

## Hope in Uncertain Times

### Way, Truth & Life: Part 2 - Place



Welcome, or welcome back if you're a regular listener, to The Fuelcast and also to:

"Hope in Uncertain Times" - because these times are uncertain for everybody and everybody is looking for hope.

Today I want to pass on a word, which is making a difference in my life, from this passage. The word is 'place' - listen out for it three times:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> My 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? <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the **place** where I am going.'

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'

What I'm hearing is there's a place for me. Whatever happens to me, in this place, there's a place for me with Jesus. As he puts it: in the Father's house. That's makes a tremendous difference to my sense of security and purpose as a human being.

Just before, Jesus speaks these words of comfort and assurance, he predicted, one of his closest disciples, Peter, would disown him three times, before daylight tomorrow.

Realising that resonates deep down here, inside me, because I know I've done nothing to deserve a room there, I realise I could never earn my way to his place, the Father's House, which we call heaven. But Jesus does for me what he did for Peter, what he can do for you, if you let him – he can be your way.

It's interesting to me, before we'd heard of Covid-19, most people in Britain were happy to avoid the question of the 100% statistic of death and whether there was anything beyond. But today, when the face of death has re-appeared, in the place of someone from almost every extended family in our nation, the consciousness of that question has re-surfaced.

Jesus faces it head on, he's not a politician dodging the question, the next day, He would die on a cross. The only sinless human being that's ever lived was, at the same time, the Son of God.

In his humanity he died in my place.

In his deity he alone is able to forgive my sins.

In his personhood I experience a personal relationship with him.

In his eternal nature he ushers me into his eternal life.

Peter O'Hanlon was a policeman on patrol on night duty in northern England some years ago when he heard a child sobbing. When he looked, he saw a small boy sitting and with tears rolling down his cheeks, he said, "I'm lost. Take me home." The policeman began naming street after street, trying to help him remember where he lived. When that failed, he repeated the names of the shops and different buildings in the area, but all without success. Then he remembered that in the centre of the town was a church with a large white cross on the top, which he could see. He pointed to it and said, "Do you live anywhere near that?" and the little boy said. "Yes, take me to the cross. I can find my way home from there!"

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