

## He Will Come Back

John 14:1-27

The hired hand Silas in Robert Frost's poem comes home to die. The old farmer, reflecting on the inconvenience this will mean, says, "Home is the place where, when you have to go there they have to take you in." The farmer's wife had a better grasp of the matter when she replied, "I should have called it something you somehow haven't to deserve."

In this study we discover how Jesus in his farewell address promises an eternal home to his followers. That ultimate home is not a formless, ethereal existence in empty space. Rather it is a place—a room in the Father's house.

Remarkably, in John's Gospel, the time between the farewell of Jesus in his earthly body until the Second Coming of Jesus is not a time of empty waiting. If we shall one day have an eternal dwelling with God we may have immediately a real experience of the presence of Jesus through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, called the Comforter or Advocate in this Gospel. John's special contribution to end-times living is his emphasis on the continuity between life in Christ now (through the Spirit) and the life we will have when the end fully comes. In both cases our home with God is "something you somehow haven't to deserve"—a matter of sheer grace.

1. What does the word heaven bring to your mind?
2. Read John 14:1-14. What indications does Jesus give that our ultimate destiny is much more than a mere place like an unassigned hotel room (John 14:1-4)?
3. What reason does Jesus give here for the importance of his coming back a second time after his death and resurrection?
4. How is it possible for true disciples of Jesus to decide not to be troubled as they face the unknown future, even the prospect of death?
5. What deep need does Jesus claim to meet through his answer to Thomas's question (John 14:5-7)?

6. What ultimate desire does Jesus claim to satisfy through his answer to Philip's question (John 14:8-10)?

7. On what grounds does Jesus invite us to place our entire trust in him both now and forever?

8. Read John 14:15-27. What fresh meaning does Jesus now bring to the statement "I will come to you" (John 14:18)?

9. What new dimension of the meaning of "home" does Jesus now explore (John 14:23)?

10. What prerequisites must be met to be "at home" with God?

11. In what ways will the presence of the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, be an appearance of Christ?

Why will the coming of the Spirit not be the complete Second Coming of Jesus?

12. How does your present experience of the Spirit affect your time of waiting for Jesus to come back?