

Introduction:

- I like what John says at the end of his Gospel: “but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31, ESV) May our faith grow this morning as we dive into God’s word.
- Review: Last week we saw the laser focus of Jesus towards the cross. We examined the events John 11-13 as he related them the Passover. It was now almost time, Jesus arrives and the hour has come.
- IE. I remember visiting Caleb the first time in KC when he was at IHOPU. He made me feel so honored. He was excited that I was coming. He was excited to show me where he was staying. He was excited to introduce me to his friends. In the midst of all the excitement, I felt the love, the joy, the friendship and the satisfaction that, ‘being together’ brings.
- In John chapters 14-17, I feel the same thing is happening. Jesus is giving his disciples/us insight to what ‘home life’ is for Him with the Father.
 - 43 times in four chapters Jesus mentions the Father! (Think He is excited?)
 - You get the feeling He is excited about home.
 - You get the feeling He is excited about introducing His Father to us, His new family.
 - Jesus is going to prepare a place for the new family. But to prepare a place for them He must prepare the way for them to get there.
 - IE. Can you imagine what it would be like to be a family adopting a child to come be a part of your family, your home!?! Imagine the preparations that would be made for this new member to be a part of your home. Can you see the face of the Father as all of this is happening? The joy! The happiness! The contentedness!
- In these four chapters are famous passages for preaching but I want to look this morning from a macro level at the big picture. Judas is gone to do his thing. He is out of the picture for now. And now, John takes time to let us in on what Jesus shares with them from Judas’ departure to Jesus arrest. It is astonishingly good, these chapters that only John the apostle records.
- Jesus wants us to know before He goes that...There is no place like home. There is more than enough room in Fathers house, and that He/Jesus is the only way to the Father.

I. There Is No Place Like Home

- A. In John chapters 14-17 Jesus tells us that He is excited about going home. When He is with the disciples he seems to ‘forget’ about the cross as He shares the reality of what He will have after the cross. IE. In the Movie, *Saving Private Ryan*, Ryan is reflecting about his two other brothers who have been killed in WW2. He cant remember their faces. Tom Hanks tells him, “You have to have a context.” Think of a context and you will remember their faces. And he tells a story of them and suddenly he remembers their faces.

1. John 14-17 is like, Jesus is remembering so accurately a context that He comes from and He wants His disciples and us to know what awaits us.
 2. In other words, there is something marvelous after the cross. This is to give us hope, passion, endurance, faith and desire to overcome.
- B. He really wants us to know five things:
1. The Father is the center of everything. He uses the term Father 43 times in four chapters! The Father is the center of all the conversation. Every topic, in these four chapters, centers around the Father. Jesus absolutely LOVES the Father! Jesus wants to be with the Father. And because Father is there, where He is going, the atmosphere of where He is drastically different from where we are.
 2. Love is the atmosphere of His house.
 - a) We know God is love: *"So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. **God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.**"* (1 John 4:16, ESV)
 - b) Love is the absolute best feeling, security supplying, unity providing, self giving, heart freeing thing a person can ever receive and experience! This is all over Father's house, creation, dwelling place. "You are gonna love it!"
 3. Joy is what that love/He produces. Jn 15:11; 16:20,21,22; 17:13
 - a) He is talking about abiding in Him, and love, and obedience out of love not obligation and the fruit/product of love is joy! *"I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. **Yes, your joy will overflow!**"* (John 15:11, NLT).
 - b) Chapter 16:20-24 Again Joy is the product of life celebrated. Jesus tells them I will die and go to the Father. But you will see me alive and be filled with Joy! There is joy all the time in Father's house because there is not room for/place for death. Love is always celebrated!
 4. Friendship is how we all relate. Jn 15:13,14,15
 - a) You are not servants, hired hands, etc. You are friends. John 15:13, 14, 15. Three times Jesus tells His disciples and us: *"**You are my friends!**"*
 - b) I will die for you. You will live for me. You are my friends!
 5. And Holy Spirit will bring this atmosphere to all who believe on earth. Jn 14:16,17;
 - a) I will not leave you as orphans!
 - b) I will send the Advocate - paraklitos – one who speaks for another (like an attorney). The Helper who brings comfort. He brings heaven to earth! Just like the Son brought heaven to earth. Stake yourself up to Him.
- C. Jesus says to them, "I am going home... to this! And this is where I will bring you!"

II. There Is More Than Enough Room In Father's House

- A. Something we must beware of when we read John 14, is to take out the heading of the chapter. You have to have the last of chapter 13 in order to really understand 14:1-ff.
1. Jesus makes clear He is leaving. 13:31,33
 2. Peter wants to go with Him. Jesus says, *"NO! You can't go now but you will go later."*
 3. Peter declares, *"I am ready to die for you!"*
 4. Jesus responds, *"Die for me? You will deny that you know me... three times before the rooster crows."* But!!! Don't let your hearts be troubled!
 - a) Isn't that what we do? We let our heart be troubled because of failure, sin, doubt.
 - b) They do not know where He is going. They do not know how to get there. Truth be told, There is not way there yet!!!
 5. Hearts are in turmoil! That is why those five things we just looked at are so important to them and to us. Remember, the goal of this Gospel (20:20) is to build faith, trust, assurance! Jesus is after us to believe!!! Not just know in our heads.
- B. What are we to believe?
1. Fathers house is BIG!!! There is room for everyone! Black or white; rich or poor; thief or Saint. It's a big house with room for all. As *many as received Him he gave them the right to become children of God.* John 1:12 You will have a place in His house!
 2. Jesus is going to prepare a place for the new family. What is Jesus preparing? Are things in disrepair? Is God unprepared? I don't think so!
 3. He desires to receive us to Himself. Church that is a good place to be. In Christ! Like a groom receiving his bride to live together forever!
 4. He is doing this so that we can be with Him, where He is! In Him and He in us.
 5. There is one thing that seems to be lacking. What needs to be prepared? The way in!

III. There Is Only One Way to the Father

- A. In John 14:1, all the obstacles still remain. Sin has not been dealt with. The curse of sin is still upon humanity. God's justice has not been satisfied. Death still holds us.
1. They want to go where He is going but there is no way for them to come.
 2. Jesus is about to deal with all of those issues at the cross so that He can take us to Himself. He will make a way for us, to Him at calvary.
 3. *"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."* (John 14:3, ESV)

4. But to prepare a place for them He must prepare the way for them to get there. In other words: *"I go to prepare a place for you. And as I go I literally become the way that you get there. I am the truth that you must hold onto to get there. And I am the life – the eternal life that determines your entry into the place that has no death!* When I say, "I go to prepare a place for you," I mean: I Am the Way Maker! Promise Keeper, Light in the darkness!
- B. No one can come to the Father except through me. *"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* (John 14:6, ESV)
 1. *"By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place."* (Hebrews 10:20, NLT)
 2. *"Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more."* (John 16:10, NLT) is available is from a word that means (because I lead to); to put oneself at the disposal...of the Father" Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT(p. 1227). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans. Righteousness is not available until Jesus goes to the Father! Home of love, joy, friendship and Holy Spirit!
- C. Jesus became the Way to the Father.
 1. Faith puts you on the Way.
 2. Who so ever will believe in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

Conclusion:

- **Just know before I go:** There is nothing like being with the Father, surrounded by love, overcome with joy, living in friendship with God, and filled with the Holy Spirit.
- *"Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!"* (John 17:24, NLT)
- He paid a huge price for you to have a way to the Father. That is why there is such a huge price for not believing.