

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN SESSION 16

Review: Last week we went through chapter 13 which gave us a look at some events right after the last supper. Jesus removes his outer garments and girds himself with a towel so that he can wash their feet. He did this as an illustration of humility and service to others. When Peter protests, Jesus says if he does not wash his feet then he has no part with him which is a lesson concerning fellowship. Jesus reveals that he will be betrayed by one of the disciples. They are taken aback and ask who it is. Jesus reveals it to be Judas, but they don't catch it then Jesus tells Judas to do quickly what is in his heart to do. Jesus then gives the eleven a new commandment "That ye love one another as I have loved you" and makes that the distinguishing mark of being his disciple. Peter does not understand why he can't go with Christ and declaring "Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake." The chapter ends with Jesus revealing to Peter that he will deny him three times not far from now.

John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also. *The hearts of the disciples are troubled because they don't understand where Jesus is going and why. A betrayal and three denials have been foretold and none of this factored into any of their hopes or desires. The Lord knowing their hearts immediately wants to comfort them. He turns the focus off the present to the future, from the here and now to the sweet by and by.*

- **I go to prepare a place for you** – Does not mean that Jesus is in heaven today building mansions. The mansions are already there. He is referring to his impending death, burial, resurrection, ascension and position as our high priest. His sacrifice took away our sin which removed the barrier between us and God. We have a place in Christ which gives us access to and fellowship with God. When the wicked dead is judged in Revelation 20 it is written that there was no place for them.
- **I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also** – This is the comfort. Yes, he must go away but he has promised to return and receive us unto himself to permanently live with him.

John 14:4-6 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. *Jesus Christ is*

exclusively the way to the Father, the only truth in the world, and the only source of eternal life!

John 14:7-11 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father? Believeest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I *am* in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. *Jesus repeatedly claimed unity with the Father through this gospel. It caused controversy, got him accused of blasphemy and moved the people to pick up rocks to stone him. He is restating that the whole time they were with him, he was saying what the Father told him to. He went where the Father directed him to. He only did what the Father wanted him to so being with him was the same as being with the Father. They are so unified that you cannot know one without knowing the other.*

John 14:12-15 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*. If ye love me, keep my commandments.

- **The “greater works”** – This does not mean that Christians will perform more powerful miracles than Jesus. “Greater” refers to the global scale and scope of the gospel. Jesus was limited to Israel, but after his ascension his followers would continue the work worldwide.
- **Praying in Jesus’ name** – He promises to do whatever they ask in his name. Asking “in his name” is not a magic formula to get whatever we want. It means praying in alignment with his character, will and for the glory of God. James reveals in his epistle that the reason so many prayers were not answered was because they were motivated by lust and were selfish. **James 4:3** Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.
- **Love and obedience are inseparable** – Obedience is the natural outflow of genuine love. Love is the motivation for obedience. That’s why having a daily walk with Christ is so important. You can’t love someone you don’t intimately know.

John 14:16-18 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive,

because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. *Here Jesus reveals the coming ministry of the Holy Spirit. He calls him “the Comforter” which is translated from the Greek word “parakletos” which means one called alongside to help, an intercessor, a consoler, a helper, an advocate. Jesus is going away but he is not leaving them comfortless. He is turning them over to the Holy Spirit, the third person of the trinity and this is now his time.*

- **For he dwelleth with you and shall be in you** – The Holy Spirit had been assisting them in ministry since Jesus had sent them BUT he was not in them. That won’t happen until after the resurrection.

John 14:19-21 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I *am* in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. *After the resurrection, only believers could see Jesus. He did not appear publicly to everyone, only specific times and places and only to his own. Through the Holy Spirit, believers share a deep, unbreakable connection with God coexisting in the same loving relationship that the Father and Jesus share. He again emphasizes obedience motivated by love. If we love and obey Christ, he and the Father will love us...this is not earned love but shows that love is reciprocated. As Christians grow closer to Christ they experience a deeper, affectionate fellowship with the trinity.*

John 14:22-25 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. *This disciple wondered how the Lord would be seen by them but not the world? The answer that Jesus gives teaches us that he meant that he would manifest himself to believers through the Holy Spirit. Love and obedience brings more of the manifest presence of the Father and Son.*

John 14:26-27 But the Comforter, *which* is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

- **The role of the Holy Spirit** – Divine teacher and reminder of Jesus’s words. He empowered the disciples to understand the mission of Jesus and carry it out.
- **The gift of peace** – unlike the world’s peace which depends upon good circumstances, lack of conflict, or worldly success. His peace is anchored in himself and his promises.
- **Fight against fear** – Don’t let your heart be overcome with fear. Fear is a terrible leader and influencer.

John 14:28-31 Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come *again* unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe. Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me. But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence. *He explains that his return to the Father is not a defeat, but a victory. The purpose of telling them these things before they happened was to strengthen their faith when they saw it come to pass. In the Godhead, the Father is the head of the Son, and the Holy Spirit is now glorifying Christ even though they are all equal in power.*

- **The prince of this world cometh** – Satan holds temporary, worldly influence over this fallen world. Jesus is predicting his impending arrest, betrayal, and crucifixion, which he knew Satan would orchestrate through his worldly agents.
- **He hath nothing in me** – Literally meaning “in me he has nothing”. This reflects a common Greek idiom. It signifies that Satan had absolutely no legal claim, no hold, and no inner weakness (like sin or fear) to exploit in Jesus.

Jesus links obedience not to obligation, but to love. He was not forced or dragged to the cross, but he faced suffering willingly. This was the visible proof of his love for the Father because he obeyed what was commanded of him. He courageously moves forward knowing what is coming quickly.

Tonight’s application: John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. *What Jesus is teaching here is that those who love him will obey him and that obedience will be rewarded with more of his manifested presence. There is a difference between God’s omnipresence and His manifested presence. God is always everywhere whether we sense Him or not, whether we feel him or not. The manifest presence of God is in those moments when His presence is revealed, felt, or experienced in a tangible and undeniable way. More manifested presence is conditional upon love-driven obedience. Hebrews 11:6 ...and is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

