

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Jesus Now Series, Lesson 53

Lesson Title: Heaven—Life Forever with Jesus

Take Home Point: Heaven is face-to-face with Jesus — and it's a blast!

Warm-Up:

As my children were growing up, we all enjoyed the anticipation of a coming special event, such as Christmas, a birthday, or a summer vacation. For example, every year we took a road trip to visit interesting places, see new sights, and experience activities different from our normal life. As summer approached, we all followed the calendar and tracked each day as it passed. We deliberated carefully in our preparations – deciding where to go, what stops to make on the way, what activities to do, putting together packing lists, purchasing the little extra things to add to the journey. We would talk about how much fun it was going to be, what we looked most forward to, and had fun getting ready. Then the big day would arrive and our excitement would be at its peak. Last minute preparations, checks and rechecks; then – we were off!

Read: John 14:1-6

Observation (What happened?):

How does one get to the Father's house?

What is Jesus going to do for us when he returns?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What might have troubled the hearts of the disciples? What might trouble ours?

What does Jesus mean when he says he is the way, the truth, and the life?

Insight:

What is your view of heaven? Has your thinking been warped by our culture's shallow parody of clouds and harps and sitting around doing nothing? Or have you been turned off by the idea that all we will do is stand around and sing hymns and praise choruses while God smiles benignly at the adoring crowd? If either of these is true, that's too bad. Heaven is going to be wonderful! Just think what it will be like to never do anything wrong again. Think about the people you are going to meet! What questions will you ask of the Old Testament characters, the disciples, and even Jesus himself? Think about the stories you will have to tell when you fully comprehend how God worked in you and through you. And millions of people will have millions of stories! What is God's view of heaven? He is preparing it as a special place just for us. Now, if the God of the universe – the perfect Almighty Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer – is doing the preparing, don't you think it will be fantastic? I don't know what he is preparing, but he knows exactly what will be just right for us for eternity. I am so excited; I can't wait!

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What troubles your heart? What can you do to turn that over to Jesus?

How do you view heaven? Is it a place you want to be right now? Why or why not?