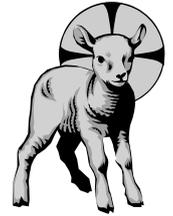




# Enjoying God: Life in All its Fullness

(passages from John's Gospel)



Summer 2017

## John 14:1-7 Hope

(sermons: July 9)

### John 14:1-4 Jesus Comforts His Disciples

- v.1 *Do not let your hearts be troubled – or ‘Set your troubled hearts at rest’ (REB). The disciples are already troubled by Jesus’ words in 13:31-38.*
- v.2 *In my Father’s house are many rooms – heaven, with enough places prepared for all disciples*
- v.2 *if it were not so... – part of this verse may be a question, and some manuscripts have the word ‘that’ i.e. ‘If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?’*
- v.3 *if I go and prepare a place for you – after Jesus’ resurrection and ascension I will come back and take you to be with me – does this refer to Jesus’ Second Coming? If so, it is not clear whether this would lead the disciples to expect Jesus to return whilst they were still alive, or whether Jesus will ‘collect’ them from wherever they are; perhaps the exact ‘when’ and ‘where’ are less important than the end of v.3 ‘take you to be with me that you also may be where I am’.*
1. What do these verses tell us about heaven – and what *don’t* they tell us, even if we would like to know? Do we see these ‘rooms’ in heaven as our final destination, or as waiting-rooms in God’s presence, until we share in God’s kingdom in the new, or renewed, heaven-and-earth – and does it matter which picture of eternal life we have?
  2. How can these verses help Christians as we face our own death and as we try to comfort those who have been bereaved?

### John 14:5-7 The Way and the Truth and the Life

- v.5 *Thomas said... – is he making objections, or just puzzled? (see Thomas in John 11:16 and 20:24-29)*
- v.6 *the way – the only means, through his coming death & resurrection, by which we may approach God the truth – not only revealing but embodying the reality of God (as in John 1:9 and 1:14) the life – the source of life (as in John 1:4 and 11:25) Jesus is saying that he is the way (to the Father) because he embodies the truth (about God) and he is the (only source of real) life*
- v.7 *If you really knew me – if you understood who I really am (the unique Son of God)*
3. Thomas’s question (v.5) leads to Jesus’ making one of his greatest claims about himself. How far is Jesus disappointed by his disciples’ doubts and misunderstandings, and how far does he use them as ways in to further revelation of himself?  
Are we honest about what we don’t understand, or what we find hard to accept: honest with ourselves? honest with other Christians? honest with non-Christians? honest with God?
  4. ‘No-one comes to the Father except through me’ (v.6). What are the implications of these words of Jesus for ourselves, and for the way we reach out to other people?  
Is this a truth that we find it hard to put across, or that people today find it difficult to accept? How can we present Jesus’ exclusive claims in a humble and loving way, rather than sounding arrogant, or dismissive?

### John 14:1-7 Hope

5. What is our hope as Christians for the present and future? Do other people see it as wishful thinking? Is there a lack of hope in the world around us and amongst the people we meet?  
How can we put across the reality of our Christian hope in a way that connects with people today?