

## Palisades Community Bible Church

### Online Bible Study

# Moving Day!

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We have some friends who just settled on a house. They are very happy to have found a place that fulfills their dreams. We are super SAD that they are leaving the state!

In preparation for the move, they are making a “punch list” of things that must be repaired in their old house. They are arranging the financing and working with Realtors, Home Inspectors, Bankers, etc. They have found a new church, and folks there are making preparations to welcome them. Though we are sad, we are saving all the cardboard boxes we can get our hands on, and doing searches on the internet for good restaurants along their travel route.

Have you ever shared this kind of experience with someone you love? You really, really want things to go well and you want to help.....but, it's just awful that they are leaving. You are glad they'll be welcomed with open arms, but lament losing the closeness you've enjoyed for so long.

I wonder how much this might be an example of what is going on in Heaven when it's time for a loved one to make the move from this life to eternity. Do you think those who have gone before are anxiously making preparations? Can it be that the details are already planned out? The Psalmist tells us that God knew us before we were even conceived:

**Psalm 139:13-16 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.**

If our Heavenly Father knew us before we were conceived, and He planned for every day of our lives, will He not have a plan for the end of our earthly days - and eternity?

**Luke 12: 6 “Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. 7 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. 8 I tell you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will also confess him before the angels of God.”**

Prior to His crucifixion, Jesus told the Apostles that He was going away to prepare a place for them. They were understandably upset at this announcement, but Jesus explained:

**John 13: 33 “Little children, I am with you only a little while longer. You will look for Me, and as I said to the Jews, so now I say to you: ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ 34 A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”**

I’m first struck by Jesus referring to these grown men as “little children.” What did He mean? Let’s see where else Jesus used “little children” as an example.

**Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”**

Jesus said, in Matthew, let the little children “come to me.” These very men were present at that time. Jesus explained that, just like little children, they would come to Him. Putting these two verses in context helps us to understand a little more of what Heaven is like; it will be made up of those who are like the little children who came to Jesus. What a picture! Would a little child approach Jesus with pride and arrogance; “Look at how much I’ve done for you.”?

NO! A little child would shout “Jesus!” and run to Him, and hug Him. Can you picture that day?

When our earthly bodies are no more, we will be made new! ...Like little children! Jesus said that is who the Kingdom of heaven belongs to. If someone comes to your house with little children, do you prepare? Maybe you get some things that

will delight little hands and young minds? What is the BEST part, though? Is it not the excited greeting and hug?

Still, Simon Peter was bothered by the prospect of Jesus leaving them.

**John 13: 36 “Lord, where are You going?” Simon Peter asked. Jesus answered, “Where I am going, you cannot follow Me now, but you will follow later.” 37“Lord,” said Peter, “why can’t I follow You now? I will lay down my life for You.”**

Oh, how often we’ve been heart-broken over the impending loss of a loved one! We don’t want them to go away....but we cannot stop it. Herein lies the greatest dilemma for the Christian; do we plead with God NOT to take them, or do we ask God to receive them into His arms? Peter had responded as any of us would; I don’t want to lose you!

Jesus understood Peter’s sentiment. He also understood Peter’s lack of maturity in understanding the Father’s will (like a child). So, Jesus explained...

**John 14: 1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe in Me as well. 2 In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and welcome you into My presence, so that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.”**

So, Jesus was saying He was going to His Father’s house. He told them they know the way to the Father’s house. Then, Thomas spoke up....

**John 14: 5“Lord,” said Thomas, “we do not know where You are going, so how can we know the way?” 6 Jesus answered, “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 know My Father as well. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.”**

Thomas was unsure because he did not know of this place where Jesus was going. Jesus was very clear that He and the Father are one in the same! Following Jesus is the way to the Father’s house. This, I personally believe, is something a lot of folks miss. They tend to treat Jesus as a good teacher, a wise person, a

compassionate healer, etc. They do not realize that Jesus is 100% God and 100% man. The creator had become the creation for a short time. Jesus' purpose was not ONLY to commission his disciples for their roles in the Kingdom of God, He also fulfilled the ultimate goal – as the sacrificial lamb of God: the one and only redeemer of sinners.

**John 3: 16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. 18 Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.**

Here is where we might return to **John 13: 3 “A new commandment I give you: Love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”** This was an entirely new commandment, reserved for this moment in history! Jesus knew that his leaving might cause the Apostles to fragment. So, He reinforced his teaching found in....

**Mark 3:25 “A house divided against itself cannot stand.”**

Until that moment, Jesus had been the ‘glue’ that held that group together. With the announcement that He would be leaving, Jesus gave them a critical command; “love one another!” This bond of love and unity would be essential for them to complete the works that Jesus had equipped them to do, which was to CONTINUE in His own works...

**John 14: 12 Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I am doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask Me for anything in My name, I will do it.**

Jesus also gave a promise....

**John 14: 23 Jesus replied, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. 24 Whoever does not love Me does not keep My words. The word that you hear is not My own, but it is from the Father who sent Me. 25 All this I have spoken to**

**you while I am still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have told you.”**

Remember that these apostles were Jewish. They were raised from birth to understand and worship God, the Father. When Jesus said; “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and **We** will come to him and make our home with him.” The word “We” is capitalized. That is intended to convey that both God and Jesus are one, together, and that They will come to those who love Jesus.

Jesus was preparing everyone for moving day! All the preparation for our moving day has been planned long ago. Instead of collecting boxes, each of us must be about continuing the work that Jesus did while He walked on this earth. We must be about....

**Matthew 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

Let us be about spreading the Gospel! Let us have faith when facing the loss of a loved one...knowing that, if they are in Jesus, they are going to one of the rooms in the Father’s house prepared for them. Let us all be ready for moving day.