

MAKING ROOM a sermon by Allan Gibson on 10 May 2020
Acts 7:55-60. Psalm 31:1-5,15-16. 1 Peter 2:2-10. **John14:1-14.**

We all make room for family and friends to stay, and in an emergency – strangers find a bed or a cup of tea and time to talk.

Sometimes we find a natural connection with someone and other times the conversation is social chatter.

John 14:1-14. - Picture the scene recorded in John 14, at this meal 2000 years ago, Jesus and his 12 closest friends, followers, were sharing a meal, sitting together, and Jesus – knowing that he was facing the ultimate emotional, spiritual and physical horror, saw the needs of his friends and spent his final night with them, his focus was on comforting them – not on Himself.

Jesus could have wrapped himself up in himself and retreated alone, but his care was for us.

Look at what he said and at the emotion and love and understanding of us that was real in him. This care is for us all – we are each personally in the room – a bit like a ‘Zoom’ meeting connecting us back 2000 years ago. He said:

1. Do not be troubled – our peace/assurance/quietness in the midst of danger, and loss and our strength in normal life comes from believing in God as does our growing in that believing. Jesus said – you believe in God – believe in me. (v1)

Jesus wrapping Himself in with God – one package – not two separate beliefs. (V7) “if you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from NOW ON you know Him, and have seen Him.”

2. And for a third time in v9 “He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘show us the Father’?”

3. Beware when Jesus says something three times – He means it – take it seriously – think it out – believe it – this is faith – trust - BUT when he says the same thing FOUR times !!!! v11 “believe Me, that I AM in the Father, and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.” Jesus is the Son; the exact representation of God on earth.

Hebrews 1:3 “He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature; and holds all things up by the word of His power”

Father Son Spirit – One package – one God.

4. What did he say to John the baptisers’ disciples when they came to ask if he Jesus was the Messiah – he told them to tell John what they had seen him doing and saying raising the dead, healing, loving, speaking words of God. These showed that he was Gods Son – God living our life in the purity which was Gods plan for all of us. Luke 7:22

A question – ‘what brought us individually to know and to follow – that Jesus is the Son of God? How does this sustain us in good and difficult times?

Make a decision – “today is the day of salvation- (2 Cor 6:2) ”the day is far spent the night is at hand and we are not saved.” (Romans 13:12)

God has made room in eternity to show us who He is and to show that He is Love – John 3:16

5. Jesus, in the midst of knowing the spiritual, mental and physical agony that was coming takes this critical time to **wrap us in a certainty**, like a warm blanket that he puts around them and us -In Gods dwelling place – in the eternity that we live in now and walk into through death – we are in Gods ‘house’ - Gods unhidden presence – and there is a place prepared for me/you, for each of us believers individually who come to God, through repentance, through trust in Jesus becoming sin for us on the cross, and defeating death in His resurrection. Verse 6 “Jesus said to him “I AM the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me”.

6. Remember that this was no idle talk – that night, the torture that lead to his death and the horror of becoming our sin and being abandoned by God because of it – started a few hours later – Jesus meant what he said.

7. In My Fathers’ house are many dwelling places and I am going to prepare a place *especially* for you. And I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I AM there you will be also.

8. Tell you a story of a lady who influenced my life very strongly: when I was about 20 I boarded with a lady named Miss Paul. Her flying into God's presence in her death came about this way – when she was 98 and it was raining and the guttering was blocked – she got a ladder, cleaned the gutter. Next day she felt unwell and while waiting for the ambulance she sat up in bed looking at the door and the reality of joy glowed from her tiny almost blind 98 year old body “as if she saw someone walk in through the door” then her empty body sank back into the bed and she had passed into the eternity of God's “dwelling place which Jesus had prepared for her” 2000 years ago in eternity past.

Jesus has already ‘made a place’ for us – a place for now this moment, and for tomorrow and out of earth's time in eternity where there is no past and our rebellion against God (sin) is not recorded.

Why is it not recorded – because God in His love had ‘made a room’ for our sins – it is called hell and when we come to Jesus in sorrow - our sins are there in that place – where our Lord Jesus left them when he ‘became sin for us’ (2 Cor 5:21) and ‘descended into hell’ (1 Peter 3:18-20) – “and on the third day rose again.” (1 Cor 15:4)

Did Jesus leave my sins in hell or do I keep hanging onto them?

Temptation will try and disturb us – that is when our certainty of our forgiveness and right standing with God becomes the weapon to defeat them.

Or maybe I drag them back in my mind and emotions and guilt – do I feed them by the choices I make each day?

What of you? Leave our sins in the room hell - the place that God made for them, they cannot go with us unto the ‘dwelling place’ that Jesus has prepared for us.

9. So Jesus returns to God the Father's presence – are we like deserted children left to get on the best that we can? V18.

Our Lord said that He would ask the Father and He would send His Spirit to be our comforter and guide – the One who walks with us.

V16-18. We are not alone. How does this all tie together: Jesus is in God, us in Jesus, Jesus in us; Holy Spirit of God brings Jesus to us.

V16,18,20 Also Ephesians 1:13. Restated by Jesus latter that night in

John 17:20-23 - “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

John 3:16 reveals what has brought all this to be – we provide a home for our children because we love them – no matter what – why has God given his only begotten Son so as to provide a home for us – “because God loved his creation so much that he sent His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life ... he who believes in Him is not judged; (and the other side of the coin) he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God”.

Why do I believe in God, in Jesus, and choose to follow? I do not know – I just always have.

What of you – what is your trust based in?

Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness” (Romans 4:3)

What motivated God to make a home for us – again it was love for you and me and His creation. (John 3:16)

“Our homeland – our country is in heaven, where our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ is; and we are looking forward to His return from there.

When He comes back, He will take these dying bodies of ours and change them into glorious bodies like His own, using the same mighty power that He will use to conquer all things unto Himself.” (Philippians 3:20,21)

There it is – the choice is ours – A life with God's presence here in this body and a home already prepared for us to walk into through death – the choice is up to each of us.

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you - do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful ... I will come to you.” (v27,28)