

# Preparing a Place for You

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**Primary Text: John 14:1–3**

## **Big Idea**

Jesus, our Bridegroom, has paid the ultimate bride price with His blood, is personally preparing a place for us in the Father's house, and will return to take us home for the wedding supper of the Lamb. Therefore, we live as a ready, covenant-keeping bride—intentionally renewed through communion and filled with hopeful anticipation.

## **Key Points & Scripture Outline**

1. **Comfort in Troubled Times** (John 14:1–3)
  - Jesus speaks these words on the night before His crucifixion to calm His fearful disciples.
  - “Do not let your hearts be troubled... I am going there to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me.”
2. **The Ancient Galilean Wedding Covenant** (cultural backdrop that unlocks the passage)
  - Groom's father arranges the bride price.
  - Groom offers the cup; the bride drinks to accept the covenant.
  - Groom returns to his father's house to prepare a new room.
  - Only the father knows the exact time of the groom's return; the bride waits ready with lamps trimmed and extra oil (see Matthew 25:1–13).
3. **Jesus Perfectly Fulfills the Covenant**
  - He laid aside divine equality to serve and pay the bride price (Philippians 2:5–8).
  - “This is my blood of the covenant...” (Matthew 26:27–29) – Jesus will not drink the cup again until the kingdom feast.
  - He is now preparing a personal place for each of us.
  - He will return for His bride (the Church) and bring us to the wedding supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:6–9).
4. **Communion as Covenant Renewal**
  - Not just remembering the past—looking back to the cross and forward to the feast.
  - Every time we take the cup, we renew our “Yes” to the betrothal and proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

## **Powerful Illustrations**

- Donna Naylor’s joyful “homegoing” after her cancer diagnosis: “I’ve been waiting for this for 83 years!” – a living picture of a bride ready for her Groom.
- Personal wedding observation: the groom’s longing face when the bride appears mirrors Jesus’ desire for us.
- Light-hearted reminder: “Jesus has the wheel... but you can’t jump out of the car!”

## **Practical Takeaways**

1. The cross is far more than forgiveness—it is the bride price that makes the covenant unbreakable.
2. Jesus is preparing a place specifically for you—not a generic room, but a personal home in the Father’s house.
3. Communion is your weekly opportunity to renew the covenant and say “I still choose You.”
4. Live ready: keep your lamp trimmed (heart aligned with Scripture) and your oil full (Spirit-filled life).
5. Hope is not wishful thinking—it is confident expectation because the Bridegroom is faithful.

## **Continuing Thought Questions**

1. When your heart feels troubled, which phrase from John 14:1–3 do you most need to hear right now, and why?
2. Of all the steps in the Galilean wedding custom, which one best helps you understand your relationship with Jesus as His bride, and how does that change the way you view daily life?
3. How might treating communion as covenant renewal (instead of just a memorial) deepen your experience at the Lord’s Table this month?
4. Donna Naylor faced death with joyful readiness. What is one practical step you can take this week to live more “prepared” for Christ’s return?

These notes are designed for personal study, small groups, or discipleship settings. Use them alongside the video for deeper impact. May the Bridegroom continue to draw your heart closer to His!