

Some of you know how my mom has been suffering from Alzheimer's disease for the past few years. Recently, we became very concerned about the best way to give her the care that she really needed. About a month ago, we placed her in a special facility in Brentwood. The day before we took her there we undertook a covert operation so that we wouldn't upset her more than necessary. Our team assembled near the house and we put in a call to our inside man, Dad, who took Mom out to eat. Then we went in and took what we needed, loaded it, and took it to what would be her new room. We set the place up with some old and some new furniture, and hung some of her pictures so she would be comfortable in her new surroundings.

Our main objective was to prepare a place for her. It is not unusual for us sometime to have to do this for a loved one. Ty and Shelia, I know, prepared a nursery for their baby prior to its arrival. I know that part of that preparation was a mural that Soozie painted. For Mom it was to be a place where she should be able to spend the rest of her life. And she seems to be really enjoying it.

But when I was moving her things, it dawned on me that there was a similar thing that Jesus promised to us. In John 14:1-3 he tell us:

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God ; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And 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.*

Of course, there are some similarities and some differences. We prepared a place for Mom to give her comfort and familiarity in her new home. Jesus was to become our comfort, so he made us a place where we could live with him forever. Though Mom had a tear or two when we first took her to her room, in heaven we know that there will be no more tears. Though we leave her most of the time, Christ will never leave us. And while we invaded our home to get the furnishings that Mom needed to make her comfortable, Christ himself invaded this earthly home so that he could live among us and become the Comforter that we need spiritually.

All of us think about preparing for retirement and making sure we will have a place to stay. More urgently we may think about what will be the best way to take care of our parents. But ultimately it is the home in heaven that offers eternal security. Christ prepared a place for us because he loved us, and he will take us there. This is the beauty of the gospel.