



The Life of Jesus (100)

The Last Teachings of Jesus (2)

John 14:1-3



#1 Three Blessings of Jesus' Departure

The most important lesson Jesus wanted to teach His disciples about worry was to believe in Him just as they believe in God.

There's no difference between believing in God and believing in Jesus because technically speaking, God the Father and God the Son, Jesus, refer to the same Being.

But the reason Jesus said "Believe also in me" is because He wanted the disciples to know **what He would specifically do for them by leaving them**. We find three blessings that Jesus would give to His disciples after returning to the Father in John 14.

These blessings are so good that Jesus even affirmed that it was actually better for Him to leave them.

"But now I am going to him who sent me... You are filled with grief because I have said these things. But **very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away.**" (Jn 16:5-7)

#2 Three Blessings of Jesus' Departure

1. Jesus Leaves to Prepare a Place

“My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? **And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me** that you also may be where I am.” (Jn 14:2-3)

Jesus reveals that one of the purposes of Him leaving the world is to prepare a place for His disciples. the One who prepares our places is Jesus. **The places Jesus prepares for us will be much better than the best possible places we can be in the world.**

Even the best architect in all of human history couldn't compare to Him. Even the best building on earth can't compare to His masterpiece. His wisdom, power, and imagination are far beyond our knowledge. That's who prepares our places in the kingdom of God. That's where we will ultimately live in eternity.

#3 Three Blessings of Jesus' Departure

1. Jesus Leaves to Prepare a Place

What's more, Jesus didn't just say that He would prepare our places there. He also said that He would come back to take us to be with Him in the kingdom of God.

Where someone lives seems to have become one of the standards people consider important when it comes to success. There's nothing wrong with living in a good house.

But, what we should know as Christians is that **no matter how good our houses look to us, the days we can live there are very limited.** We can only enjoy such places while we're living in this world.

If you compare your life on earth to the concept of eternity, you would immediately acknowledge how short it is. If you really recognize this, it becomes plain where you should invest your life.

We shouldn't try to live for the things that we can only enjoy in this world. Rather, **our lives here on earth must be spent preparing for our eternity that is to come.**

#4 Three Blessings of Jesus' Departure

1. Jesus Leaves to Prepare a Place

Without this perspective, we can't really follow Christ because following Christ requires all followers to sacrifice what they have to a certain point.

One day, a rich young man came to Jesus to know how to get eternity and Jesus said,

“Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” (Mk 10:21)

When he heard this, the rich young man went away sad because he had great wealth. He chose his wealth over treasure in heaven. The man's great wealth blinded him.



That's what still happens to some Christians. There are two ways in front of us—the way of the world or Jesus' way. If you choose the way of the world, you may live a good life here on earth. But, No matter how much you have on earth, you will find yourself with nothing after death.

#5 Three Blessings of Jesus' Departure

1. Jesus Leaves to Prepare a Place

“You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.” (Rv 3:17)

Here, Jesus seems to be saying that being rich here on earth is equal to being poor and naked spiritually in the kingdom of God. That's what we see in Lazarus' story.

In the story, a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen lived in luxury every day while ignoring the beggar named Lazarus at his gate, who had no house, no clothes, and no food.



But things changed greatly after both of them died. Lazarus went to Abraham's side, which refers to paradise, while the rich man went to Hades where he was in torment forever.



#6 Three Blessings of Jesus' Departure

1. Jesus Leaves to Prepare a Place

It seems that the Bible requires us to choose one of these two ways—living a luxurious life here on earth but being eternally poor after death, or living sacrificially, seeking God's will here on earth and living richly forever in the world to come. We're to choose one of the two ways.

So we need to continue to proclaim to ourselves the fact that we have our homes in the kingdom of God, which Jesus Himself, the greatest Builder, is preparing for us. The houses we're living in on earth are not forever but the places where we'll live in the kingdom of God are eternal.

Then, if we really know this truth, we won't be worried about anything in this world because we know that whatever happens here on earth, it will pass away anyway and that glorious eternal life is waiting for us in the kingdom of God after this life.

#7 Three Blessings of Jesus' Departure

1. Jesus Leaves to Prepare a Place

If we really believe this, we won't strive to store many things here on earth. Rather, we'll try to store up treasures in heaven by using, sacrificing, and giving what God has allowed us to have according to His will.

That's the kind of faith our predecessors of faith had and the kind of life they lived out of their faith.

“All these people were still living by faith when they died. **They did not receive the things promised;** they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that **they were foreigners and strangers on earth” (Heb 11:13)**

They didn't enjoy good things while living on earth. Rather, they lived like foreigners and strangers. They lived like foreigners not because they didn't have any citizenship, but because they knew that their true citizenship is in heaven.

“**Our citizenship is in heaven.** And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Php 3:20)

#8 Three Blessings of Jesus' Departure

1. Jesus Leaves to Prepare a Place

They lived like strangers not because they didn't have any places to stay while living on earth, but because they looked forward to living in heaven. So they didn't put much value on where they lived and what they had on earth.

People who don't believe in God or an afterlife live their lives as if the things they have on earth are everything.

But we're different. We know that the life we have on earth is not the end. Death is not the end of life because it actually serves as a gateway to the new life we will have forever after death.

That's why living in this world is like traveling. We're like travelers on earth because we have a home in heaven where we will go after this life.

“Instead, they were longing for a better country - a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them” (Heb 11:16)

Memory Verses

“But now I am going to him who sent me... You are filled with grief because I have said these things. But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away.” (John 16:5-7) (1)

“My Father’s house has many rooms... And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” (John 14:2-3) (1)

“You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.” (Rv 3:17) (1)

“All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth” (Heb 11:13) (2)

“Instead, they were longing for a better country – a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them” (Heb 11:16) (1)

Reflection Questions

1) What's your dream house like? What kind of house do you want to live in? Why?

2) Why do you think it is important for Christians to believe in Jesus' promise that He is preparing places in heaven and coming back to the world for us? Do you believe these promises? How would knowing this truth affect your way of life?