

THE BLESSING WAY: OF THE LIVING & THE LOVING

THESIS: Let's Live Faithful

TEXT: John 13:34—14:6

OPEN: In **John 13:34—14:6** let's discover answers about faith rewards of Heaven from Peter's question to Jesus.

LET'S LIVE FAITHFUL TO JESUS SO WE MAY RECEIVE THE BLESSING OF HEAVEN.

- A. **John 13:34-36** "Jesus said, 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.' ³⁶Simon Peter asked Him, 'Lord, where are You going?' Jesus replied, 'Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.'"
1. *Live faithful to Jesus by loving one another as He loves us so you may follow Him to Heaven.*
 - a. **Love** (Greek: *agapao*) is unselfish and devoted charity. It's the supreme kind of love that seeks the greatest good; a selfless concern for the well-being of others that is not necessarily called forth by affection or characteristic. It's an act of the will in obedience to God.
 1. **Leviticus 19:18** "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord."
 - a. **Illustration:** (Story of "Get You Glitter" website)
 - b. **Illustration:** (Story of forgiving others keeps anger from harming health)
 2. **1 John 3:16-18** "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."
 - a. **Illustration:** Approximately \$7,000 was given for benevolence to needy church members the past few months. Plus, extra money sent to missions we support. This is in addition to the individual acts of love among yourselves.
 - B. **John 13:37-38** "Peter asked, 'Lord, why can't I follow You now? I will lay down my life for You.' ³⁸Then Jesus answered, 'Will you really lay down your life for Me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown Me three times!'" (*Matthew 26:35* "But Peter declared, 'Even if I have to die with You, I will never disown You.' And all the other disciples said the same.")
 1. *Live faithful to Jesus by keeping your word so you may receive the rewards of Heaven.*
 - a. **Disown** (Greek: *arneomai*) means to deny, reject, or renounce.
 1. **Matthew 26:69-74** "Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him, 'You were with Jesus of Galilee,' she said. But he denied it before them all. 'I don't know what you're talking about,' he said. Then he went out to the gateway where another girl saw him and said to the people there, 'This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.' He denied it again, with an oath: 'I don't know the man!' After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, 'Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away.' Then he began to call down curses on himself. He swore to them, 'I don't know the man!' Immediately a rooster crowed."
 2. **Matthew 12:36** "Jesus said, 'But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the Day of Judgment for every empty word they have spoken.'"

- a. *Insight* from former Thomas Nelson Publisher CEO Michael Hyatt: (Keeping Your Word)
- C. **John 14:1-4** “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. ²In 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. 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. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going.”
 - 1. *Live faithful to Jesus by trusting His Word so you may receive the rewards of Heaven.*
 - a. *Historical:* Jesus uses Jewish wedding tradition to illustrate the faith reward of Heaven.
 - 1. The betrothal was similar to an engagement, but more binding.
 - a. **Matthew 1:18-19** “This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged (betrothed) to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.”
 - 2. You pledge yourself to God when you are baptized into Him for the forgiveness of your sins.
 - a. **1 Peter 3:21** “This water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”
 - 3. The betrothal was sealed by the bridegroom paying the “bride-price” or deposit.
 - a. Isaac set apart Rebekah as his betrothed wife when he paid her family a gift deposit.
 - 1. **Gen 24:53** “The servant brought out gold and silver jewelry and articles of clothing and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave costly gifts to her brother and to her mother.”
 - b. When you pledge yourself to Christ by being immersed (baptized), He gives you the *gift* of His Holy Spirit.
 - 1. **Acts 2:38** “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the *gift* of the Holy Spirit.”
 - 2. **Romans 8:23** “We ourselves, who have the *firstfruits of the Spirit*, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”
 - 3. **Ephesians 1:13-14** “Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised *Holy Spirit, who is a deposit* guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession...”
 - 4. The betrothal period gave time for the groom to go to his Father’s house to prepare a place for himself and his bride. He built an addition to the family dwelling.
 - a. **John 14:2** “In my Father’s house are many rooms...I am going there to prepare a place for you.”
 - 5. The betrothal period gave time for a testing of marital faithfulness.
 - a. **Colossians 1:22-23** “God has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation—if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.”

6. The betrothal period gave time for the bride to do her preparation work for the wedding celebration. As we await Jesus' Second Coming, as His bride the church, we have work to do.
 - a. **Matthew 28:19-20** "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
 - b. **1 Peter 4:10** "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."
 1. As we wait to meet Jesus—don't be troubled instead trust the Lord.
- D. **John 14:5-6** "Thomas said, 'Lord, we don't know where You are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"
 1. Jesus is clear that to inherit eternal life, that is, to have a relationship with God, to really live on earth and eventually reside in Heaven—it comes only through Him—the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
 - a. **Acts 4:12** "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."
 - b. **Ephesians 3:12** "In (Christ Jesus) and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence."
 1. **Approach** (Greek: *prosagoge*) means access through the assistance of another.
 - a. **Ezra 9:15** "O Lord, God of Israel, You are righteous...Here we are before You in our guilt, though because of it not one of us can stand in Your presence."
 2. Jesus is the only one who can introduce a person to God. As *Ephesians 3:12* proclaims, "In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God."
 - a. **1 Timothy 2:3-6a** "God our Savior wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men..."
 - b. **Hebrews 2:11** "Both the One who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers."
 3. Why forgiveness and salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?
 - a. **John 3:16, 36** "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life...Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on Him."

CLOSE: Let's live faithful to Jesus so we may receive the blessing of Heaven.