

JN 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ And 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. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

JN 14:5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

JN 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Funeral Sermon:

John 14:1-7

When we look around us in the world there are many things that we can say that we enjoy about the world we live in. We look at this beautiful town of Evans Head and we think wow, this is pretty nice. Beautiful blue water the sandy un spoilt beaches it is a wonderful part of the world to live in.

We can also look around the world and see examples of devastation war and violence, breakdowns in relationships between people and cancer that hit Erik and we think there has got to be something better than this.

We live in a world of tension, some wonderfully beautiful parts and some things are just plain terrible.

Erik would have known this acutely, as he loved this place Evans Head, he loved getting up the beach and throwing in a line. He loved the community and people the relationships, being able to help a mate out with a dent or damage to their car and joy his family brought to him.

But he also knew pain, tragedy and hardship, from leaving Woodburn with all his and Bev's possessions in their car, to the pain of Thea's death and just recently his own cancer.

Erik knew the pain of this world but he also knew the pleasure of this world.

We all feel this don't we.

The tension of the wonderful things of this world and the terrible.

The beauty and the ugliness

The joy and the sorrow.

We can try and mask it buy hiding away with our possessions or our houses or our holidays but it still doesn't take away the fact that we have this feeling inside that says "Is this as good as it gets?"

Is there something better.

Is there some thing that can give us hope of a better world to come.

A perfect place to live.

Well I think we heard the answer to that very question, that very desire in the reading from the bible that I just read.

It does speak of a perfect place for eternity.

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 a open fire, warm, inviting and down the hall there are a multitude of rooms all with peoples names on them perfectly prepared by Jesus.

This is a picture of the perfect family home.

Erik loved his home, not the brick and tiles, thought he did like that too, but mainly the home. A home is more than brick and tiles, it is the people, the relationships, the memories and the town it is situated in that takes a

building from a house to a home. And Erik and Bevs place is a home.

Erik also love this town of Evans Head he always wanted to live here and he rarely wanted to leave it. To the point that he wouldn't leave it to go on a trip with Bev and Janine to Tassie not to long ago. (Pity as he missed out on the greatest state, my home state)

Erik and Bev's houses is a home because it is a place where you feel welcome. Even if the dog does over do the welcome a little but

When you walk into Erik and Bev's house you see pictures around of their family, their house is a home because it is a place where the family gather.

Where the family are safe, secure, where there is love.

We love that don't we, we love home when it is a safe secure place where love abounds.

We would love that to last for eternity.

In the passage we just read Jesus says that he is preparing that place for us for eternity, a place where we are safe and secure and where love abounds and none of the sorrow, tension, devastation, broken relationships and pain that we have here in this world.

It is a place when we look into our hearts is a place we all ache for.

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. Or

try to do good to people, (though these are good things)

He says It is all about a relationship.

A relationship with ME. With Jesus

That is how one is to get home.

The key to the door of our home for eternity is Jesus.

Jesus is the key to the door.

Notice that we need the key, the door doesn't just open to anyone.

To have the key we need to trust Jesus, that trust that his life, death and resurrection removes our sin so that we won't ruin the perfection we are going into.

This safe, secure loving place is for all those that trust in Jesus.

We need him as our key.

The key to life now and the key to life eternally

Jesus is the way through this life and also through death. And this can be yours if you put your hand in his 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. Where there is no more tension, no more tragedy or pain.

It is great news, a great hope, this world is not as good as it gets.

Heaven is as good as it gets,

And Jesus is our way there. (Lets pray)