

IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE  
John 14:1-6 (Read John 3:1-12)  
Message 3

INTRO: We began this great subject of Jesus' Father's house two weeks ago. We saw that these verses of John 14:1-6 take place near the end of Christ's life here on earth. The Jewish day begins at sunset and the sun has set and before the sun sets again, Jesus will be dead. Jesus' disciples are not aware of the incredible significance of the events they are experiencing right at this point.

Jesus has just told them that He is leaving and they cannot follow Him now. Jesus has just told Peter that Satan has desired to have him. And then He has told Peter that before this night is over he will deny Jesus three times before the rooster crows. Well, that is early morning. And then He told them to get a few swords. All of this adds up to some very worrisome information, and their minds are in a turmoil. There is an ominous feel to this whole thing. It is night and it seems storm clouds are gathering.

Just moments before this Jesus had lovingly looked at these innocent lambs going to the slaughter and He addressed them as, "My little children." And then all this ominous information. And now, in 14:1 He says, "Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself that where I am, there you may be also."

Now I want you to look at all this from the disciples perspective. They have found the Messiah! After 4000 years, Messiah had finally come. Many of their fellow Jews did not recognize that fact, but they did. And there was no doubt in their mind that any day now He would begin to set up His kingdom on earth. The throne of David would be set up again. The Roman government would be removed and Israel would once more be ruling their own country, and Jesus, as messiah would be ruling on earth. And not only that, for some time now they had been debating who of them would be the greatest in that kingdom. Two of the disciple's mother had requested of the Lord that her sons would sit, one on Jesus' right hand, and the other on His left. And these

disciples, according to Jesus' own promise, would be sitting on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel!

And now? Jesus is saying He is going away and they cannot come where He is going. And He has told Peter some bad news about denying Him. And He has asked them to get some swords. It all is very troubling. And now Jesus is saying He is going to His Father's house to prepare a place for them and then He would come and receive them to Himself. How can they make sense of all this?

Little did they know that Jesus will die on this new day they have just entered. Nor had they understood Him when He had foretold that He would be resurrected three days later. And they had no idea that 40 days after that His resurrection, He would ascend into heaven. And then, just 10 days after that, they, Jesus disciples would begin a new work on earth known as the Church, and that it would continue on earth for some 2000 years. Little did they know that they would go to that place Jesus was here promising before He returned to earth for His people. They are, as Jesus said, "My little children", with regard to all these things.

But for us, in hindsight verses 2-3 are comforting information. For the disciples, this was probably disconcerting information at that time. But we are going to look at these verses in hindsight and apply them to ourselves in that light of hindsight. These, as you will see, are very incredible verses and they give us very comforting information.

Now let me show you one outstanding feature about verses 2-3 for our personal faith. In the last message, on the first verse, Jesus instructed them to believe in Him. And in this dark night, when the calm sea has been roused to create killer waves, Jesus encourages them to focus on long term issues, not the immediate. He did not say, "Trust God and see how He will deliver you out of this present crisis." Now I am not saying we do not need that kind of faith. I want to point out something to you that will help you trust in any immediate crisis. You see, we want to know how to trust God for my dying baby, or my struggling business. But we need to learn to trust God in spite of things that may be very difficult here and now.

I will read verses 2-3 and you see if you can discern what Jesus is teaching them to trust both God and Himself for (read). You see, the assurance of future victory ought to carry us through the darkest night. Look with me at one more Scripture before we go to this wonderful passage before us (read Hebrews 12:1-4). You see, this kind of faith is good for life, and it is even good in death.

B. The Comforting Information (2-3)

1. The Proposition (2)

a. The content of this proposition? (2)

This morning we are going to begin looking at Jesus' words in John 14:2-4. Now before I state the proposition in the comforting information Jesus gives to His disciples in verses 2-4, let me share how I feel about these verses. You will remember that when God called Moses, He got his attention by this burning bush that was not consumed. And Moses' curiosity got the best of him and he turned aside to see this thing. And God called to him out of the burning bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And Moses, no doubt trembling, said, "Here am I." And God said, "Moses, take your shoes off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

Now there is no place in this book where one is not on holy ground. But there are some times when the ground seems to us exceptionally holy. I feel that John 14:2-4 is just such holy ground. And before I read the proposition, I want us to kneel before the Lord, and I want you to ask God to grant me the grace both to study and convey accurately the truths contained here, and to deal with it in all holy fear. Then, ask God to show you any area in your own life that you need to clean up. Then take care of it right now if it is a matter you can do now. And if you cannot do it here because you need to talk to somebody, or for any other reason, then promise Him to do so as soon as you can. Then ask Him to open your eyes to behold wonderful

things out of His Word. For, you see, even if I preach it right, you might not be able to comprehend right (Kneel for prayer).

Now let us read Jesus' proposition, as stated in verse 2. He said, "In My Father's house are many mansions." I ask you, do you understand what He is talking about? You see, He begins like this, "In My Father's house..." Those words are the sum of what we want to consider this morning. Let me ask you, what is His Father's house? Where is His Father's house? And what is meant by these words, 'My Father's house'? Well, we will be content this morning, if we can come to an understanding of just these words, "My Father's House."

Now I listened to some preachers on this verse. I have read some views about what this means. Jesus Father's house is heaven, or it is this or it is that. Maybe it is an added dimension. Instead of three, there are four or five; I have even read of seven. What did Jesus mean in these verses?

-The earthly things

Let me begin with the question: Where is Jesus' Father's house? Now to understand this question, and what is meant by the many mansions, we have some work before us. When Jesus spoke to Nicodemus in John 3, to this man who came to Him by night, Jesus said in 3:13, "If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?" Now I propose that unless we understand some earthly things, we will never have a good picture of John 14:2-4. And I believe that God gave us some pictures in the OT of earthly things that will help us understand John 14:2-4.

Now let me ask you first a very simple question: What is a house? You might say, "Please don't embarrass us with such elementary questions." Well, I wouldn't do that if it wasn't important. Maybe I have to

ask such questions because I myself am so elementary in my own understanding. My question is this; What is a house? Let me first take you to Webster's definition done in 1828, almost 200 years ago. This dictionary has a whole long column of 16 different definitions of a house. So, maybe it is not quite so simple after all. But definition #1 gives what we usually mean by a house and it is this: "In a general sense, a building or shed intended or used as a habitation or shelter for animals or any kind; but appropriately, a building or edifice for the habitation of man; a dwelling place, mansion, or abode for any of the human species. It may be of any size and composed of any materials whatever, wood, stone, brick etc", end quote. Well, a more modern dictionary, Funk & Wagnall's Dictionary says, "A building intended as a dwelling for human beings, especially one used as the residence of a family or single tenant."

Now you see, some people think that Jesus' Father's house is heaven. But it does not say Jesus Father's *home*. It says His *house*. And very simply, a house is a building made for someone to live or dwell in. It is a building. A cave could be a home, but it cannot be a house. And Jesus is talking about His Father's *house* and I conclude Jesus' Father's house must be the building which was built for God the Father to dwell in.

So, let me begin by giving you a proposition. It is this: Jesus Father's house is that house that the Bible calls, 'the house of the LORD' or 'God's house'. Wouldn't that be 'Jesus' Father's house?'

Now I ask you, do you know of such a house that is called Jesus' Father's house, or the house of the Lord, or the house of God? Well, the phrase, 'house of the Lord' occurs first in Exodus 23:19. Let us read it. It says, "The first of the first-fruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your

God." Wow! There it is! What is referred to here is the tabernacle that Moses built and that traveled with them those 40 years. God lived in that house. You can find that throughout the OT. When Solomon built the temple, and later when it was destroyed and rebuilt and when Herod enlarged that building, over 200 times that place is called 'the house of the Lord.' Almost 100 times it is called the 'house of God.' And then it is called other things as well, all indicating that it is the dwelling place of God. It is a place that WAS BUILT for God to DWELL in. That is a house. This was Jesus' Father's house on earth.

Now I propose that we will never understand this passage aright until we understand the Jewish temple. It was first called the tabernacle. God instructed Moses on how to build the tabernacle in the wilderness. You see, the house of the Lord is Jesus' Father's house. And later Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem. It was built on the spot where Abraham had once offered Isaac. And once the temple was built on that spot, that became the everlasting place of Jesus' Father's house. It is in Jerusalem.

When Moses had completed building the tabernacle, one day they set everything up. They set up the white fence and all the utensils were put in place. Then they set up the tabernacle building and hung up all the coverings, and when it was all finished, let us look at what happened. We turn to Exodus 40 (read 34-38). God had moved in. This is His house. This is where He lived. This, is Jesus' Father's house!

When Israel had settled in the land God had given them, after king David had brought peace to the land, his son Solomon built that beautiful first temple. Inside, it is just like the tabernacle. It also became the house of God, or the house of the Lord, or Jesus' Father's house. Let me show you what happened

here when God moved in. We must first go to 2 Chronicles 5 (read 11-14). Then Solomon prayed to God. Look at 6:12 (read). His prayer goes from 6:12 to 42. So let us now read the end of his prayer and what happened (read 6:41-7:3. God had moved in. This is Jesus' Father's house!

Now let me give you just a little history of Jesus' Father's house. Solomon built that first temple in 957 BC and it was destroyed in 586 BC by the Babylonians. Jesus' Father's house then lay in ruins for 70 years, and the second temple was built by Ezra in 516 BC. This temple then suffered some tremendous abuse, but in 19 BC, Herod, the man who ruled Israel when Jesus was born began to enlarge the second temple. Now turn once more to John 2. In verse 19 Jesus, pointing to this magnificently rebuilt temple which was then still in construction and said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Now verse 20, "Then the Jews said, 'It has taken 46 years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days.'" Now look at verse 16. This is Jesus' Father's house.

Now right here, let me remind you of something. That dark night of John 14:1-6, when Jesus walked towards the Garden of Gethsemane with His disciples and told them He was going to His Father's house, it was right there, in view all the while as they walked! You see, it is the same place He turned over the tables of the money changers and drove them all out with a whip.

I wonder if you begin to see what must have been going through the disciples minds when Jesus spoke the words of John 14:2-4? You see, if He is going to His Father's house, and they cannot come where He is going, just where is He going? Is it any wonder then that Thomas said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, and how then can we know the way?"

Well, in 70 AD, Titus, the Roman, came and destroyed Jesus' Father's house and it has never been rebuilt. For almost all of the Church age it has been gone. But in the tribulation time it will once more be rebuilt for it is once more a Jewish time period. Today, in Israel, almost all the utensils for the temple have been completed. The priest's garments have been made, and now soon the priests are to learn how sacrifices are to be done. And when we look into the future, 2 Thessalonians tells us that the antichrist will set himself up in Jesus' Father's house in the tribulation time and claim He is God.

But right after the tribulation, the temple will be rebuilt once more. This temple is described in detail in Ezekiel 40-46. You may wish to study this temple in greater detail now.

I have told you of earthly things. From that we want to now consider the heavenly truths, as we continue to seek to understand what is meant by the words, "My Father's house." So let me first show you something else with regard to that very first tabernacle, when God instructed Moses how it was to be built. Go with me to Exodus 25 (read 1-9). What I want you to notice is that God showed Moses a pattern. Where did this pattern come from?

Well, before I answer that, let me mention that when David wanted to build Jesus' Father's house, God turned him down because he had been a man of war, but He instructed David to prepare the materials for building it and Solomon, his son, would build it. And God showed David exactly how He wanted His house built. After David explains in in 1 Chronicles 28 how he was to build it, notice what verse 19 says (read). Again we ask, where did the pattern come from?

-Heavenly things



Well, I have now told you of earthly things so that we might understand the heavenly things we are trying to understand. So come with me to the book of Hebrews, and chapter 8 and let me just tell you that this portion speaks of Jesus and we want to read verses 1-5 (read). The writer is here talking about Jesus as our High Priest, and I want you to notice in verse 1 where He is. He is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven. We are now in heaven in this passage. We are also right inside the holy of holies, the place Jesus' Father dwells.

Now I want you to notice in verse 2 what Jesus is doing in heaven now. He is a minister of the sanctuary, or literally, the holy place. Do you know what he is talking about here? Notice further that this is the 'true tabernacle'. This is the real thing! This is where Moses and David's patterns came from! This is Jesus Father's house! Now that word *tabernacle* is the word for the tabernacle that Moses made, or the inner sanctuary of the temple Solomon built. But notice that this tabernacle is in heaven! Here is Jesus' Father's house! This is where Jesus was going in John 14:2! And notice further that God Himself erected this house, not man.

Now look at verses 4-5 (read). Verse 5 says that those who serve in the temple on earth are serving in a place that is a *copy* of the Father's house in heaven. So notice it is but a *copy*! That is what the pattern Moses had, and David had, indicated. Those structures were but copies of the real house of God in heaven! This is the real thing! This is Jesus' Father's house! So, notice that verse 5 says, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

Now I want you to go to Hebrews 9 (read 23-24). The copies on earth of this true house of God which is in heaven, were sprinkled with blood again and again and again. Blood ran like water here. But the heavenly sanctuary,

Jesus' Father's house in heaven, not the copies but the real thing, would receive a better sacrifice. Look at it in 9:11-12 (read). So, in John 14:2, when Jesus would ascend to His Father's house, He would sprinkle the real house of the Lord with His own blood, and this would be done once for all.

[[Now I determined that if I had some extra time I would try to answer some questions I have been thinking about to you. And so, let me give you an observation that is as incredible as it is simple. Look at Hebrews 8:1-2 (read). I want you to notice that this building, this house was erected by God. Now do you know what that means? That means it has not always existed! It came into existence at some time and it was erected at some time! So let me ask and seek to answer a few questions: First, when was this temple built in heaven by God? Second, why was it built, and third, why was it built by God Himself?

If I start with the question, 'why', I think it will help us answer the question, 'when'. I believe the temple in heaven was built after Adam and Eve sinned. The temple and its utensils all speak of dealing with sin. It is the divine picture of the only way to meet with God. It is the meeting place between God and man. In this way, that awesome and holy God, can meet with sinful man. But the man that meets with God must first be cleansed at the altar and washed by the water of the Word before there is any meeting.

So, if this building has to do with man's sin, it would have been constructed in heaven after Adam and Eve sinned, since God would not have needed to separate Himself from man before that. Now, to confirm that, look at Revelation 21:22 (read). Now, later I must clarify some more things about this temple, but let me here just say it is the inner part of the temple, called in the Greek, the naos. This is that part of the temple that has the holy, and most

holy place. And when that city, the New Jerusalem comes down to earth that part of the temple will no longer exist. Why not? Because sin is forever done with! There is no more reason for it to exist!

Last question: Why was this building built by God Himself? Because He is the only one that could provide salvation. Man can have nothing to do with it! It is all God's doing! He provided the way!]]

CONCL: So, in conclusion, all I have done this morning is to try to show you what Jesus' Father's house is. It is not heaven, but it is in heaven. If we study that earthly picture carefully, we may just learn a great deal about heaven itself! One preacher I listened to on John 14:2 said the Bible does not give us much information about heaven. But the more I study the more I find. There is simply a lot of information about heaven in the Bible. Our trouble is we fail to see so much of it.

So we went to the earthly tabernacle and temple, and right there, we began to learn a few things about heaven. There are many more. But from there we went to heaven itself to find the real building. And there it is, not a copy, but the real thing! God Almighty dwells there. Jesus sits at His own right hand there. Whatever those mansions are John 14:2 speaks of, they must be here somewhere. And so we have learned that Jesus' Father's house is a special building that has been build by God Himself in heaven.

And that leaves us with an assignment for next message: What is meant by, "the many mansions" in John 14:2?