

Minister's Message – January 2006

No Place like Home

Have you been away for holidays? We love to go away and see different places and do different things, but it is always good to get home again. We find comfort and rest in familiar surroundings, in our own chair and our own bed. There is no place like home!

But in this past year thousands of people lost their homes. The tsunami and hurricane Katrina destroyed the home of many. For others earthquake or war destroyed their home. How terrible it is not to have a home to go to. People search for shelter from the scorching sun or the beating rain. They look for a place of rest.

We have entered a new year. Who will lose their home this year? Is there no end to such disaster? We can take certain precautions by not building in dangerous places. Building your house below sea level like in New Orleans, or in the middle of the bush is risky. But can you ever be sure that your house will not be destroyed?

Jesus gives some advice on this matter. He said the wise man builds his house on the rock and not on the sand (Matthew 7). But Jesus was talking about more than bricks and mortar. He was talking about an eternal home. The wise man who builds on the rock is like a person who hears the words of Jesus and does them. Listen to Jesus, love him and obey him – this is the way build a house that will never be destroyed.

What was Jesus talking about? He was talking about a place of rest for our soul. He later spoke of his Father's house with it many places (John 14). As Jesus faced his own death, he said to those following him – *I go and prepare a place for you*. This house is not in this world – it is in heaven. It is an eternal home that will never be destroyed. It is a home with a place reserved for you if you believe in Jesus.

What a tremendous thought. What an amazing truth. Do not listen to the lies that men tell. How tragic that some claim to have died and then come back with the message that there is nothing there. For sure there is nothing there that money can buy! If they crawl out of the grave after three or four days then you can listen to them! Meanwhile let us listen to one who did rise from the dead.

Jesus holds the key to this eternal home. If you want to enter all you have to do is ask him (Matthew 7:7). Believe in Jesus, believe that he died bearing your sin and that he rose from the dead. Then you will know, and you will be prepared to go to that eternal home that he has gone to prepare for you.

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