

## Episode #1-52 – In My Father’s House

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. We continue to consider events leading up to the Lord’s death. In John 14, the Lord comforts His disciples, who are very troubled that He will be leaving them. He speaks of many mansions in His Father’s house, and going to prepare a place for them. What did the Lord mean?

III. John 14:1-2. The Lord’s statements.

- A. V.1. There was much to trouble them in the last few verses of chapter 13. Not be troubled? What a command! Why not? Because they should believe in God and in Him. Notice again the equality between two!
- B. V.2. This is often lauded as a beautiful passage, which it is. Yet it is very difficult to deal with because of the way it is used constantly at funerals, so there is much emotion attached to it.
  - 1. The common interpretation may comfort people, but it is not our job to be utilitarian. Instead, we must always seek the truth.
  - 2. We must apply principles of right interpretation always, the more important the passage, the more important to apply them!
  - 3. Matt. 19:28, Luke 22:30. The 12 are to sit on thrones on the earth.
  - 4. The Old Testament never holds out heaven as a hope to God’s people of Israel. How then would we find such a thing here?

IV. What is the Father’s house in John 14:2?

- A. The common interpretation: Christ was going off to big building project in heaven.
- B. A bad assumption: that this is talking about all believers. Pronouns are important! “You” refers to the 11 disciples here (Judas has already left.)
- C. My Father’s house=heaven? Traditionally, but what does the Word say? Its meaning is unclear here, so we must look for a clearer passage. This phrase only occurs twice. The other time is John 2:16. There it is clear what the phrase refers to: the temple of God in Jerusalem is the Father’s house!
- D. In the Old Testament, God’s house and the Lord’s house constantly refer to the temple, not heaven. II Samuel 7:1-7. I Kings 3:1. I Kings 5:5. I Kings 6:37. Any need to go on?
- E. How could a place be prepared for them in the temple? Psalm 65:4. This is exactly what the Lord had done with these 11! Mark 3:13-14.
- F. We dismiss the temple quickly, “God’s temple is in our hearts.” The temple may not be important to us, but it has always been important to God! It will yet be important for Israel. And these 11 men will have a place in it!

V. Conclusion: This traditional passage is often quoted at funerals as comfort that believers have gone off to heaven. Yet the Lord was speaking to His disciples, who had a hope of the kingdom of God on earth, not of heaven. The Father’s house is the temple, and the Lord was preparing a place for them by going to the cross. Any other conclusion is not Scriptural, nor is it fitting with the truth!