

Going Home

- No place like home, 3x. Dorothy made that line famous in W/O 80 yrs ago. But there really is truth in that sentiment, isn't there? If you've been away from home/fam long time – bec: military, deployed tour duty; colg, gone all sem at school; business trip, hotels; even away wndfl vaca – good get back home, see fam, be in your own place with ppl you love. No place like home. Might not be feeling that way right now, since for last 8 wks staying “safer at home.” Maybe fam's drvng you crzy; sick/tired looking at walls of house – just want get away. Even so, no place like home.
- What makes place home? Building: house itself? Special place: your hometown; church? People: fam, friends? Yes, home: all that; where comfortable, content, satisfied; where feel whole; where with people you love, joy fills heart. We may like travel, go places, go vaca. But at end of day, no place like home. So no matter where we are, we all have within us this desire to go home.
- Today in Gos J talks re going home. We're in Jn 14; it's MT; night of Last Supper; J about be arrested, beaten, crucfd. And yet uses this eve to teach discs, one last time before faces cross, re going home. Earlier that night: **“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come (13:33).** I'm going away; be leaving you; can't stay here. I'm about die, rise, ascend back to home in hvn – you can't follow me there, at least not yet. I'll always be w/u; but won't be same. I'm going home.
- That was troubling for discs to hear; they were sacred to hear J going away. Kind like little child; her mom grocery shopping; she: Mommy, why going away. Or on 1st day school; dad drops son off at K; tears well up; Dad, why leaving. Or when your own M/D in hosp bed or nursing home, holding their hand as adult, tears well up again: why leaving me, not ready for this, want you stay, don't go. When someone you love goes away, that's hard. J was going away – that was hard.
- But that night J to discs, & us: **vs. 1a.** It's be ok. Mom kneels down: you're ok w/dad; back in little awhile; just getting few things at store. Dad gives K-er big hug; pick up right after school. Your parent squzes hand: it's ok; going home. J: it's ok; going home. **Vs. 1,** bec: am God; what say trstwrthy/true.
- **Vs. 2a.** Via cross, empty tomb, cloudy sky – J going home, to hvn. Calls: my Father's house. Bible describes hvn many ways: wedding banquet; paradise; place of rest; here: Father's house. Has many rooms, bec many Xians. It's not like hvn: massive resort complex, dozens stories tall, with mile-long hallways, millions rooms. That's how big this structure have be if hvn were literal building. And surely there'll be countless multitudes in hvn. But here J talks re hvn as my Father's house. He's going home.
- But this is your home, too! **Vs. 2.** J returned to hvn to prep place for you, bec this not only his home; it's also your home. And the way J preps a place for you here: not so much preparing hvn for you, but really preparing you for hvn. On your own, sinful, in very nature; corrupt in heart; not perfect. Hvn is perfect place; no imperfection can dwell there. So J prepares you for hvn, by washing away your sins, making you clean. That's what J did when died on cross: washed away all your sins. Also prepares you for hvn by growing faith in your heart. Faith is gift of God. J sends HS into your heart to cultivate faith, make you believer in J. Only believers in J can go hvn; so J made you believer by giving you faith. Finally, J prepares you for hvn by making you some very special promises. Prom makes here is: **vs. 3.** J promises bring you to your home in hvn. Hvn: your home. And if you've ever felt, in your heart, that melancholy, lonely longing for being home and feeling whole – in hvn your restless heart will be made whole. You'll be filled w/joy; satisfied, comforted, content, loved, made whole, forever. In hvn, you'll be with J. **Vs. 3c.** In hvn you'll be with J. And even though lot ppl there, you'll have 1-on-1 time w/Sav. As much as you're looking forward being w/him, he's also...w/u. And since you can't get hvn on own, J proms bring you there himself. **Vs. 3ab.** He's coming back, on Last Day, J-Day; didn't leave us forever; J will return. And when comes again, he's going take you be w/him in hvn. You are going home.

- So really, where we are now, not really home. Even in your own house, surrounded by fam – that’s not true home. Life here on earth: kind like being in airport, train station, dorm room. You stay in dorm for time, but not forever; not home. You spend time at airport, t-station so can catch ride/flight back home. Life on earth is temporary layover. And quite a short one, really – in big pic of eternity. We spend this little blip of time on earth, living lives, with ppl we love, doing our work, passing time, trusting in J, getting ready to go home. And there’s lot imp things we need to do here on earth; but none is more imp than simply trusting in J and getting ready go home.
- Discs didn’t really understand, right away, what J saying. **Vs. 4.** Tom speaks for group – **vs. 5.** Maybe thought J traveling diff city, heading for new town. So J explained: **vs. 6.** You want know way home to hvn, says J? I’m the way; and I’m only way. There is no other way to see Father in hvn, except thru me, bec I am the way. Today, finding your way when driving: easier than ever, bec all have do: turn on GPS, plug in destntn, and it tells you way, every step of way. I still remem using map to find my way. You’d open up map; find where you are; find destntn; trace your path; find your way. Then if hit detour, just find diff way. Or if have older GPS, might say “recalculating.” Lots of ways to get where going.
- Not with hvn. Only one way to hvn. Xianity is not just one religion out of many that all lead to same place. There may be many religious teachings out there, many spiritual paths, many “gods” – but they not all the same; and they not lead to same place. J: very exclusive here. **Vs. 6b.** You’ll never make it to home in hvn by following man-made religion of work-righteousness that relies on *your* goodness/doing to get you into hvn. Only when you trust in Xp, who shed his blood on cross for you, to exchange your sin for his righteousness, which is now yours by faith – only then are you following right way. **Vs. 6a.** J is only way to hvn; he’s only truth of salvation (you can’t invent your own truth; this is God’s truth; he reveals it to us); and J is only one who gives eternal life. He’s the one who came back to life & says I am res&life. And he’s the one who brings us to eternal life. Tom: **vs. 5.** Well, we do know the way – it’s J! And we know where J was going; and so we know where we’re going, too. We’re going home.
- There’s lot ways to express sentiments re specialness of being home. Home where heart is. Home sweet home. Or like Dorothy in W/O, there’s no place like home. I hope in your life you’ve exprncd the joy/satisfctn/fulflmnt of being in a special place with special ppl that you could call home. And maybe right now you’re feeling like you’ve had a little too much home, as you continue stay “safer at home.” But we all know what it feels like to long to be home. That longing for being home is part of Xianity. No matter how much love/joy we feel being at our own house with our own family, this is not our home. Life on earth, even in its most joyful moments, is not our permanent home. We’re not going stay here, just like J didn’t stay here. We’re going somewhere else. And that may be a troubling thought; but **vs. 1-3.** Bec of J, we’re going to hvn; we’re going home.

John 14:1-6

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ²My 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? 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.”

⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”