

Allaying Fear Mk 4

People are scared of all sorts of things, be it snakes, spiders or sharks.

We are all scared of something, some people even have phobias about different things.

There are something like 50, 000 phobias.

I found some phobias the other day see if you can pick what they are:

Monophobia - fear of being alone

Glossophobia - fear of public speaking (people fear this more than death)

Bogyphobia - fear of boggy men.

Lachanophoia - fear of vegetables

Peladophobia - fear of bald people

Pentherophobia - fear of your mother in law

I actually think there is a phobia that just about all of us have.

I know I have it.

It is the fear of saying goodbye to someone and never seeing them again.

When ever I go away from my family for a couple of days there is that niggling feeling that I hope I see them again.

I take photos with me to help ease the feeling.

But that fear remains that death may interrupt life, may interrupt my life or the life of my families.

The fear of not seeing someone again with the fear of death I think is our greatest fear.

Because I believe as the reading that Ecclesiastes that we have in our hearts the desire to live for ever, the desire of eternity.

This is a fear that Jesus' mates had about Jesus.

That is the predicament that faces the disciples in the passage John 14 that we read this morning.

The disciples are coming to grips with the fact that Jesus is going to die and they are terrified that this may be it, this may be the end.

Because death is normally the end.

So Jesus starts by saying don't be troubled, don't worry.

Trust me.

He doesn't just say don't worry it will all work out in the end.

He doesn't go "What ever"

He says don't be afraid and then gives the reason why they do not need to be afraid.

He goes on to comfort them with some facts.

And does this by saying you will see me again.

That old war song "We'll meet again" comes to mind, it goes on to say don't know where don't know when, but for Jesus he does know where and when.

Because he is going to prepare the meeting place.

He says he is going to prepare a place for them and he gives the beautiful picture of a warm, inviting, secure place.

A welcoming family home.

From the eulogies

It is clear that Dave loved his family. He came into and already up and running family. Imagine taking on a family when you are in your forties, And a family like this. Dave took on his new family and cared for them, provided for them, put up with the extra noise and loved them.

Together Dave and Merle made their home a place where all were welcome, a place where the family felt at home, a place where love was evident. The only dent in that picture is the budgy who often would say:

"Not you again" When are you goin home"

But Dave and Merle's home was a place that you were welcome, for a cuppa, a beer or just a chat or all three.

A welcoming warm home where you are loved.

Now take that picture and multiply the sense of safety, security and love a million times.

That is the picture painted here of God's home.

Maybe with out the comments of Sparra.

Here in John 14 it is a home prepared specially by Jesus for his family.

What a wonderful place. Safe secure, home.

The best way to allay fears about never seeing someone again is to guarantee that you will see them again.

A photo can help ease the pain, a painting or special piece of furniture can all help but the best cure is to know that you will see the person again.

Jesus states that he is going to prepare a place where there will be no more goodbyes.

A place of perfection, experiencing God's love for eternity. A place, when we examine our hearts, is where we all want to be.

That is what the reading from ecclesiastes. That in this world there are times of joy and sadness, there is the good and the bad, there is the sense that we love this world but we hate it too.

The fact that we can look out on a gorgeous day like this and say wow, I love this place.

Then we sit here and see death and we go I hate this place.

This is not as good as it gets.

There has got to be a better place.

As the book of ecclesiastes says, There is eternity in our hearts.

So how can we get to this place to this home.

This eternity in perfection where all is good.

That is the question Thomas asks Jesus, How do we get there?

Jesus answer is stunning:

He doesn't say well if you follow this rule or if you go to church or be religious. Or if you do good things like help people when they are down.

Which by the way can all be good things but.....

Jesus says the way to see me again the way to be in this place forever is

Me.

"Jesus says I am the way the truth and the life no one comes to the father except through me."

Wow. Jesus is it. A relationship with him.

Death does not mean he is lost forever, death actually makes it possible for us to see him for ever.

See how he allays the disciples fears.

They think they will never see him again. Jesus assures them they will if they trust in him.

And he can say this because he puts his money where his mouth is and dies and rises again.

He goes and comes back

Jesus takes on death and defeats it.

One life given so that we could live.

Illust:

A couple of years ago a 62 year old man in Umina set a new Aust record.

Not on the sporting field but in giving blood.

John Harrison has given over 700 blood donations and is still going strong.

The amazing thing is that Johns' blood contains a particular type of antibody that meant babies that had a different blood type to their mothers could be born safely.

John's blood has saved 100's of lives.

Jesus blood shed on the cross has the only antibody that deals with death so that we can pass through death into his presence with all those who also trusted in Him.

Death is not the last good bye for Jesus followers

For the disciples this was great news.

For us it is great news, it means death is not our last goodbye.

Death doesn't mean we won't see Jesus again or we won't see the ones we love again who trust in Jesus.

Jesus says to us today you do not need to have a phobia about death or a last goodbye. Trust in me and I will take you through death into an

eternity, an eternity in a loving, safe, secure, warm, inviting home with Jesus and with all those who have also trusted in Jesus.

With God's Family.

But to have this we do need to put our trust in Jesus, to have a loving relationship with him.

If we do this then we don't need to fear death because death is not our last good bye.

Lets pray.