

Series: Surprised By Eternity

More Than a Place

John 14:1–6

Big Idea: *When your heart hurts, hope for Heaven!*

Opening Icebreaker

- When you think of “heaven,” what is the first image or feeling that comes to mind?
 - Why do you think people resonate so deeply with the idea of a “better place”?
-

OBSERVATION: What Does the Text Say?

Read **John 14:1–6** together.

- What commands and promises does Jesus give in verse 1?
 - According to verse 2, how does Jesus describe His Father’s house?
 - What does Jesus say He is going to do for His disciples?
 - In verse 3, what future promise does Jesus make about His return?
 - What question does Thomas ask in verse 5?
 - How does Jesus respond in verse 6, and what three descriptions does He give of Himself?
-

INTERPRETATION: What Does the Text Mean?

1. Heaven is the Father’s House

- What does Jesus mean by calling heaven “My Father’s house”?
- Why is God’s *presence* more important than the physical description of heaven?

2. Heaven is the Believer’s Home

- What is the significance of “many rooms” rather than “many mansions”?
- How does this image communicate belonging rather than luxury?
- Why is it important that Jesus says He is preparing a place “for you”?

3. Heaven is the Cross’s Handiwork

- How does Jesus’ “going” (His death, resurrection, and ascension) actually prepare a place for us?
- Why is it important to understand that heaven is secured by what Jesus has already done, not what we do?

4. Heaven is the Savior’s Hope

- What does Jesus mean when He says He is “the way, the truth, and the life”?
- Why is Jesus’ claim that He is the *only* way to the Father so significant—and sometimes difficult for people to accept?
- How does understanding biblical “hope” as a *guarantee* (not a wish) change how we view heaven?

APPLICATION: How Should This Change Us?

Personal Reflection

- Where in your life right now do you feel a “hurting heart”?
- How does Jesus’ promise in this passage speak directly into that situation?

Shaping Our Perspective

- Do you tend to think of heaven more as a *place* or as being *with God*? How should this passage reshape that view?
- What would it look like for you to live this week with a deeper awareness that heaven is your true home?

Living with Hope

- How can the certainty of heaven change the way you handle:
 - Suffering?
 - Loss?
 - Uncertainty about the future?
- What is one practical way you can remind yourself daily to “hope for heaven” when your heart hurts?

Gospel Focus

- According to verse 6, what is the only way to the Father?
 - Have you personally trusted Jesus as *the way, the truth, and the life*?
 - Who in your life needs to hear this hope, and how can you share it with them?
-

Closing Prayer Prompt

- Thank God for preparing a place for you.
- Ask for strength to trust Him in present pain.
- Pray for confidence in the hope of heaven.
- Lift up someone who needs to know the way to the Father.