

4th Sunday after Pentecost, June 16, Study Guide *Is Heaven Real?*



Key Themes

Doubt as a Spiritual Tool: Doubt can be a motivator and a tool in our spiritual lives. It pushes us to seek deeper understanding and stronger faith.

Heaven and the Afterlife: Heaven is often depicted in various ways, from cloud-filled paradises to bustling places of activity and learning.

Impact of Resurrection: The resurrection of Jesus transformed his followers from fearful individuals to courageous proclaimers of faith.

Scripture Reading

John 14:1-3

Matthew 22:23-33

Luke 23:43

Isaiah 25:6-8

Sermon Quotes:

- *“At the last judgement, we will look upon the face of God. The saved are the ones who know it is God they are looking at.”*
- *“The kingdom of heaven is now but not yet; every time we witness kindness, love, care, justice, we are seeing the face of God.”*

Discussion Questions

- *What are your initial thoughts or images of heaven? Do these align more with popular culture or with Biblical descriptions?*
- *How do you feel about the idea of heaven as presented in John 14:1-3?*
- *How does the concept of heaven influence your daily life and spiritual journey?*
- *What are some reasons people might doubt the existence of heaven or an afterlife? How can these doubts serve as a tool for deeper faith?*
- *Reflect on the different images of heaven mentioned in the sermon: a paradise, a banquet, a huge house with many rooms. Which of these resonates most with you and why?*
- *Share your personal vision of heaven. What elements are essential for it to feel like paradise to you?*

Reflection

- *How can we practice seeing the face of God in our everyday lives as a way to prepare for heaven?*
- *Reflect on the idea that heaven begins now and continues into the next life. How does this perspective change how you view your current circumstances?*