

**Sermon Series:** Book of John  
**Sermon title:** I am the way, the truth and the life  
**Scripture reading:** John 14:1-11  
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church  
December 15, 2019  
S.C. Brown, Pastor

Well, I don't know how you picture heaven but when I think of heaven, I often think of **The Biltmore Estate**, one of the largest houses in the world which is not too far from my hometown.

The reason that I think of the Biltmore is probably due to the text that we will look at today. It's the most glorious mansion and lavish house I have ever seen and it has many rooms. 250 rooms to be exact. It has 35 bedrooms, 43 bathrooms and 65 fireplaces.

But, it's empty. No one lives there anymore. It wouldn't be a very nice place to live forever. If God the Father and God the Son weren't there, would you still want to go there? What will heaven be like? And what is the way?

Let's pray

**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."

As we come to the first verse in John 14, we have Jesus telling his disciples to not be troubled.

Why are they troubled?

## **I. THE CONTEXT**

In chapter 13 Jesus reveals 3 shocking announcements to his disciples that cause much trouble.

The first one is in John 13:21. He says that one of them will betray him. Unless you've ever been betrayed by a close friend, it's easy to just read right over that.

This has been someone that Jesus has lived with for 3 years. Judas is going to betray him for money.

The second announcement Jesus makes is that Peter will deny that he even knows him 3 times before sunrise. That's in 13:38. If Judas didn't hurt him enough, this is one of his closest followers. Peter, the rock....the strong one...is going to deny him.

So, Judas is going to betray him.

Peter is going to deny him.

and then Jesus says that he is going to go away...and he's not just going away but he is going away and they can't follow him. Triple whammy.

Now you know why he starts off chapter 14 with "Let not your hearts be troubled." Jesus is going to leave them. That's the context.

## **II. THE DESTINATION**

Where is Jesus going? Peter asks him that in verse 36, "Lord, where are you going?"

Where is he going?

**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.

In verses 1-11, he mentions the Father 11 times.

And he mentions his Father's house in verse 2.

Jesus is going back to the Father.  
But he also means here that he is going to the cross.  
When he says that he goes to prepare a place for you  
he doesn't mean that he is going to heaven to  
continue his carpentry business by building me and  
you some houses.

He is going to the cross and he will go there to prepare  
and secure a place for his disciples and then he will go  
to the Father. The cross is the work that he will do to  
prepare a place for us.

Now, Jesus says some marvelous, comforting and  
exciting words here.

He says that in his Father's house are many rooms.  
This word means dwelling places. It's a place to live.  
It's not a hotel. It's a home.

The focus is not on the lavishness of the dwelling but  
on the certainty of his provision.

That said, the word does have not mean a shack.

Listen to what [Frédéric Godet](#) says,

**'The image is derived from those vast oriental  
palaces, in which there is an abode not only for the  
sovereign and the heir to the throne, but also for all  
the sons of the king, however numerous they be.'**

So, as an American, I generally think of my home in heaven being a stand-alone house, maybe with no one close by me...and to see the Father and the Son..I need to walk over to the center of town.

That's not the picture here.

The house is not the point.

The house is where the Father dwells...ie...heaven.

And we will be close to him...dwelling with the Father.

That's where Jesus is going...to the Father.

And he says there is a way for his disciples to go there, too.

What's the way?

### **III. THE WAY**

**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.

Notice that Jesus is not just making a blank statement but he is answering Thomas's question.

Thomas says, "How can we know the way?"

Thomas seems clueless. He doesn't know where he's going or how.

The way to where Thomas?

### **The Father and his house!**

So, now we come to 14:6 and Jesus's famous statement that many of us memorized as kids.

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

It's tempting to try to make something out of this verse that isn't there, simply because we all know it. But it is what it is.

Jesus is saying that the destination is the Father. He's going there and he is making a way for all who believe (mentioned 5x in verses 1-11) in him to go to the Father's house and have a room there forever. And what's the way?

Jesus is the way to the Father.

In fact, he is the only way.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

No one.

No other way.

Now the main emphasis in this 6th 'I AM' statement of Jesus is 'the way' part.

He is the way because he is the truth of God, he is THE revelation of God to man.

He is the way because he is the one who will not only give his life so that others have life...but being God the Son, he is the author of life.

He is the only way to the Father.

**1 Timothy 2:5** says,

**5** For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

**Acts 4:12**

**12** And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Listen to these beautiful words of Thomas à Kempis in The Imitation of Christ:

*Follow thou me. I am the way and the truth and the life.*

*Without the way there is no going;*

*without the truth there is no knowing;*

*without the life there is no living.*

*I am the way which thou must follow;*

*the truth which thou must believe;*

*the life for which thou must hope.*

*I am the inviolable way;  
the infallible truth,  
the never-ending life.  
I am the straightest way;  
the sovereign truth;  
life true, life blessed, life uncreated.*

## **Application**

**Believer**, you have a glorious future ahead of you. Jesus Christ has provided and secured for you a royal suite in the Father's house with your name on the door. Reservations have already been made and it has been paid for on Jesus's credit.

## **How should we now live in light of that reality?**

1. Don't let your hearts be troubled here on earth. Here we have no lasting city but we seek the city which is to come. A better possession awaits.
2. Don't lay up treasures here on earth but in heaven.
3. Share the news that Jesus is the only way.
4. Strive to know God now. Hopefully he won't be a stranger when you get there.



## **Unbeliever**

What a shame it would be to spend your whole life trying to get a small flat in HK, nice job, take some vacations, have a nice spouse and some good kids and then suffer eternally.

**Mark 8:36** says, [check]

What does it profit a man to gain the whole world yet lose his soul?

You may be asking yourself like Thomas, 'How can I know the way?'

There is only one way. Jesus is the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through him.

What do you need to do?

Believe in the truth of who Jesus says he is.

Believe that he died on the cross for your sin and that he rose from the dead to give you eternal life.

And guess what?

He'll make a reservation in the Father's house in your name.