

The Week of the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday, September 11, 2022

Scripture: John 14:1-6

It is a great honor to write this to the people of Mpuguso, Tanzania. The Book of John, Chapter 14:1-6 talks about how the Lord will prepare a home for us in heaven. Many mansions will be in this heavenly home. We will live in those mansions, but only if we follow Jesus. He said to Thomas in verse 6 that, "I am the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE. No man comes to the FATHER except through me." All Christians need to gather their hearts together as we live in our temporary homes on earth. Even our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:1-2). Sin must never be part of our bodily homes so the Lord can use us as conduits to spread His Gospel.

For many years, I have been reading a chapter of the Bible first thing every morning. This became my survival. Starting at 21, I have been the victim of numerous acts of crime; too many to write about on this page. In John 14:16, Jesus says that He shall give us a Comforter (the Lord God Almighty) that will stay with us forever. Fear is not a fruit of the Holy Spirit, but we know that God lives in us to protect us from harm and danger. Even if we die physically, we will live eternally in His heavenly home.

When I lived and worked in South Jersey and Philadelphia for 38 years; most of my friends, neighbors and colleagues were African and Hispanic Americans. As you know, our country has struggled with racial tension for four hundred years. The Lord gives me opportunities to witness to all I know and say, "We MUST celebrate our differences and come together as one unified body of believers in Christ when He returns!" The biggest spiritual disappointment I have seen in the culture all over the world is that we have condoned sin and evil to be good, while throwing away our ethnic diversity and judging people spiritually by race. We tell ourselves that people commit sin because they don't know any better from how they are raised in different cultures. The God we serve as Christians sees no difference between Jew or Greek. Race and ethnicity is NOT part of His vocabulary. The human race is judged by our belief that Jesus Christ came to earth to save us from our sins. We have NO ROOM for the devil to do a dance on our heads or hearts. Nothing makes parents more upset than when they come home from work to fighting children. Jesus Christ will feel the same way during the rapture (John 14:26-31). It is the job of every human being to keep peace with his fellow human and not allow the prince of darkness to take away our knowledge that the Father has commanded us to be together one race of Christians. We must rejoice in the diverse nature of all our cultures. God will be judging us on how we have worked out our salvation. We must not only tell the entire world of our commitment to Christ, but to share His love locally. We must ALL keep our eyes fixed on Him like the musicians in an orchestra so He can lead us into our eternal home. We owe it to ourselves in Tanzania, America and the world to realize that we Christians must continually nurture each other and keep our eyes upon Jesus!

Take the time to sing or listen to the hymn "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" in closing.

Prayer: O God of all, with wonderful diversity of languages and cultures you created all people in your image. Free us from prejudice and fear, that we may see your face in the faces of people around the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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