

John 14:1-3 *"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many (rooms / dwelling places) mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."* **NKJV**

Jesus is bringing a hugely significant word of encouragement to His disciples in this critical moment of His journey with them. He is speaking clearly of a time of departure and separation and death. They are not sure exactly what He is referring to, but they gather that He is preparing them for a shift that does not sound good to them. Jesus is bringing hope and perspective.

We celebrate times of togetherness and we find the goodbyes and separation difficult. Jesus understands that, while He offers us this glorious hope of a time coming when we will be together again – 'that where I am, you may be also'... He is talking of a special place in His heavenly Father's home.

- What would you love heaven to be like?
- What do you really think or believe it is actually going to be like?

In this passage, Jesus uses a lot of family type of language. He speaks of a Father who has a home and in that home there is plenty of space (rooms) for all. He speaks of making preparation for those who are going to come and dwell there. And He speaks of the joy of being together – which is always our hope for a healthy, functional family, even here on earth. Other scriptures speak of a marriage feast celebration in heaven, which is again a picture of family, with the bride and bridegroom being together and the relationship being celebrated.

Many of us have considered the joy of being reunited with lost loved ones as an aspect of the joy of heaven, but have we often considered that heaven has a hugely family and relational element to it? Much talk is often about heaven in worldly terms of mansions and golden streets and abundance of things like food and wealth, but could it be that the things that seem valuable and important to many here on earth will not be of much value in our heavenly home?

What would be of great value to our heavenly Father in His home? What He has paid a huge price for are the people He has redeemed - the ones who have received Christ and appreciated what He accomplished to make our reconciliation with the Father possible. We look so forward to the glories of heaven, and the hope we have is supposed to be a huge encouragement to every believer throughout our earthly sojourn (Phil. 3:20). Let's look forward to being in our Father's home with our family, enjoying the full benefit of being in right relationship with Him!

Q: When you consider the promises that Jesus made to the disciples in these few verses above, what do you appreciate most and what do you most look forward to?

Prayer: Thank You Father for what you have made possible for me. Thank You Jesus for making a way for me to be reconciled to my heavenly Father; Your blood paid for my sin. I truly have assurance of a heavenly home. Help me to share such good news with others joyfully!