
Heaven: A Place Filled with Glory

Sermon Text: Hebrews 12:18-24, Luke 13:2-30, Isaiah 66:18-20
Mariner Sands Chapel

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Our focus today is on a passage of the Bible that gives us a teaser of what Heaven's glory is like. What does the Bible mean by this? Glory is the composite of all God's attributes, in all their perfection. Heaven is a place that is filled with glory. From the Psalm we read today, the writer's hope and aspiration is that the whole earth be filled with His glory (Ps. 72:19). Isaiah writes that God is about to come and gather everyone to see His glory; a glory which will be proclaimed among the nations (Is. 66:20). Luke's gospel passage describes Jesus responding to the local villagers, who had an understanding of Heaven, but they were curious how God would select those who were faithful.

Last week, we were introduced to a metaphor of Heaven, like a stadium filled with those saints that have gone before us. They are heroes of faith mentioned in the previous chapter. This week, we notice another description of heaven. First, it is a real place. Second, it is full of GLORY. Jesus explains to get there, the people who will be in the Kingdom will have to enter through "the narrow door." (So I suppose we should assume that Heaven is another "gated community.") Once inside, those in heaven are welcomed to a huge party. They will come from all over the world. They will enter through a gate that is managed by the One who has the book of life. In the book of Revelation, it says "The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will enter it, now will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Rev 21:26-27)"

Finally, it is a place that is FILLED. In our letter to the Hebrews, we read that thousands upon thousands of angels will be there in joyful assembly. The eternal city of our God, who is Lord of the narrow gate, of the needle's eye (Mt 19:24), and the Judge of all, will be populated by the souls of righteous believers. Those who have been made perfect (or complete) because of the blood sacrifice of Jesus, God's Mediator, on the cross. In our worship today, we sang "Down at the Cross where My Savior died, there...to my heart...was the blood applied. Glory to His name."

Do not think that God is slow in keeping this promise to return, as some might say. Instead, He is patient. He wants as many as possible to repent of their sins and join our family. (2 Peter 3:9) God wants a big reunion. And He knows how to throw a party!

How shall we respond to such a good news? The best answer is to do what God wants in your life and mine. In Hebrews 12:14 it says "to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness, no one will see the Lord." See to it that no one misses out of this marvelous grace of God. Strip away anything in your life that would hold you back from a devout life of faith. Discipline yourself for godliness (1 Tim. 4:7). Seek the things which are above (Colossians 3:2). Run to fulfill your calling (Philippians 3:14); run in the strength God gives to you (2 Tim 2:1); and run as one who is more than a conqueror by faith in Jesus (Rom.8:37).

God's intentions towards you are better than you think. We should know that our lives and God's glory are bound together. Glory is much larger than human happiness. It is the final outcome.