

AMANA TRUST BIBLE STUDIES

Lessons from the Gospel of John (15):

Life's Indwelling for the Building of God's Habitation (1) —The Father's House (Part 1)

Bible reading

You may find it helpful to also read the entire case found in John 14:1-31.

John 14:1-6, 12

1 Do not let your heart be troubled; believe into God, believe also into Me.

2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you to Myself, so that where I am you also may be.

4 And where I am going you know the way.

5 Thomas said to Him, Lord, we do not know where You are going; how can we know the way?

6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

12 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who believes into Me, the works which I do he shall do also; and greater than these he shall do because I am going to the Father.

Introduction

The Gospel of John is a book composed of two sections. In the first section from John chapters 1 to 13, Christ as the eternal Word came through incarnation to bring God into man in order to be life to us and our life supply. Then, in chapter 13 we have a great turning point in which John tells us that the Lord Jesus came from the Father and was going to the Father. This brings us to the opening of chapter 14 where the Lord begins to speak of His going and then of His coming to bring man into God for the building up of God's eternal abode.

Bible study reading

Please prayerfully read through the following portions of ministry related to this lesson.

The Lord Jesus told His disciples that He was going to the Father (John 14:12, 28). No one understood what He was talking about. According to the human concept, His going to the Father meant that He was going back to heaven. But the Lord Jesus never said that He was going to heaven.

What, then, was the aim or goal of the Lord's going? As we have seen, most Christians think that the aim of His going was heaven. However, after a careful reading of this chapter, you will discover that the object of the Lord's going was not heaven. The Lord had no intention of bringing His believers from one place to another. It is not a matter of a place; it is a matter of a living person, the Father Himself. The Lord was going to the Father, and His intention was to bring His disciples into the divine person of the Father. Chapter thirteen tells us that the Lord came from the Father (v. 3). Here, in chapter fourteen, we see that He was going to the Father. The Lord

came from the Father by incarnation to bring God into man. Now the Lord was going to the Father in order to bring man into God. (*Life-study of John*, msg. 29, section 2)

I go to prepare a place for you means that the Lord would prepare a place, accomplish redemption, open up the way, and make a standing for man to get into God. It means that the Lord would pave the way for us to be in God. This is the central thought of this chapter. If we are going to allow God to dwell in us, we must firstly get into Him. If we do not get into Him, He will not get into us. Once we dwell in God, then He will dwell in us.

We are far, far away from God. How can we be brought into Him? How can sinners get into God? All of the separating elements, the obstacles of sin, sins, the world, the devil, death, the flesh, the self, and the old man must be abolished. Then we shall be brought near to God, and not only to God, but into God.

The Lord's death and resurrection have prepared a highway that brings us into God. Before He was crucified, there were many obstacles, many frustrations, that hindered our going into the Father. There was no way to get into Him. But by His death and resurrection, the Lord cut and prepared the way and paved the highway that can bring any person into God immediately. The Lord removed all the mountains, filled all the gaps, paved the highway, and paid all the tolls. There is no charge for us to pay. We may come directly into God. (*Life-study of John*, msg. 30, section 1)

Going deeper

Please read or listen to these materials for an in-depth study of this lesson.

Further reading:

[*Life-study of John*, msg. 29](#)

[*Life-study of John*, msg. 30, section 1](#)

Radio broadcast link:

Broadcast 33, [*The Dispensing of the Triune God for the Producing of His Abode \(1\)*](#)

(Click the link above and select Broadcast 33.)

Footnotes from Recovery Version of the New Testament:

John 14:2, footnote 3

John 14:3, footnotes 1-2, 4

John 14:6, footnote 1

John 14:12, footnote 1

Questions for personal or corporate study:

References in brackets indicate readings or broadcasts that may be helpful in answering the questions.

- Using this lesson and the New Testament Recovery Version outline of the Gospel of John, explain the two major sections of John.
- Explain what it means that the aim of the Lord's going is not a matter of a place but a matter of a living person. (*Life-study of John*, msg. 29, section 2)
- What are the obstacles that separated us from God, and how did the Lord remove them? (*Life-study of John*, msg. 30, section 1)

Next week

Life's Indwelling for the Building of God's Habitation (1)—The Father's House (Part 2)

This lesson and next week's lesson are both focused on John chapter 14. In John 14:3 the Lord says, 'I go to prepare a place for you'. Both the place and the way into the place are a living person. The place is the Father (v. 12), and the way into the Father is the Son (v. 6). Through His death, Jesus prepared the way for the disciples to come into God the Father, dealing with every negative thing. Then, in His resurrection He brought the disciples with all the believers into God the Father as their destination and dwelling place (v. 20).

Works Cited

Lee, Witness. *Life-study of John*. Anaheim: Living Stream Ministry, 1985. www.ministrybooks.org

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