

# How Can I Get to Heaven?

John 14:1-11

We live in a world of pluralism that believes that all religions are equally valid. While many people believe in heaven, they disagree on who can go and how to get there. According to one survey, a majority of Christians hold to the belief that many religions can lead to eternal life in heaven.

While speaking to his disciples in the upper room, Jesus taught that *while there is plenty of room in heaven, there is only one way to get there*. Jesus is the only one who can bring us to heaven.

## ☐ There's plenty of room in heaven for you ... (1-4)

- The promise of heaven provides hope for troubled hearts (1)

The disciples were completely bewildered, troubled, and discouraged. In the past few moments, Jesus had washed the disciples' feet (13:1-17), said he was going away (7:34; 8:21; 12:8, 35; 13:33), that one of the Twelve was a traitor (13:21), that Peter would disown him three times (13:38), that Satan was at work against all of them (Luke 22:31-32), and that all the disciples would fall away (Matthew 26:31). The cumulative weight of these revelations had the disciples reeling and depressed.

To comfort the disciples, Jesus gave them several exhortations along with promises.

Putting our firm trust in God the Father and Jesus the Son can calm our troubled hearts.

- Jesus is preparing a place for us right now (2)

The "Father's house" is heaven. Jesus was leaving earth to prepare a place for his disciples and us as well.

The picture Jesus painted of heaven is a huge building with many rooms or suites of rooms in which people reside. The emphasis is not on the size or lavishness of the furnishings as much as it is adequate to accommodate all who believe in Jesus.

Jesus assured his disciples that if heaven was different from what he had described, he would have told them in what way it was different.

- Jesus will come back for us (3-4)

The promise that Jesus will return bodily for us gives us great comfort.

The thing that makes heaven, heaven, is Jesus. We will be with him. The repetition of "I" and "me" emphasizes the personal touch of our Savior.

The Twelve already knew the way to heaven because Jesus had shared with them the words of eternal life.

□ **...but there is only one way to get there (5-11)**

- How do we get to heaven? (5)

Thomas voiced the disciples' continuing confusion about Jesus' destination. They had all the information but could not connect the dots and put it together.

- Jesus is the way. He is the only one who can bring us to heaven (6-7)

Contrary to popular opinion, Jesus is not one way among many. Only one way exists. Jesus said that no one comes to God the Father but through faith in himself. It is only through Jesus' work on the cross that anyone can enter heaven.

Since the Eleven had known who Jesus really was, they had also known God. Their knowledge amounted to seeing God.

- How can we know for sure? (8)

The eleven disciples were still perplexed and Philip asked for a clear revelation of the Father that would satisfy their confusion.

- We have enough evidence to believe, but we need to act on what we already know (9-11)

Philip and the other disciples had not yet completely realized who Jesus was. Long exposure to Jesus should have produced greater insight in these disciples.

Jesus again repeated that he and the Father were the same in essence. Jesus said everything the Father gave him to say, and he did everything the Father did.

Jesus' words and his works (miracles) were further proofs of his deity.

**Principles to Live By**

Personal faith in a personal Lord brings personal relief.

Our long-term future is secure.

Jesus is the only way to heaven.

By knowing Jesus, we can know God the Father.