



SERIES: November – December – Walking with Jesus

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Saturday, 12/25/2021

Scripture: John 14:1-7

TITLE: Will You Receive the Gift?

Merry Christmas. I pray today is a good day for you. Today is the day many of us gather together to relive traditions, create new ones, and avoid looking at our credit card statements. But we know that Christmas isn't about gifts, family traditions, or even a bearded cookie stealer. It's about Christ. But what's the big deal? I mean, why was Jesus born? What was His mission?

Let's turn to John 14:1-7 (CSB) for the answers.

“Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also. You know the way to where I am going.”

“Lord,” Thomas said, “we don't know where you're going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

I can hear you now. Nat, that's not the Christmas message. Well, you're right. It's not the traditional message we're used to hearing today. But it is an amazing message we need to hear and believe. Jesus said, “Believe in God and me. I'm going to prepare a place for you.”

Where is that place? The Father's house is heaven. And, we know that in the future, God will create a new heaven and new earth with the New Jerusalem. It is there God will dwell with us. Christ is preparing a place for each and every believer.

I was fortunate enough to tour some castles in Europe that had room after room after room after room. Even these massive structures of dwelling places won't compare to what Christ is preparing for us.

And then, Jesus says something quite controversial today. Jesus said this in John 14:6: “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Jesus' claim is offensive to the world. And unfortunately, it's rejected by alleged Christians. According to a recent survey from Probe.com, 70% of self-identified born-again Christians do not believe Jesus is the only way to God.

Now, the sampling was small, so the percentage may be exaggerated, but in my soft-surveying I do, more and more people are informed by the world and not by the Bible. So they reject Jesus' claim.

But this is why Jesus came. This is why today is such an important day. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Jesus is the only one qualified to pay for our sins. He is the only way to a relationship with God. Jesus is the only one who did what no religion or religious founder can do. He came to make dead people live. That's the ultimate gift any of us can receive today or any day.

So here's my challenge for you today: believe and receive. Jesus said, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."** He didn't say he is "a way" or "a good option." No, he said, "I am the way." He has the gift of peace with God and a place to dwell with Him forever. But like any gift, you must receive it.

This is why we celebrate Christmas. Jesus Christ came to offer a gift. It's my prayer we receive it.

Merry Christmas.