture God’s holy mansion. All the universe is his. All the fields here below are his. All the cattle and every creature in this earth is his. The heaven and earth of the first creation is his house. He said,

Psalms 50: 10: For every beast of the forest *is* mine, *and* the cattle upon a thousand hills. 11: I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field *are* mine. 12: If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world *is* mine, and the fulness thereof

Now, look with the eye of faith and behold God our Father in his house in heaven. Christ creates a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. If we think this creation is a big house just picture the new heaven and new earth which will all be the creation of Christ alone. Let this sink in. Christ has prepared a dwelling place in his Father’s house. He has prepared a mansion within the great mansion. Christ did it for each and every chosen, redeemed child of God. Our Lord prepared this dwelling for you who believe on him by the Spirit of his grace. Believer, no one else shall be able to claim your dwelling. Christ prepared it just for you.

This dwelling is a perfect dwelling for each of his people for eternity. It will be in a new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness in a new body and new spirit which is entirely the creation of

Christ our Righteousness. Every neighborhood is perfect: every neighbor perfect, each one sinless, each one holy and righteous, each one perfectly honoring God at all times. There will be no more class differences and racial differences, no differences of any kind as there are here. There will be no rich and poor. No degrees of glory. No more sea because no more division. No more pride: Christ said we shall sit at my table in his kingdom and Christ shall serve us—no more pride. No more fleshly ties: no more marrying or giving in marriage, all fleshly ties will have ended. We shall be perfectly one in spirit. Each shall know each other with perfect hearts with perfect love and Christ shall have preeminence in every heart in perfect unity. All shall be joint heirs with Christ. All shall behold his face. All shall be conformed to his image. All shall worship him perfectly. Just imagine such a dwelling place!

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU, BELIEVER?

John 14: 3: And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

Christ Jesus our Redeemer shall come again. He comes now in Spirit and strengthens and protects us as our Shield and Defender.

Psalm 33: 13: The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. 14: From the place of his habitation...16: There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength....18: Behold, the eye of the LORD *is* upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; 19: To deliver their soul from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Yes, right now there may be famine, pestilence, wars for we must through much tribulation enter the kingdom. We must bear our cross. But Christ Reigns above. He is our Life, our Bread, who saves from every kind of famine. Even now he prepares a table for us in the presence of our enemies. Christ satisfied the justice of God. His blood and God's glory will not allow a single one for whom he died to perish.

But in that day he shall come with great majesty. Every eye shall see our Prophet, Priest and King. All men in nations shall bow and give him glory. He will judge all who refused to believe on him. Do not be found trusting in your own righteousness. Be not as the foolish virgins who slumbered and slept with no oil. Believe on Christ and continue to the end trusting him to be your All and watching for his coming! Let us be like the wise virgins who had oil in their lamps, watching, ready to meet him when he comes. "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear then shall we also shall appear with him in glory."

He will usher his believing people into our everlasting abode in his Father's house, "*that where I am, there ye may be also.*" This is heaven to be with Christ where he is! We believe God by the Spirit of God. Therefore, our soul waits for the LORD.

Psalm 33: 20: Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield. 21: For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. 22: Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.

Christ will not let us be ashamed for trusting him.

Isaiah 45:17: Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end.

He said, "*I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*" Therefore, what does our Lord teach us to do? We are to believe Christ and comfort one another with the promise of his coming. Our gracious Savior said this to comfort his disciples. And our Lord tells us to comfort one another with these words (1 Thess 4: 18). We are to walk with our living Redeemer. Let us seek more to know the fellowship of the Spirit, the fellowship of his sufferings. Let us seek every grace from him for every good gift and every perfect gift comes down from above. Let us seek more faith, more love, more patience, more zeal, greater brotherly love, more humbleness of spirit and every other blessing from our Redeemer alone.

Soon we shall behold him as he is and be changed into his image without and within. Therefore, having our Redeemer's promise, believing him, we know it shall be even as he told us.

2 Corinthians 5:1: 1: For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2: For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: 3: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. 4: For we that are in *this* tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

What we anticipate most of all is, we shall be with HIM, where HE is!

Amen!