



YOU: Connect. Grow. Serve. Go!
Summer 2018 Midweek / Sermon Starter

Unit 3: Final Destinations

Sermon Series Title: Living with Eternity in Mind

Sermon 2 Title: Pathway to Eternity

Bible Passage: John 14:1-6

Background/Context

Life is not a rehearsal. We get no second chances to live again. We have one life to live and one life to give. We have a time to be born and a time to die. No matter how long we live, it seems that life is short, and death is sudden. The reality of our mortality can be sobering when we look at our brief stay on earth in light of eternity. As we move through life having to face sickness, suffering, and separation from loved ones who die before us, we're often taken aback by how frail, helpless, and limited we are. Well, the Holy Spirit has sent us the Word of God to give us answers to all of life's questions; solutions to all of life's problems, and strength to navigate through all of life's struggles. In today's passage Jesus answers some key questions that concern us whether we consciously ask them or not. Jesus tells us in John 14:1-6 how to be saved, solid, satisfied, and how to become sons of God. This statement comes during Christ's last lengthy conversation with His disciples prior to His arrest, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection.

**A. A Peace That's Promised
(John 14:1)**

As Christ gets ready to move from earth to glory by way of the cross, He leaves the disciples with eternal assurance. He speaks words to them that have comforted believers for centuries. He says, "Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me." He essentially says that the way to have peace during the perplexities of life is to place your faith in Him. John portrays Jesus as the person, power, provider, and the pathway to peace on earth and for eternity.

The Apostle John wrote his gospel around seven signs that proved that Jesus was God that came in the flesh (see John 20:30-31), and around seven "I Am" statements where Christ declares that real life only comes through Him. John makes the case that Christ is man's spiritual satisfaction (6:35), spiritual sight (8:12), spiritual Savior (10:9), spiritual sacrifice (10:11), spiritual security (11:25), spiritual source (14:6), and spiritual sustenance (15:1-7). In John 14:1, we see that Christ is the peace for a broken heart.

Application Point: Christians have peace with God (Rom. 5:1), the potential to have peace in God (Isa. 26:3), and the peace of God (Phil. 4:6-7). How will you continue to develop your faith in Christ so that it gives you inner-peace amid outer-turmoil?

**B. A Place That's Prepared
(John 14:2-4)**

Jesus went on to say that He was going away to prepare a place for the disciples' (and our) final-destination. Christ is preparing an expansive house and an eternal home for those who place their faith in Him. Paul echoes Jesus when he teaches "we have an eternal dwelling in the heavens, not made with hands" (2 Cor. 5:1). We don't know what we're going to experience, but we do know where we're headed—heaven. Paul also tells the disciples that Jesus is going to be their personal escort to their new home in heaven. "If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also" (v. 3). Again, Paul echoes Jesus when he teaches that Christ will return with a loud shout bringing those who have died in Christ with Him, and He will catch-up, snatch-up, pull-up those who are alive at His second coming to be with Him forever (1 Thess. 4:13-18). Every believer's final destination is with Jesus Christ in the new heavens and the new earth (Rev. 21:1-5). Christ gives us a place prepared that's a better home.

Application Point: As believers, we must live with our eyes on earth (Eph. 5:15-17), and our hearts set on eternity (Col. 3:1-4). How can you allow your knowledge of your final destination to help you navigate through the circumstances of life?

C. A Pathway That's Provided (John 14:5-6)

Thomas told Jesus that he and his fellow disciples did not know where He was going, nor the way (v. 5). Jesus told them how to be saved (I am the way), how to be solid (the truth), how to be satisfied (the life), and how to become a son of God (No one comes to the Father except through me). Jesus is the pathway to eternity. When we place our faith in Him, we are saved. When we fill our hearts with His Word, we are solidified. When we draw on His life through prayer, we are satisfied. All this is possible because through Him we are made sons of God (Eph. 1:3-7). We will not find internal satisfaction or eternal security in any other place or person—only through an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, and in Christ alone. Jesus is God's solution to the problem of sin (see Rom. 3:23-26). He is God's provision of righteousness for an unholy people (see 2 Cor. 5:21). He is the bridge that connects us with God (see 1 Tim. 2:5). He is God's provided pathway to a blessed hope.

Application Point: Believers that focus on all that we have in Christ experience increased levels of peace and assurance. Pray, meditate, and allow God to show you the pathway to all of the spiritual blessings you have in Christ Jesus.