

In John 13-17, the apostle gives us an eye-witness account of Jesus' last supper with his closest followers. Jesus has told them he is going away (13:33) and they are shocked and bewildered. Why would their Master leave them alone? What purpose could that serve? How could that help *them*?

Jesus responds with a wonderful truth for them, and for all his followers since. Take these words to heart, memorise them, for they are balm for the soul:

14 *'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God^[a]; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that 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 take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.'*

Jesus *had* to go away to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. This 'going away' was the complete journey of his death, resurrection and ascension into heaven. This is how he prepares a place for us in heaven, by going to the cross, to die as the lamb of God to take away the sin of the world, so that sinful people like us might, by faith, or belief in Jesus, be forgiven and granted a place in heaven. By rising from the dead and ascending into heaven making clear the way to heaven is open for all who are in Christ. And one day he will return (v3) to take his followers to be with him there.

So do not let your heart be troubled this day. By faith in Christ your place in heaven is ready. Your room is reserved by Jesus. He has paid for it, with his blood. One day you will be with him. It will be glorious!