

John 14:1-7

Family Home for Eternity

I came to Evans Head just over 10 years ago, and it wasn't long into my time here that I met Flora. Over the past 10 years I have got know Flora well, be that from my many visits to her home or later at Coraki or from the brief but to the point phone calls that Flora made, asking me or sometimes telling me that she needed me to visit.

Over that time Flora and I had some great conversations ranging from Flora's child hood around Coraki, to her life with Phil and being in many different towns, to life here in Evans Head, to different books that she had read and ones she wanted me to read, to quite in depth conversations about God.

Over those 5 years it was clear to me that there were a number of things that Flora held dear, apart from God the two she held most dear were:

Her Family - And her home here at Evans.

Flora loved telling me about her family, where they were, what they were doing, what they had achieved. Flora was very proud of her family and she loved it when they would visit. She loved having them around.

Flora loved having her family in her home.

As that was Flora's other great love, her home. She loved having people visit he home, and many did. We were only talking about this yesterday

with the family. Flora loved having people visit her home, sometimes she was also happy for people to leave her home.

But Flora loved her home, as time was drawing near to her having to leave to go to Coraki she was ever so hopeful that she would return to her home.

I think right up to the last time I visited her at the Mid Richmond Village she was still hoping to get back home.

Flora loved her Home

Flora loved her Family.

Families are one of the great institutions of society that keep our society together.

It has been said that strong societies are built on strong families.

And strong families are built on strong relationships.

Where we work hard at building relationships in families there are happy families.

And family homes are places that those relationships are built and kept strong.

Flora loved to have her family around and would take every opportunity for that to happen.

If you look here this morning you can get a glimpse of how important families are.

Families kept Flora strong and families do keep us strong.

A family can keep us through the toughest of times.

But wouldn't it be great to have a family that was with us through to eternity.

A family for ever in a home forever.

That is the family that our passage in John 14 is talking about this morning.

You see this is Jesus talking to his disciples who have become like family.

They have spent three years together non-stop and now the disciples are afraid that this is all about to be blown apart because Jesus is about to be crucified.

They are worried about not seeing Jesus again.

They are worried about having their family destroyed.

And Jesus answers them with this stunning reply.

In John 14 we just read speaks of Jesus family home.

It speaks of a place perfectly prepared by Jesus.

John 14 paints a picture. A picture of a home a huge mansion, at the front door is a welcome mat. Inside there is an open fire , warm, inviting and down the hall there are a multitude of rooms all with peoples names on

them perfectly prepared by Jesus.

A reporter came to a fire one day where a house was steadily burning down to the ground. He noticed that there was a little lad standing by with his mom and dad.

The reporter said

"Son it looks like you don't have a home any more".

The little boy answered courageously. " We have a home we just don't have a house to put it in."

Jesus provides us with both the home and the house that will never be destroyed by fire or anything else

It is a warm, inviting, secure home a home where love abounds.

All that is wrong with this world will be gone only perfection will remain.

No disease, no violence no breakdown in relationships and no break down in our relationship with God.

A perfect family for eternity.

It is the Fathers home.

Wouldn't we all love to be there?

But how do we get to this place.

That is the question Thomas asks Jesus.

How can we know the way, how can we be prepared. He asks

And Jesus answer is stunning, probably something you don't expect

He says the answer is ME.

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

WOW.

He doesn't say just be a good bloke. He doesn't even say be religious.

He says It is all about a relationship. A relationship with ME. With Jesus

That is how one is to get home.

I don't know about you but I enjoy going to amusement arcades.

All those games, but the ones that I enjoy most with the kids are the ones that you play and then if you scored well you get all these tickets.

They spit out tickets etc

Then you go up to the counter and you pick a prize.

The more tickets the bigger the prize. I love it.

I think that is how we think we get to heaven, to the fathers house.

By getting as many tickets as we can down here,

Being nice we get 50 tickets , not murdering someone 60 tickets, giving to a disaster appeal 80 tickets, going to church 90 tickets etc

And when we die and we get to the entrance of heaven we think we hand over all our tickets and we get in.

The problem is that this passage states that there are no gates for tickets into heaven.

There is only a person, Jesus, the way into heaven is Jesus.

All we need to do is go in with him. To have a relationship with him.

It is to be in relationship with Jesus. It is to have put your life in his hands. It is to have put the control of your life into his control.

Jesus is the way through this life and also through death into a perfect eternity.

Flora knew Jesus, she loved Jesus, she had put her life in His hands, I can remember having many discussions with Flora about God, Jesus, the world and it was clear that Flora had a strong faith in Jesus even with her questions,

Susie mentioned to me the other day that Flora was not afraid to die and I believe that is because Flora knew that tickets don't count but Jesus does and now she is in her eternal home with her eternal family.

And this can be yours if you put your hand in Jesus hand and then when physical death comes your way he will take you to your room prepared especially for you to be part of His family for ever.

His perfect family in a perfect family home for eternity.