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John 14:1-3

Thanksgiving for the Promise of His Return

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Introduction:

1. Think of all the different places you've celebrated Thanksgiving.
2. I've celebrated Thanksgiving at:
 1. My parent's home in Estes Park Colorado
 2. My brother's home in Lyons Colorado
 3. My uncle's home in Kansas City
 4. My sister's home in Culpeper Virginia
 5. My family friend's home, also in Virginia
 6. Monica's parent's home in Wellesley
 7. Monica's grandmother's home in Newton
3. We feel the enjoyment of time with family and the stress of time with family.
4. Maybe some of you are burdened because you don't have family.
5. How can we remember to give thanks this Thanksgiving?

I. When you're home for Thanksgiving, you don't need to worry. **(Read v. 1)**

John 14:1 *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.*

1. Jesus and his disciples are in the Upper Room and Jesus is giving them his final message.
2. Judas has just left to betray him and Jesus has just predicted that Peter will deny him.
3. He is about to be crucified, but instead of feeling stressed by this "family", he gives them hope.
4. He says to not let their hearts be "troubled" or "disturbed"—don't be stressed, believe in me!
5. When you're stressed over travel plans, food preparations, or football, remember Jesus and believe.

(When you're home for Thanksgiving, you don't need to worry.)

II. When you're home for Thanksgiving, give thanks for your eternal home. **(Read v. 2)**

John 14:2 *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?*

1. The word for "rooms" is only used twice in the NT and means "dwelling places" or "mansions".
2. It has this element of "permanence" or "endurance"—that God has provided an eternal home for us.
3. Jesus is saying to them, "I am preparing an indestructible home for you—take comfort!"
4. Jesus prepares our home through his life, death, resurrection, and ascension.
5. What if you could have someone build your dream home for you for free?
6. Last year HGTV gave away a Cape Cod Dream Home on Martha's Vineyard.
7. Monica's coworkers were entering themselves into the contest every day.
8. Jesus Christ has entered your name into the Book of Life and you are guaranteed to win.
9. When you're praying for your Thanksgiving meal, give thanks for your eternal home

(The best part of our eternal home, is spending eternity with Jesus.)

(Jesus doesn't promise us a sweet building, he promises us himself.)

III. One Thanksgiving day, Christ will take us home. **(Read v. 3)**

John 14:3 *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.*

1. I don't mean that Jesus is returning on Thanksgiving.
2. I mean that when he does return, it will be like Thanksgiving.
3. It will be the biggest most wonderful longest celebration ever had.
4. All of your family in Christ will be there.
5. You'll have forever to make new friends.
6. And you can probably watch a great game of football.
7. Best of all, you'll get to express your thankfulness to Jesus face to face.

(One Thanksgiving day, Christ will take us home.)

(I have a confession to make.)

Conclusion:

1. This year, I won't be home for Thanksgiving; Monica and I are will be in Montreal Canada.
2. We are going to spend our Thanksgiving in a foreign land with just each other.
3. When you and I give today thanks for the return of Jesus, we're giving thanks in a foreign land.
4. One day Christ will come back and take us to our eternal homeland with our whole family.
5. One Thanksgiving day, Christ will take us home.