

March 21

John 14:2-3 (NIV) [Jesus declared,] ²My 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? ³And 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.

I wrote a few days ago about hiking the trails in the Grand Canyon. Those trails, however, are not natural. The Kaibab Trail, which contains some of the most switchbacks, is a "new" trail, having been started in 1925. The people who built the trail had to dig routes out of rock, had to carry the rocks out by mule, had to level the ground, and had to place barriers to prevent rain erosion. Adding to the difficulty were the hot weather during the summer and frigid conditions in the winter. During the first month, workers managed to build only one-third of a mile of trail. Despite the difficulties and dangers, they managed to complete the trail, which opened a safe passage for others so they could enjoy the beauty of the inner canyon.

As I reread Jesus' words, I thought of those who built that trail. Like those workers, Jesus took it upon Himself to make a path for us through a most dangerous terrain. Jesus fought, overcame, and removed the obstacles that separate us from the Father and our destiny in Him. He overcame guilt, condemnation, sin, and ridicule, defeating each. He took upon Himself every sin imaginable and carried that burden to the end. He removed the obstacles of fear, doubt, unrighteousness, pride, and so many more. Finally, at the last, He gave His life as atonement for all that He had encountered. As a result, we have a straight and narrow path that leads us into the Father's presence. It is a path filled with beauty, faith, miracles, and awe. It is a path with no branches lest we get lost. Jesus has gone before us and made the Way. He is that Way. Our responsibility is to stick to that path and not stray to the left or the right. We leave the path at our own risk.