

# Jesus explains his plan to disciples before crucifixion

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aces each day to increase belief.

1. Why did Jesus feel it was important to reassure His disciples that they not be troubled? (vs. 1)

Jesus knew the perplexity of His disciples' hearts and told his disciples to not let their hearts be troubled however, Jesus was not really concerned with their physical hearts but their emotional and spiritual state. If they became so stricken with grief, it would not take much for their faith to be shaken. Jesus wanted them to not only believe on the Father but Him as well. It was their faith that Jesus wanted them to guard regardless of the unexpected turmoil that comes with the life of this world.

2. What was Jesus' plan for all His disciples? (vs. 2)

This is the good news: Jesus will not abandon His people. The word "go" in verse 2 clearly

refers to His upcoming death, resurrection, and ascension. Jesus' death pays sin's penalty while His resurrection shows His mastery over death (Revelation 1:18). That is how Jesus is able to "prepare a place for" those who love Him.

Jesus explained to His disciples that His plan for them included His preparing a place for them in His Father's house in heaven.

3. How can we know that heaven is a real place?

The word "place" refers to a specific location. We know heaven is a real place, and we (believers) are all going to have a residence in which we will dwell forever, and because Jesus said He will go and prepare a place "we know it to be true. Jesus validates this truth by saying, "If it were not so, I would have told you." He was about to assure His disciples that since He Himself is the truth, anything He says will be true. We can be assured that heaven is

there for every believer.

4. What did Jesus say He would be doing after He left them, and what would happen after that? (vs. 3)

Jesus knew that His disciples' world was about to be shattered, leaving them confused and filled with doubt. He sought to help them understand that His departure was ultimately going to be beneficial to them. He told them He was going to prepare a place for them, and He will come again, and receive them unto himself; that where He goes, they shall also be with Him. Jesus was going to prepare a heavenly home for His disciples and this home is also available to us who believe on Him. Simply put, Jesus will be coming back to gather up those that are His (whether they be dead in the grave or alive) and take them to Heaven.

5. How does a Jewish wedding help explain Jesus' absence and eventual return? (vs. 3)

In reference to Jesus' absence and eventual return, the comparison of a Jewish wedding is given. A Jewish betrothal meant that the man and woman were bound to each other, but the actual marriage ceremony did not take place immediately. The first thing the bridegroom had to do was prepare a home for his wife-to-be. The betrothal lasted up to a year, and he occupied himself during that time with this preparation. When everything was ready, he returned for his bride and took her to the home he had prepared for her.

If you look at the comparison study of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-54 "Jesus was referring not to the time when He would come and set up His earthly kingdom, but to the time when He would take believers out of this world to be with Himself. Just as the bridegroom was away for a period of time, so it is with Jesus. We are currently in that time, wait-

ing for His return. Just as the bridegroom came for his bride and took her home, so it will be for believers when Jesus comes again."

6. What was Thomas' objection to Jesus' statement, and how did He respond to him? (vs. 4-6)

In verse 4, Jesus said his disciples will know where he is going and how to get there. Jesus assumed the disciples understood where He was going and the way that He was providing for them to go to heaven. He had been instructing them throughout His ministry, but much like us, the disciples were slow to learn.

Thomas responded and said, "Lord, we don't know where you are going so how can we know how to get there? No doubt Thomas was speaking on behalf of the

other disciples as well. Their natural tendency was to think only in terms of time and space here on earth. Thomas' mind was thinking of a physical movement from one place to the next since they had been following him around thus far throughout His ministry. Was that changing now? (Thomas may have thought)

Jesus did not rebuke Thomas for his lack of understanding but instead made a straightforward statement about how to get to heaven. Jesus told Thomas, He is the Way, the Truth and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Him. This statement revealed that Jesus was not talking about going to another place on earth but going to His heavenly Father and the place where He dwelt.

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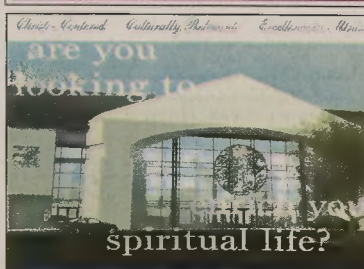


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