

JESUS IS PREPARING US A PLACE

John 14:1-3 Acts 1:6-11

Introduction: Ever have somebody tell you that they had a room ready for you so why not come for a visit? Ever tell somebody that yourself? Jesus told His disciples that He was going away to prepare them a place and would come back for them one day. Jesus told the thief on a cross beside Him who had shown belief in Jesus, that that very day he would be with Jesus. Jesus made it clear that He was preparing a special place for those who believed in Him and one day they would get to go there. Do you think Jesus did what He set out to do after He ascended back to the Father?

I. HOW CAN WE BE SURE THAT THERE IS SUCH A PLACE?

1. The human soul has always longed for such a place.
 - Every culture, every generation, no matter what time period of history, has had some sort of belief in an afterlife somewhere.
 - It is an innate desire.
2. The human soul has always felt there was such a place.
 - As the story goes of the little boy flying his kite, he couldn't see the kite way up in the sky, but he knew it was there because he could feel it tug the string.
 - The human soul knows in a similar way that there is such a place as Heaven, because there is a tug at the soul.
3. Then most important of all, God says there is such a place. The text tells us that Jesus said that He was going to prepare such a place.
 - I'd rather have Jesus' word about anything than all the scientists and philosophers opinions.

II. WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE?

1. Here is a description gathered from the Bible: **"A place without pain, without sorrow, without sickness, without death. There is no darkness there for the Lamb of God is the light of that place. It therefore needs no sun or moon. The garden of Eden is nothing compared with this place. There will be no temptation or sin there. Think of a place that is not built with human hands, where the buildings do not grow old with time, a place whose streets have no businesses, no funeral hearses, no griefs, no graves, no sorrow or sins. A place without marriage or births or burials. A place which has Jesus for it's King, angels for it's guards, and whose citizens are saints."**
2. The place Jesus has prepared is a place that has:
 - big, beautiful mansions, no more sea, no more tears, death, sorrow or crying
 - no more sun or moon or disease or injuries or curse of any kind.
 - unending water and a tree of life, unimaginable beauty, untold wealth, unending light.
 - unceasing service to God, unceasing reign as heirs of God, sharing the wealth of Jesus.

3. It will be a place of reunion:
 - Friends will be reunited, husbands and wives, mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, brothers and sisters will be brought back together.
4. It will be a place of perfect health:
 - No more deaf ears, blind eyes, silent voices, bent backs, twisted, crippled legs and arms.
 - No more cancer, heart attacks, strokes, or disease of any kind.
5. It will be a place of absolute perfection:
 - What God has done down here is nothing compared to what He has done for us there.
Just imagine if things are so beautiful down here what they must be like up there.
 - Things don't go very right down here, but everything will go right up there.

III. HOW TO GET TO THE PLACE JESUS HAS PREPARED

1. The only way to the place Jesus has prepared is HIS way:
 - *"...and whither I go, ye know, and the way ye know...I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also; and from henceforth ye know him, and ye have seen him..."*
2. The reason Jesus went to the cross in the first place was to make it possible for us to be able to be restored to God.
 - Once restored to God, one can now be in God's presence and live in the place Jesus has prepared for those who have been restored.
3. *"...For by grace are ye saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; Not of works, lest any man should boast."*

CONCLUSION:

1. Heaven is a very real place, as real as any place you know down here.
2. Heaven is a very different place, more different than you can possibly imagine.
3. Heaven is a place Jesus prepared Himself, and is awaiting those who have believed and placed their trust in the Easter story: His crucifixion, blood, death, tomb, resurrection.
4. Jesus' disciples who were so sad when Jesus uttered those words, have since learned that what Jesus said that day was true.
 - Millions of others through the ages have also learned that it was true.
5. What about you? Do you believe what Jesus said was/is true?