

Remember Me
John 14, Matthew 26:26-29
The Laurel Center
March 6, 2015

Main Idea: Jesus is preparing a place for us and we remember his death that brings us to him.

Introduction

As we continue our series for the Easter season, we focus now on the Lord's Supper and Communion. No one wants to see a loved one leave this world. Almost all of us struggle with seeing the ones we love go into eternity. But Jesus' disciples did not even realize what he was alluding to, his death. He was pretty clear for most of the time about the fact he was going to the Father.

But before he left this earth, Jesus left all of his disciples, including us, words of encouragement and wisdom to deal with living in this world until he returns. He did not leave us as orphans, as he tells us, but left us the Holy Spirit in his place. The Holy Spirit maintains our connection to Jesus and ministers to us as he did to his disciples in person. Let us look at these great promises of Jesus for us today.

Text – John 14:1–7

1 “Let not your hearts 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 go to prepare a place for you? **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. **4** And you know the way to where I am going.” **5** Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” **6** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7** If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

I. Jesus is going away (John 14:1 – 14).

A Jesus is going to prepare a place for us.

- 1** Jesus leaves us a great promise: that in his absence, he is preparing a place for us. Jesus is not leaving us because he wants to but because he has plans for our very best.
- 2** He reminds us that we trust in God and we must trust in him the same exact way. Jesus is God. He and the father are one. We need to remember that when Jesus promises us something it is the same as God's promise.

- 3 Jesus tells us a little bit about heaven here. He shows us that his father has a great house and that there are rooms in a for us. These rooms are not like what we would think of rooms.
- 4 The King James Version uses the term “mansions.” But Jesus is not speaking about giving us individual mansions here. The word for rooms his word for a dwelling place.
- 5 We do not know the size of this dwelling place. But we know that Jesus will give us more than sufficient space to live with him in eternity. John tells us about a great city, the New Jerusalem, in which all the saints will dwell.
- 6 It is a beautiful city and seems to have ample space for all of us to live. Do you think that Jesus would prepare such a great place for us and not make it more than what we can imagine or hope for?
- 7 The second great promise Jesus gives us in this text is that since he is going he is going to return for us. He is not going to leave us but is coming back for us.
- 8 **Application:** His end goal is that we are with him in heaven. The greatness of these truths is that Jesus is going to take care of us and is going to take us with him. Being an avid will be wonderful first because we are with God and second because it is an amazing place to live and we will be with others to know Christ.

B We must trust in him and to his works.

- 1 Jesus tells the disciples they know where he is going. If they were paying attention they would've known from his prophecies and teaching that he was going to the father and going to heaven. His death is at hand.
- 2 But they show that they don't realize what is going to happen. They have not been paying attention to his teachings. Jesus replies that he is the way truth in life.
- 3 Jesus is the way to the father because we must pass through him and receive eternal life to know the father. He is the truth because he shows us how to discern what is true and false. He is the life because he will resurrect us and teaches us how to live joyfully for him now.
- 4 Of course the disciples do not understand all of this quite yet. The disciple Philip asks him to see the father. Jesus reminds Philip that he and the father are one. If they've seen Jesus, they have seen the father.
- 5 Jesus challenges the disciples and us to do his works while he is away. This refers to what we do for Christ now out of appreciation and love for him.

- 6 This does not mean that we have to do things to be saved. It means that we do things out of love. We do things for Christ that he did when he was here out of his power and for his glory.
- 7 Jesus tells us that we will do greater works than him. It is most likely he was telling us that we will do more works than him rather than works that are greater in character or ability than him.
- 8 Jesus promises us a third great promise concerning his going away. He promises us that whatever we ask for in his name he will do through us. As long as they agree with his person and his will, we will see them come to pass.
- 9 **Application:** Jesus is giving us three great truths concerning his going away. First, he is preparing a place for us . Second, he is coming back. And third, he will give us his power to do his works. Jesus is leading us to do his work in his stead. We do his work by his power, not ours. We must stay connected to him and remain in him or these works are not for him. Let us do as Jesus has commanded us and trust in his promises that we might see ourselves working in his glory for him.

II. The Holy Spirit is coming (John 14:15 – 31).

A Because he loves us, Jesus sends the Holy Spirit.

- 1 Jesus begins this section with a conditional challenge that those who love him do what he commands. Loving the Bible is usually not referring to an emotional connection but to a commitment.
- 2 When we show that we love Christ, we do it through listening to what he told us to do. We do not show that we love him through a passionate, emotional response to him.
- 3 Love is based on commitment to him and action. Love is a verb. It is action based on what he told us to do. We show our love by doing his works.
- 4 But we need his power to do these works. We need help. Jesus knows that and that is exactly what he gives to us. He promises us a Helper who will help us do his works.
- 5 When He Says "another Helper," he is referring to the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. He specifically refers to the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Truth.
- 6 The Holy Spirit will help us to discern truth from false and remind us of what Jesus has told us. He will give us power to do what Jesus did so that we are not alone.

- 7 Although Jesus is going from us physically his Holy Spirit remains with us and connects us to Jesus. Thus, Jesus is not really left us but has actually made us stronger through his Holy Spirit.
- 8 While Jesus physically could guide the disciples outwardly, the Holy Spirit lives inside of us and helps us in a greater way because he is in us and not outside of us. He sees us and knows us better than we know ourselves.
- 9 **Application:** the Holy Spirit lives inside of us, dwells in us. He can help us because he does is better than we know ourselves. He also has a connection to Jesus and will teach us all truth. We must listen to the Holy Spirit just as we listen to Jesus. The Holy Spirit will give us the ability to discern truth and the power to do what Jesus commanded us. Our love for Jesus means that we will receive an listen to his Holy Spirit. He gives us the power to obey Jesus' command this and live for him.

B Because we love him, we do as he says and rejoices.

- 1 Jesus is not leaving us as orphans. We are not all alone while he is preparing a place for us. He has given us the Holy Spirit to guide us and connect Jesus to us.
- 2 Aside from that he promises us that he will return to us and take us with him. He has also promised us life and eternal life because he lives. The significance of this is that he will rise from the dead on the third day. He will open the door from death into eternal life.
- 3 There is a connection between the father and Jesus and Jesus in us. We have a connection to the father and Jesus through the Holy Spirit. We have a fellowship with the Godhead.
- 4 Jesus tells us that those who love him do what he tells to do. They not only follow his commands but actively do what he did. Jesus will show himself and those who love him and do what he says. This is what we call being Jesus with skin on.
- 5 In verse 23, Jesus beautifully and consistently puts it that there is a connection between the father, son and us when we show our love for him by keeping his word. He tells us that he will make his home in us. Jesus will be at home in the heart of the person who loves him and shows that love through obeying his commands and doing his works.
- 6 The Holy Spirit in us will remind us of what Jesus has said. He teaches us the truth and we must listen to him. The Holy Spirit will give us peace in the world full of contention.

- 7 Jesus' piece is different than the world's. His pieces eternal and it gives us a power to face whatever is coming. It keeps us strong so that our hearts are not troubled or afraid. We have a confidence with Jesus.
- 8 We can actually rejoice in Jesus' going even though he is not with us. We rejoice because he is going to the father on our behalf and preparing a place for us. Plus, he has brought us the Holy Spirit to be with us.
- 9 This is all part of God's plan and because it is, we can rejoice that the next phase of his plan is now in place. Sure we are sad to see Jesus go but he has left us the Holy Spirit and we can rejoice that he will return.
- 10 We can also rejoice because Jesus has told us before hand what will happen. He has prepared us for what we must face now. And we know that the ruler of this world cannot hurt Jesus or us.
- 11 Jesus did not die because Satan killed him. Jesus died because it was part of the father's plan. He died to fulfill all Scripture and what the father had planned from the beginning of the world. Satan has no claim on Jesus.

III. We must remember Jesus (Matthew 26:26 – 29).

A Jesus gave his body for our healing.

- 1 Jesus is careful to fulfill the proper way to partake of God's blessings. God gives us the food that we eat for nourishment. He takes care of every need only have, especially our physical needs.
- 2 First, Jesus accepts the bread by taking it in his hands. Then he blesses that by thinking God for giving it to us. He then broke it to share it with his friends.
- 3 Jesus then shows us that there's a connection between the physical bread in his body. This connection is not to say that the bread becomes his body. It is to say that the bread represents his body.
- 4 Jesus' body will be offered up to be scourged, beaten, and crucified for our sake. Elsewhere in the Scriptures, we learn that Jesus' body is beaten for us.
- 5 His body reminds us of the power of his healing in the promise of salvation. Salvation contains the promise not only of eternal life and forgiveness of sins but also of healing and deliverance from wickedness.
- 6 Isaiah teaches us that Jesus' body also is for our healing. He tells us that his stripes, which he gained in the scourging, are for the healing of the nations. We can trust in God's healing is part of his plan of salvation for each of us.
- 7 By taking the body of Christ through the bread during communion, we are accepting his promise of healing in our lives and his sacrifice on our behalf.

8 By eating the bread, we are applying that promise to our lives. This is not an act of cannibalism a sum of crudely suggested. This is an act of accepting and applying Jesus' healing in us.

B Jesus gave his blood for our salvation.

- 1 Next, Jesus takes a cup full of wine. The wine in Jesus' day was most likely watered-down. Many people today will substitute grape juice instead.
- 2 Once again we see him using the same process as with the bread. He takes the cup, accepting that God has provided for our needs. He then gives God thanks for his provision and care of each of us.
- 3 This is a healthy practice for us to do when we eat. We take a moment to thank God for his provision in our lives and to honor them because he cares for us and our needs.
- 4 Once again Jesus shares the cup with his friends. He does not keep it for himself. Then he tells them to drink it. Then he tells all of them to drink of it. This most likely included Judas who was about to betray him. We can see Jesus' forgiveness even in the Lord's Supper.
- 5 Interestingly, in the grammar of this passage, we can take it either "You drink all of it." This would suggest that we must drink the whole cup of wine. This might have a suggestion that if we do not fully partake, will not fully enjoy his promises.
- 6 The other way to take it is the way most translations have it. This would sound like, "drink of it, all of you." This grammatical arrangement suggests that everyone must drink of it so that everyone who drinks can partake in God's promise. This is probably the better way.
- 7 We know that Jesus' sacrifice was for everyone. When he died on the cross, he did it for every single person in the world. Not everyone will accept his sacrifice but it is there for everyone to receive it.
- 8 Jesus did not die a limited atonement only for those who would accept him. He died for everyone knowing that some would not accept. He died for us when we did not care about him.
- 9 He then shows us that the cup of wine represents his blood of the covenant. This is the new covenant. But just like the old one it must be instituted with the sacrifice of blood.
- 10 Jesus will sacrifice his own blood, innocent and pure, for the sins of the world. Because his blood is perfect, it is the ultimate sacrifice once for all. We do not carry out animal sacrifices as part of the new covenant because Jesus has done it all.

11 Jesus finishes the dinner by showing that he will wait to drink again until all of us are with him in heaven. He is waiting for us to once again partake in the covenant as part of the victory and restoration of God.

12 **Application:** This leaves us a great hope that Jesus is returning to take us and celebrate with us once again. We can celebrate his resurrection and his death. We celebrate the resurrection because it brings us eternal life. We celebrate the death because it brings us forgiveness of sins.

Text – Matthew 26:26–29

26 Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” **27** And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, **28** for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. **29** I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

Conclusion

Jesus has left us with so many truths about his returning and promising is the Holy Spirit so that we can live for him now with his power. He has promised us that he is preparing a place for us to go to with him. He has given us eternal life, the forgiveness of sins and the promise of healing. Jesus gave us all that he has to give and it is more than enough. We have peace and joy in this life because of his sacrifice and goodness to us. All who accept Jesus’ sacrifice will have eternal life. He gave his life for everyone in the world but only those who choose him as their sacrifice in their place will know the benefits of his salvation. Let us partake of him in the Lord’s table remembering all of his great promises to us.