



The Final Night- John chapter 13-17

Light House Winter Semester 2018

Introduction to “The Final Night”, Lighthouse Study Winter Semester 2018

From the Gospel of John, Jesus reveals He is the resurrection and the life, (John 11:25) so in the midst of great sorrow Jesus brought Lazarus his friend out of the grave after four days in the grip of death. Mary saw the miracle and as miracles should, she was moved to great worship and adoration. Just before the beginning of the Passover festival which lasted 8 days, Mary, the sister of Lazarus, took costly ointment and anointed Jesus' feet (12:7). Jesus translated her act of worship as a preparation for His burial. The multitudes heard of the resurrection of Lazarus and the amazing demonstration of power and authority shown by Jesus. They formed large crowds around the house to get a glimpse of Jesus and the dead man who was living. Their motive was not worship, just fascination. Jesus knew He was going to Jerusalem to be judged, crucified and buried there. The chief priests responded differently to the miracle of Lazarus. They plotted how they could kill Jesus and intensified their commitment to do so. The multitudes who had seen the miracle of Lazarus stirred up the crowds (12:17) who assembled in Jerusalem for the Passover Festival and they greeted Jesus with palm branches and shouts of “blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” as He entered Jerusalem for the last time. Jesus proclaimed, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.”(12:23) Yet this glory was not to be without great cost. He said, “Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour?’ But for this purpose I came to this hour. (12:27) “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies it bears much fruit.” (12:24) Jesus knew the laying down of His life would result in eternal fruitfulness and glory for God. “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.” (12:32) Some of the last words He spoke on earth to the multitudes was “While you have the light, believe in the light, in order that you may become sons of light.” These things Jesus spoke, and He departed and hid Himself from them. But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him;” (12:36,37)

So having departed from the crowds of people, He intensified His focus and purposes upon those disciples who had followed Him and had been with Him from the beginning. So the backdrop is set for the most intimate, the most private conversations and teachings with His inner core on the last night of His life. We enter in with those select few and listen and read and embed ourselves into the mix of disciples who were His own on this - “The Final Night”.

Instructions for the “Final Night” Study:

In this Light House season, you are called to dig deeper and to read, meditate and pray over five chapters over the next 10 weeks. Our text for “The Final Night” will be John 13-17. I believe the “Red Letters” the quotes of Jesus are the highest priority verses in the Bible. He Himself is the Living Word made manifest to us. Having come from heaven to earth He brought revelation of the King and His Kingdom. When one has gathered their loved ones beside them as death draws near, they will speak of things that are of utmost importance to them that they wish to pass on to their loved ones. So it is with Jesus on these final hours. His entire mission was resting upon these Apostles so He made it clear to them what He wanted to solidify within them. What will be your response to this invitation to dive in deeper? The hungry eat and those who are not hungry, even what you provide for them they spit out. We are encouraged by the Apostle Paul to study to show ourselves approved as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth. We are told to be rich in the Word of God, which is to bring us into intimacy and obedience with the One who authored it. During this ten weeks, you are invited to dig, pursue and integrate these Red Letters in John 13-17. Please focus on the chapter assigned for each of these ten weeks. Please spend your quiet time in that chapter and pray upon the truths declared. The layout for studying from the book of John “The Final Night” of Jesus is below. **Please write your study notes on the back of each page. Please center your devotions around these chapters each week. Study and DO QUESTIONS BEFORE EACH GROUP and Come Ready to Share.**

- Jan 21- Week 1 John Chapter 13
- Jan 28 – Week 2 John Chapter 14:1-15
- Feb 4- Week 3 John Chapter 14:16-31
- Feb 11- Week 4 John Chapter 15
- Feb 18- Week 5 John Chapter 15
- Feb 25 – Week 6 John Chapter 16
- March 4 – Week 7 John Chapter 16
- March 11 –Week 8 John Chapter 17
- March 18 –Week 9 John Chapter 17
- March 25- Week 10 – We will meet at Southfield Village Upper Room for a special Last Supper Celebration on Thursday March 29 at 6pm. You may find these articles listed below very helpful as we move into this Last Supper Celebration

The Lord’s Supper

Passover at the time of Jesus <https://bible.org/article/passover-time-jesus>

Was Jesus Last Supper a Seder? Biblical Archeological Society

<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/jesus-historical-jesus/was-jesus-last-supper-a-seder/>

“The Final Night” Winter Semester Radiant Lighthouse Groups 2018

John Chapters 13-17 study written by Pastor John Wilson All scriptures from the New American Standard Bible (NASB)

The Final Night- Week 1 / John Chapter 13

John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, **Jesus knowing** that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. ² During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, *the son* of Simon, to betray Him, ³ **Jesus, knowing** that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, ⁴ *got up from supper, and *laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself.

NOTE: *It is interesting that the Bible writer John who wrote this gospel and 3 epistles used the words know or knew in 140 verses. In the 5 chapters we are studying concerning the final night before Jesus’ crucifixion, John records the words know and knew in 38 verses. In this day that we live in, so many Christians do not know much of what they believe. Shallow and uninformed leaves a Christian open to all forms of attack, deception, luke-warmness and uncertainty. Only each one individually can choose to study the Word of God to prove himself a well-equipped workman who does not need to be ashamed. To come into deeper knowing is a big reason we are studying these passages in John; deeper knowing precedes greater exploits for God. One does not find gold lying on the surface, you must dig for gold.*

Question/Discussion: *Identify what Jesus knew from verses 1-3. How important was it that Jesus knew these things on the night before His crucifixion? What have you needed to know and believe about God during the critical times of your life? Imagine for a moment if this were the last day of your life on earth, **what would you need to know now?** Be specific in your answer to this question.*

Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet

⁵ Then He *poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. ⁶ So He *came to Simon Peter. He *said to Him, “Lord, do You wash my feet?” ⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter.” ⁸ Peter *said to Him, “Never shall You wash my feet!” Jesus answered him, **“If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.”** ⁹ Simon Peter *said to Him, “Lord, *then wash* not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.”¹⁰ Jesus *said to him, **“He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.”** ¹¹ For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, “Not all of you are clean.”

Question/Discussion: Unpack together what Jesus is saying in verses 8 and 10 about the cleansing, which He does in our lives. What are the ramifications in our everyday life as it relates to these verses?

¹² So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, **“Do you know what I have done to you?”** ¹³ You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ **If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.** ¹⁵ **For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.** ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ **If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.**

Question /Discussion: Why do so few really live this perspective, this truth, regarding servanthood unto their brothers and sisters? What would the kingdom of God on the earth look like if we simply served one another as Jesus served us? How often do we pray for things that in actuality the Father has already placed upon us the things to do and to say on His behalf?

¹⁸ I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but *it is* that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.’ ¹⁹ From now on I am telling you before *it* comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am *He*. ²⁰ **Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”**

Question/Discussion: Here Jesus identifies the principle of representation. In the Kingdom of God, all authority is delegated from God the Father who is King forever. Even the authority that Jesus functioned in was given to Him from the Father. Mt. 28:18 Discuss this principle together. How should we therefore see our assignments given to us by the Father? What are the implications of this principle of representation as we go forward in life for the Kingdom? What if we fail to obey and do not go?

Jesus Predicts His Betrayal

²¹ When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.” ²² The disciples began looking at one another, at a loss to know of which one He was speaking. ²³ There was reclining on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. ²⁴ So Simon Peter *gestured to him, and *said to him, “Tell us who it is of whom He is speaking.” ²⁵ He, leaning back thus on Jesus’ bosom, *said to Him, “Lord, who is it?” ²⁶ Jesus then *answered, “That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give

it to him.” So when He had dipped the morsel, He *took and *gave it to Judas, *the son of Simon Iscariot.* ²⁷ After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus *said to him, “What you do, do quickly.” ²⁸ Now no one of those reclining *at the table* knew for what purpose He had said this to him. ²⁹ For some were supposing, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, “Buy the things we have need of for the feast”; or else, that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ So after receiving the morsel he went out immediately; and it was night.

Question/Discussion *How do you respond with betrayal from one you put in a place of trust? How did Jesus respond to Judas? What in the world was Jesus thinking when He placed Judas in charge of the moneybox?*

³¹ Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus *said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him; ³² if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and will glorify Him immediately. ³³ Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ **A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.** ³⁵ **By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

Question/Discussion: *As in many persecuted countries of the world where they know so little scripture, Imagine all you knew regarding the Christian life was John 13:34,35. How would you so live? What would be your emphasis?*

³⁶ Simon Peter *said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?” Jesus answered, “Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later.” ³⁷ Peter *said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You.” ³⁸ Jesus *answered, “Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.

The Final Night- Week 2 / John 14:1-15

NOTE: Jesus was facing His greatest challenge and yet His concern was not for Himself but for the Disciples. Jesus loved them to the end (13:1). His love compelled Him to reassure and lay solid foundation for His followers since He was leaving them. Here Jesus lays some foundation stones for the Disciples regarding eternity. What is your view of heaven? Where did you get that view? The Disciples had concepts of heaven but not necessarily accurate – much like our own may be. So Jesus comforts His own with words of their eternal security in preparation for what they would face upon the earth.

John 14 “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Question / Discussion *Have you ever had a loved one leave for a significant period of time? **What were the questions you had in your mind as they prepared to leave?** Relate your experience to what Jesus was trying to do in this passage for His own. **What assurances do these promises regarding heaven bestow upon those who are His? How do these assurances affect how you live your life and how you consider your eternity?***

⁴ And you know the way where I am going.”⁵ Thomas *said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus *said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Question/Discussion: *John 14:6 may arguably be the greatest revelation Jesus ever spoke on earth. What are the reasons this may be true? **Together break down ALL that Jesus is teaching in this passage.** You may want to include cross-references from the Gospel of John that give extra meat to this passage. **I count at least 7 key truths in this single sentence; truths that reveal life changing revelation.** This is one of those times to get your pick and shovel out and dig for the gold.*

⁷ If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.” ⁸ Philip *said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹ Jesus *said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *can* you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

Question/Discussion: *WOW is this packed with revelation!! This reveals not only who Jesus is but also the quality of relationship He maintained with the Father. **Identify the characteristics of this relationship between Father and Son. What are the implications of these characteristics for how Jesus walked on the earth? What are the similarities between Jesus' walk with the Father and the walk to which we are called?***

Question/Discussion: *Lets turn our attention to Phillip in verses 8 and 9. Have you ever been in the midst of something that you should have understood but you found yourself in the dark- not getting it? Let us assume that Phillip's statement was reflective of the level of understanding the other Disciples also had. What was the disconnect for Phillip and the other disciples? What was Jesus saying that would have been so difficult for a Jewish person to comprehend and accept? How does one come from "not getting it" to "WOW, now I see"? As Jesus was leaving these 11 in charge of the entire "Kingdom Mission on Earth", how critical was it that the Disciples come to an understanding of the truths He was downloading? How about you? How critical for the "Kingdom Mission on Earth" is your level of understanding? The next 4 verses may help you to answer that question.*

¹² Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. ¹⁵ "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

Question/Discussion: *"In My name" means authorized to speak and to act on behalf of Jesus and to accomplish what He desires. It has the picture of an ambassador who speaks on behalf of "the Authority" who sent him. The ambassador, when speaking or taking action on behalf of the one who sent him stands and functions with the authority of "His Authority". The ambassador is the representative of "the Authority" to the people "the Authority" desires to communicate with. **Therefore as you read verses 12- 15 identify and discuss the "Job Description of the Ambassador" revealed in these passages. What attitudes and sacrifices does it require of one who wishes to hold the position of ambassador for Jesus? Note, all Christians are not ambassadors just like all Christians are not disciples. As the ambassador is devoted to the success of "the Authority", the Authority is deeply committed to the success of their Ambassador. Have you applied for the position of ambassador for Christ? There are always openings!!!***

The Final Night- Week 3 / John 14:16-31

The Role of the Spirit

¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

Question/Discussion: *Jesus here speaks of a coming expansion of the Spirit of Truth in their lives- from with to within. Discuss this expansion of the domain of the Spirit of Truth in the lives of the Disciples. How about your life? What can we do to position ourselves for greater dimensions of the Spirit of God in our lives?*

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

NOTE: *Here Jesus prophesies two upcoming events; one His resurrection and two the outpouring of Holy Spirit. Little did they know that both would soon change everything for the Disciples. Until the realization of these two events, the Disciples were at best unstable and hard of hearing. After the resurrection and the outpouring of the Spirit upon and within the Disciples, they became unwavering powerhouses for Christ in this world. For us today, the personal heartfelt comprehension of the resurrected living Christ and the act of receiving the indwelling power and presence of the Holy Spirit remain the greatest life-changing forces on earth. As the power of these two events live in us, they propel the 21st century disciples and ambassadors into Kingdom ministry in Jesus name with every similarity as to the first century Disciples of Christ.*

Question/Discussion: *Discuss the NOTE above and the reality of these two events in your life. How do they stir, motivate and mobilize you personally? Are these events alive in this season of your life? What can we do to refresh and rekindle the power of these events in us in this season of our lives?*

²¹ **He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me;** and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." ²² Judas (not Iscariot) *said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?"²³ Jesus answered and said to him, **"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word;** and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. ²⁴ **He who does not love Me does not keep My words;** and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

Question/Discussion: *Jesus above repeatedly makes a connection between love and obedience. **What was He trying to drive home and why? What was He trying to accomplish in their lives?** In our modern day 21st century version of Christianity, **what has happened to this connection between love and obedience? Describe in detail the philosophies that have infiltrated the Church that have tried to weaken or break this connection. Discuss this quote:** “The true love of God within us will always be demonstrated in actions. Without the actions inspired by love, love becomes a miscarriage of divine inspiration.”*

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

Question/Discussion: *Jesus was leaving the Disciples but not leaving them alone. Another was coming from the Father. The Father sent Jesus and now the Father was sending Holy Spirit. Notice that the Holy Spirit would come in “My name” thus fully authorized to serve His purposes in the lives of His followers. **How does Holy Spirit teach us?** For a deeper understanding read 1 Co. 2:6-16. We have identified in times past that Holy Spirit speaks to us most often in one of these three ways: **Words, Pictures and Deep inner Knowing. What is your experience with being taught by Holy Spirit? How does Holy Spirit teach you most often? What about remembrance?***

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; **My peace I give to you;** not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. ²⁸ You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe. ³⁰ I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; ³¹ but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.

Question/Discussion: *Peace that comes from Christ- His peace bestowed upon and within us is a gift of immeasurable value. **Discuss together the truth of this promise of peace and your encounters with His peace.** Verses 27-31 include ingredients to the peace that He provides. **Find these components to/of the peace that Jesus lived in and discuss them together.***

The Final Night- Week 4 / John Chapter 15:1-17

Note: It is thought that as Jesus and the 11 Disciples left the upper room on their way to the Garden of Gethsemane, they probably walked by a vineyard as He spoke with them concerning the vine and branches. Wine was a primary beverage of their time. A fruitful vineyard was a great blessing and an unfruitful vineyard was worthless. It just took up valuable space and was a waste of energy and time to those who worked the vineyard. All the Disciples knew the importance of bearing fruit of the vine for wine was a staple of their culture. **Before your group meets for this session, watch these fascinating youtube videos of vineyard management.** If you watch them you will see firsthand the purpose and strategies of pruning. Please observe the absolute care of those pruning the vine. If you apply these truths and more to our spiritual growth, this chapter will take on greater personal value as the spiritual parallels are accurately drawn. By using the vineyard as the backdrop, Jesus shares with them critical information if their lives are to be fruitful for the Kingdom of God.

<https://youtu.be/pCs03Mc2HKM> Vineyard Anatomy and Management

<https://youtu.be/-04cf02zLPw> Winter Pruning basic

<https://youtu.be/wK5H62jkeks> Summer Pruning

15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean (pruned) because of the word which I have spoken to you.

Question/Discussion: *After watching the videos from above, what insight do you have concerning this topic? What is the significance that Jesus is the Vine and the Father is the vinedresser? Describe the care and involvement of the Father as He tends to the vine. How does the Father use the Words of Jesus to clean/prune us? Thought, it is not just the branches that are pruned, but this pruning also impacts the Vine. In what ways may this be true? Describe together the absolute tragedy of fruitlessness/bareness in a vineyard - and in our lives?*

Note: There are five different words in the original Greek and Hebrew for the one word (abide) that we have in our language. The first of these words, *epimeno*, is the strengthened form of another verb, *meno*, which means "intensive." The word *epimeno* sometimes indicates perseverance in continuing to do something. The second word, *katameno*, is a verb that means "constant residence" or "frequent resort." Another word, *parameno*, means "to continue" and is sometimes used to express confidence in abiding with a person. One really neat word is *hupomeno* which means "to remain in a place instead of leaving it; to stay behind or persevere." Finally, the

word *prosmeno* is used in several different situations to indicate a persistent loyalty or a continuance in doing something. (from Angelfire website)

Optional: To spark more thought, Check out this short article on abiding.
<http://www.abideinchrist.com/keys/abide.html>

Below are some cross references for the word “abide” from the writings of John that may shed more light upon what Jesus is saying here in John 15. Thirty verses from John’s Gospel or Epistles contain this word.

1 John 3:24

The one who keeps His commandments **abides** in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He **abides** in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

1 John 4:12

No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God **abides** in us, and His love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:13

By this we know that we **abide** in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

1 John 4:15

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God **abides** in him, and he in God.

1 John 4:16

We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who **abides** in love **abides** in God, and God **abides** in him.

2 John 1:2

for the sake of the truth which **abides** in us and will be with us forever:

2 John 1:9

Anyone who goes too far and does not **abide** in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who **abides** in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

Question/Discussion: As we have seen, the word “Abide” is a word that refers to persistent, enduring union. Discuss the link between fruit and abiding. **Discuss also the progress from fruit (vs.2) to more fruit (vs. 2) to much fruit (vs. 5). Also look at the conditions for discipleship mentioned in this section.**

****Verse 8 is a key verse for Radiant Church in this season. Much emphasis needs to be placed upon this short but life-changing sentence. The Father’s glory is accomplished and to some degree seemingly dependent upon our abundant fruitfulness. Discuss vs. 8 together in depth.**

Note: The word love, loved is used 33 times in John chapters 13-17. Along with the words- know and abide, love is a primary theme in the “Final Night” conversations Jesus had with His Disciples. One cannot overstate the centrality and highest priority of love taught by Jesus.

⁹ Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full. ¹² “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

Question/Discussion: *Talk together about the flow of Love described in this portion (9-13) of Jesus’s teaching. Oh the joy of this flow, the power of this flow. What are the conditions mentioned for abiding?*

¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. ¹⁷ This I command you, that you love one another.

Note: *Friendship with Jesus from His perspective is not an inherited blessing of salvation, it is a call to be entered into, a covenant to seal with mutual love, sacrifice and harmony of purpose.*

Question/Discussion: *Here Jesus describes to His own an upgrade in the relationship from servant to friend, but friendship comes with a commitment by both parties. Describe the friendship relationship identified here and what each brings to the relationship. Along with vs. 8, verse 16 is a powerful exhortation to the call of God upon each of us at Radiant Church in this season.*

The Final Night-Week 5 / John 15:18-25, John 16:1-4

Disciples relationship with the World

Study Further: Jesus knew severe persecution and martyrdom awaited His beloved little band of followers (Jn 15:20). Here below is a short summary of how His followers died. Copy and paste this into the search bar. If you are interested check it out before your group.

<http://credohouse.org/blog/what-happened-to-the-twelve-apostles-how-do-their-deaths-prove-easter>

Note: *In this section of our study, Jesus highlights His teachings to the disciples concerning the reaction the WORLD will have toward them. He describes an oppositional response to Him and thus to them as they walk forward in their calling. Check out this short review of the Greek word 'kosmos' which is translated world. I highlighted in **bold** the definition below that Jesus is referring to in this section of His teachings we are addressing this week.*

World (Kosmos) from Bible.org The first (N.T. word translated “world”) is *kosmos*. It is used in at least three different ways. In a number of passages it means the round planet earth on which man has his existence. In such passages the Revised Version sometimes substitutes the word “earth.” (See [Matthew 4:14; 13:38; Acts 17:24](#); etc.) When John wrote of Jesus that “He was in the world” ([John 1:10](#)), he was referring to this planet earth. It is this world, the earth, which is the scene of the prophesied demonic activity.

The second usage of the word *kosmos* refers to the inhabitants of this world, or earth. Both of these first two usages appear together in one verse: “He was in the world [earth] and the world [earth] was made by Him, and the world [inhabitants of the earth] knew Him not” ([John 1:10](#)). This world of mankind is the world God loves. Jesus said, “For God so loved the world” ([John 3:16](#)). **However, there is that segment of the world of mankind that is alienated from God ([Ephesians 2:12; 4:18](#)) and hostile to Christ and His followers. Our Lord said, “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you” ([John 15:18](#)). So then it is this unregenerate world of mankind through whom the demons will accomplish their wicked deeds.**

The third use of the word *kosmos* in Scripture refers to the combined activities, affairs, advantages, and accumulated assets of the worldly men on the earth. The Bible calls all these “the things that are in the world” ([I John 2:15](#)), “this world’s goods ([I John 3:17](#)). This usage of *kosmos* is not limited to material things, but it includes abstract things, which have spiritual and moral (or immoral) values. Paul warns the believer to beware of “the wisdom of this world” ([I Cor 1:20; 2:6; 3:19](#)), “the spirit of the world” (2:12), and “the fashion of this world” (7:31). Peter wrote of the “corruption that is in the world” ([2 Peter 1:4](#)), and “the pollutions of the world” (2:20).

Dr. Merrill Unger made note of the fact that “In more than thirty important passages the Greek word ‘kosmos’...is employed in the New Testament to portray the whole mass of unregenerate men alienated from God, hostile to Christ, and organized governmentally as a system or federation under Satan ([John 7:7; 14:27; I Cor. 1:21; 11:32; I Pet. 5:9; I John 3:1, 13](#); et al.”

John 15:18 “If **the world** hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because **you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.** ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, **they will also persecute you;** if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

Cross Reference: John 3:18-21 Jesus speaks regarding Light and the darkness of this world.

¹⁸ He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

Note: *Oh how this passage stretches us. In our modern world of western Christianity, so many have become passive toward the cause of Christ in the world. Most have caved in to the pressure of political correctness, fear of being an offense, loosing approval or outright rejection. The vast majority of Christians have instead rejected the call of God upon their lives for service and therefore avoid any brush with persecution that may come from doing the will and purposes of God in the earth. The result for many is a me-centered, self-serving brand of “Comfort Christianity” which celebrates the benefits, gifts and graces and avoids the responsibilities and sacrifices of co-laboring with Christ in the earth. For so many, our personal goals and responsibilities drive us and we basically have little time, energy or priority for the expansion of the Kingdom. Ouch ! Search your own heart in the light of the Holy Spirit to see to what degree this malady may have infested your own soul or not. The truth hurts or can offer affirmation, but always offers liberation. The truth spoken in love moves us to conviction, repentance and brokenness before our Lord. Our heart is that me and you and all of us at Radiant Church embrace every part of the call of God upon our lives and be free from the gravitational pull of “Comfort Christianity” to become fervent Christ-followers and ambassadors of the King of Glory.*

Question/Discussion: *Please consider and **discuss the note above. What does Jesus mean when He says, (15:19) “I chose you out of the world”?** In practical and spiritual ways, **what is the impact of such a calling?** Does the world hate you or*

*have you slipped into the role of “indistinguishable light”? **When is the last time you demonstrated publically anything that would distinguish you as a follower of Christ? What happens to a Christian who embraces just a private and personal expression of their love for Christ? Is it possible for the abiding presence of God to not lead to anointed service and Kingdom mission?***

²¹ But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, **because they do not know the One who sent Me.** ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, **but now they have no excuse for their sin.** ²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; **but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well.** ²⁵ But *they have done this* to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, ‘THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.’

Question/Discussion: *According to Jesus, people who persecute those who are His own will do so “for My name’s sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.” **How absolutely loathsome is the name of Jesus to those who love darkness rather than the light?** To what extent will they go to express their hate? Have you noticed that you can talk about “God” with no outward repercussions, yet proclaim Jesus and watch the fireworks go off? **What are your thoughts about this?** Cross Reference-Acts 4:10-12 to get an example of this in the life of Peter and John.*

16:1 “**These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling.** ² They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for **everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God.** ³ These things they will do because **they have not known the Father or Me.** ⁴ But these things I have spoken to you, so that **when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them.** These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.

Question/Discussion: *How would these words concerning persecution keep the Disciples from stumbling (16:10)? How would those who persecute and murder Christ followers think that they are offering service to God? Where would this type of persecution have to come from? Discuss this in light of what is happening right now in the world to Christians.*

Note: *Toward His disciples, Jesus was progressive in the revelation of His ways and will and His calling upon their lives. In this last statement in 16:4 –“because I was with you” marks a shift in His relationship with them. He was leaving them, yet sending them the Holy Spirit. Jesus would now disclose further His purposes and will for them in relationship to the precious gift of the Spirit who would soon indwell them. We will dive into this relationship further next week.*

The Final Night- Week 6 / John 15:26,27, 16:5-15

Note: *The Father's great gift to the people of the world is Jesus Christ His Son. The great gift of our Father to the Bride of Christ, the Church, is the Holy Spirit.*

Is there an active living faith, a victorious church, an abiding presence of God without the Holy Spirit? I say "No, No, No". If there is one great need for us individually and as a church, it is a coming under the authority, influence and on going, day-by-day instruction and fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit Promised

John 15:26 "When **the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,** ²⁷ **and you will testify** also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

Note: *The Holy Spirit is from the beginning of life, hovering and moving over God's spoken creation. Yet the revelation of the Spirit of God in scripture is progressive as we move into the fullness of time in the coming of Christ. In Jesus, who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire (Mt. 3:11), there is now a declaration of whole new level of relationship with Holy Spirit that is of greater benefit to His followers than having Jesus with them side by side. The Greek word used here is parakletos <http://biblehub.com/str/greek/3875.htm> (from [3844](#) /pará, "from close-beside" and [2564](#) /kaléō, "make a call") which is **best translated advocate.***

In his amazing book, "The Way to Pentecost", Samuel Chadwick says this: "He (Holy Spirit) is Christ without the limitations of the flesh and the material world. He can reveal what Christ could not speak. He has resources of power greater than those Christ could use, and makes possible greater works than His. He is the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of Witness, the Spirit of Conviction, the Spirit of Power, the Spirit of Holiness, the Spirit of Life, the Spirit of Adoption, the Spirit of Help, the Spirit of Liberty, the Spirit of Wisdom, the Spirit of Revelation, the Spirit of Promise, the Spirit of Love, the Spirit of Meekness, the Spirit of Sound Mind, the Spirit of Grace, the Spirit of Glory, and the Spirit of Prophecy. It is for the Church to explore the resources of the Spirit." Page 28. I would also add, The Spirit of Abiding for He the Spirit has come as the Spirit of Christ to dwell in our innermost being. Of this Spirit Jesus speaks in the passages we study in week six.

Question/Discussion: *From John 15:26,27 above, Jesus calls the Parakletos- the Spirit of Truth who will testify to us and through us about Jesus. **What is the significance of a "truthful witness" to us about Christ?** Jesus emphasizes that the Spirit "proceeds from the Father". **Why does He emphasize this fact to the Disciples? What is the significance of that part of the story from the bigger picture? If the Spirit of God is all about testifying about Jesus, how is that to inform and inspire us as a witness of Christ to the world?***

John 16:5“But now **I am going to Him who sent Me**; and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.⁷ But I tell you the truth, **it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.**⁸ And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;¹⁰ and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;¹¹ and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

Question/Discussion: *It was of prime importance to Jesus that His disciples clearly understood and firmly believed that the Father sent Him from heaven. This is in multiple places as recorded in the book of John. Why do you think this was a foundation for their developing faith in Christ? What does it mean to your faith that Jesus went back to be with the Father and is with Him now? How does this truth impact the promise, “I will send Him to you”?* “It is to your advantage” that Holy Spirit will come. **Discuss together as a group the multiple advantages of this truth. Jesus said that the Spirit will convict the world, what are your thoughts concerning this powerful assignment given to the Spirit of God?**

¹²“I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now.¹³ But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

Question/Discussion: *WOW, I love this passage. It is full and overflowing with revelation about the Holy Spirit unveiled to His Disciples on this Final Night. Some would say, “We only need to read the Bible for the full witness concerning Christ”, what would you say to that statement in the light of this scripture? Why could the Disciples not bear further revelation at that moment? What about us? Are there truths and revelations that Jesus wants to reveal that we are not yet able bear? Discuss this topic in light of the growth of the Disciples and your own personal journey of growth in Christ. Before your LH group meeting you may want to look at a cross-reference 1 Co. 2:9-13 for further insight.*

“He will glorify Me”. What does that look like in the life of the Disciples in the book of Acts?

Our understanding of this assignment given to Holy Spirit is paramount to our ongoing relationship with Holy Spirit. We need to understand His assignments so that we can flow with Him in His purposes, which will position us to then ask for His help with our own purposes. How does this truth, “He will glorify Me” inform and inspire you?

Jesus' Death and Resurrection Foretold

¹⁶ “A little while, and you will no longer see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me.”¹⁷ Some of His disciples then said to one another, “What is this thing He is telling us, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me’; and, ‘because I go to the Father?’”¹⁸ So they were saying, “What is this that He says, ‘A little while’? We do not know what He is talking about.”¹⁹ Jesus knew that they wished to question Him, and He said to them, “Are you deliberating together about this, that I said, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me’?”²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy.²¹ Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world.²² **Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.**

Question/Discussion: *Here Jesus is talking about His death and resurrection; away from them through death and the grave, visible and present with them again in the resurrection on the third day. Vs. 22 describes the joy of the Disciples when they see Him alive again. **How does knowledge and the foundational belief that “Jesus is alive” relate to our present, ongoing and enduring joy?***

The Final Night- Week 7 / John 16:16-33

²³ In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. ²⁴ **Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.**

Note: As we saw in week 2 it is good to review here again what “in My name” is about. *“In My name” means authorized to speak and to act on behalf of Jesus and to accomplish what He desires. It has the picture of an ambassador who speaks on behalf of “the Authority” who sent him. The ambassador, when speaking or taking action on behalf of the one who sent him stands and functions with the authority of “His Authority”. The ambassador is the representative of “the Authority” to the people “the Authority” desires to communicate with.*

Another example of “in My name”, could be like a document or speech that we create - which after His review, Jesus would be able to sign off or authorize on His behalf. It would therefore represent Him well.

Question/Discussion: *Here Jesus directs the disciples in their prayer lives. **To whom are they directed to make request and prayer? Based on the above description of “in My name”, how does that inform and direct your prayer life? How important is it to not only ask, but also receive? What have you found in your prayer life that helps you receive answers in prayer from the Father? How important is it to Jesus that the Disciple’s joy “be made full”? What about your life, what is your experience with the fruit of the Spirit called joy? To what degree do you experience His joy? What is the next frontier, the next level, for you in your prayer life?***

²⁵ **“These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language,** but will tell you plainly of the Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf; ²⁷ **for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.** ²⁸ I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again and going to the Father.”

Question/Discussion: *Why did Jesus speak to the people and His Disciples in mysteries, parables and figurative language? He describes a time when the Disciples will hear plainly concerning the things of the Father. **What is the role that***

Holy Spirit plays in hearing plainly of the Father? How does this shift (from mysteries to clarity) describe the journey of maturity and an upgrade in His relationship with His Disciples? Where are you in this shift???

Note: Jesus says something in Vs. 27 that may shake some of our core beliefs about the Love of God. *We have heard from passages like John 3:16 that God loves the whole world (the people in it) and that is so true. Those people did absolutely nothing to invoke such love from the Father. In fact, those whom He loves for the most part do not believe that Jesus came forth from the Father into the world and that He has gone to be with the Father again. Vs.27 above emphasizes that the Father loves the Disciples because they love Jesus and have believed He came forth from the Father.*

Question/Discussion: ***How do you reconcile both of these truths? One is unconditional and one is conditional. Again, what does this speak to us about the progression of our relationship with the Father, through the Son, by the Spirit? Discuss this together. What are a few conclusions you come to as a result of these truths?***

²⁹ His disciples *said, “Lo, now You are speaking plainly and are not using a figure of speech.³⁰ Now we know that You know all things, and have no need for anyone to question You; **by this we believe that You came from God.**”³¹ Jesus answered them, **“Do you now believe?”**³² **Behold, an hour is coming, and has *already* come, for you to be scattered, each to his own *home*, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.**³³ **These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”**

Question/Discussion: *Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe?”* ***Have you ever thought that your faith was so strong and your spiritual convictions so firm only to be rocked by something that revealed your actual lack? Have you ever thought you were so mature only to find out you were actually pretty vulnerable? I have. If so, someone share a testimony in your group. Here Jesus knows what is in the Disciples hearts and knew that they would scatter in fear. Peter was so sure He would not forsake Jesus and in fact believed with all his heart that he would even die for Jesus. Jesus knew better. To what extent do you know your own heart? What can we do when we get rocked and shaken? How can we make it through such times? How did the Disciples get through their crisis of faith?***

The Final Night- Weeks 8 / John 17:1-12

The Lord's Prayer of Intercession

Note: *We now enter into what I believe is the single greatest chapter in the Bible that reveals the heart of our Lord and His utmost and highest desires for His Father and His own. How absolutely revealing this prayer is. I once heard the Lord say to me, "If you love me, you will love what I love, and what I love is my Bride." Listen well to His heartbeat of love and shepherd's care for His own in His prayer. I once did an in-depth study of John chapter 17 and I have it available on our website www.radiantchurch.us under resources If you wish to dig in deeper into this prayer.* **Assignment:** A concise summary of this study is shown below as listed "John Chapter 17 A Prayer of Jesus". Please read it thoroughly before doing weeks 8 and 9. It will give you a good overview of this chapter and offer some important details of what Jesus is praying from the depths of His soul for those who follow Him.

John 17:1 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, ² even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have give Him, He may give eternal life. ³ This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Question/Discussion: *What are the driving passions and priorities revealed in verses 1-5? There are several very prominate ones. Do you see these priorities/passions lived out in the life of Jesus as revealed in the Gospels? What do these verses reveal about the living hope that Jesus walked in? Often in the Gospel of John the words of Jesus centered around eternal life, now in this prayer He defines eternal life. What is your response to this definition? What if we defined eternal life in these terms? Look intently at verse 4 and look at the role "work" has to do with Jesus fulfilling the desire of the Father. What role does work have to do with us fulfilling the will of the Father in this world?*

⁶ "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷ Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; ⁸ for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.

Question/Discussion: *Almost like one giving account of Himself, In verses 6-8 Jesus makes no request of the Father but declares to the Father the work of building He has done in the lives of the men given to Him by the Father. **Discuss together the results of His labors and identify the beliefs Jesus celebrated in the lives of His followers. Why were these particular truths so important to Jesus?***

⁹ **I ask on their behalf;** I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; ¹⁰ and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; **and I have been glorified in them.** ¹¹ I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, **keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are.** ¹² While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and **I guarded them and not one of them perished** but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

Question/Discussion: *“I ask on their behalf- not on behalf of the world”. **Discuss the intercessory ministry of Jesus as expressed in verses 9-12. What are some of the phrases that reveal aspects of His ministry on behalf of believers? (Cross Reference Heb. 5:19,20 and Rom 8:33,34.) What does it mean that the Father had given these believers to Jesus? How does that work?? What does that mean? What did Jesus see in the Disciples that He would declare, “I have been glorified in them”? What does it mean to be kept in the name of the Father? Discuss the results of this – “that they may be one”. In the light of this truth, how absolutely important is it that we individually partner with Christ to maintain the “unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”?***

The Final Night- Week- Week 9 / John 17:13-26

¹³ But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

Note: *“But now I come to You”- what a statement of trust, intimacy and victory all as Jesus walks through the door of suffering and death. Oh to see the reward on this side of the struggle. Oh to carry the deep and enduring assurance and security that come with knowing the Father. For us our victory is not in the shifting of our circumstances that stand before us that scream “adversity”; but the peace and rest in the Father by the presence of the Holy Spirit that leaves us unshakable. Jesus now prays that their joy will be full and this joy will be the crown of victory for them also as it was in the life of Jesus.*

Question/Discussion: *According to this section of verses 13-19 what is the ministry of Jesus that has caused the Disciples to no longer be of this world? What did He exert in their lives that He could say this of them? Jesus makes two requests of the Father on their behalf in this section of His prayer, what are they? What is the desired result for them in each request? How about in our own lives? Why would Jesus send them into the very world that He has extracted them from? Take a deeper look into this question and the answers that you discern together as a group. This is another part of the Christian paradox of life – such as Live by dying, Rich by Giving ect*

²⁰ “I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; ²¹ **that** they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, **that** they also may be in Us, so **that** the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, **that** they may be one, just as We are one; ²³ I in them and You in Me, **that** they may be perfected in unity, so **that** the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. ²⁴ Father, I desire **that** they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so **that** they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

Note: Now Jesus prays for us and even includes the world, which to this point in His prayer has been omitted. Though it be 2000 years later and it is 6158 miles from Michiana to Jerusalem, we are in His heart as Jesus prays. At this point in His prayer- there is a shift, an enlargement of perspective and numbers included in the prayer. Jesus is no longer asking just for the 11 Disciples that were with Him. This is a glimpse into the bigger picture and greater purpose of Christ the Savior and Lord. Therefore Jesus prays for those who will believe in Him through their word and the world in which they live. Through the word of Peter, John and the others, their testimony went out into the world concerning Jesus. With signs, wonders and miracles in the name of Jesus, He confirmed their word to the world by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the direct lineage of the witnesses that began in the book of Acts, we also are the fruit of the generations before us that have passed on the word of Life concerning Jesus. In each generation, in every nation this word has gone out through faithful witnesses touched by the same Gospel and the same Spirit as those of Acts Chapter 2. **What will you be to our own generation that reaches even to the generation that follows ours??**

Question/Discussion: One of the keys to deeper clarity regarding what Jesus is praying in verses 20-24 is to take note of the word, “that”. I have highlighted the word “that” eight times in these 5 verses. The prayer and desire of Jesus follows the word “that”. **Look for the use of the highlighted word “that” and discuss together the results He is asking of the Father in those who will follow Him.** Discuss together these powerful graces. Oh how we need each of them burning within us by the Holy Spirit. Verse 23 says, “the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.” **How much must the Father love the world? How can this be??? If the Father loves the people of the world to such a degree, why do we sometimes withdraw, ignore or even resent them? What do we need to remedy this affliction?**

²⁵ “O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; ²⁶ and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

Note: On this Final Night, in it’s final hours, in the final section of His prayer before His Father- Jesus summarizes His life and ministry. Jesus knows the Father and has made Him known and will continue this work of revelation through the Holy Spirit’s ministry on His behalf. Jesus says that in making the Father known it somehow deposits the Love of the Father into our hearts. If all you knew of Jesus was contained in verses 25 and 26, you would know foundational truths upon which to become a Radiant life.

Question/Discussion: To really truly know God, to be filled with His love and abide in intimate union with Christ is the essence of the Christian life. **What is the relationship between truly knowing the Name of the Father and experiencing the Love of the Father?** If Christ is in us and we are to be made into His image (Ro. 8:29) then our destiny is to do the works of Jesus just like He did- to Know God, make His name known and be filled with His love for all the world. Are you ready to live this kind of life?? Pray for one another, exhort one another and commission one another into such a life.



John Chapter 17 – A Prayer of Jesus

This is a portion of a study I did on “The Lord’s Prayer” captured in John chapter 17. This is truly a High Priestly Prayer to the Father on behalf of the Church, His Bride that He Himself is building. Let us enter into agreement with Jesus for what He prayed and how He prayed just before He died on the cross. In this study I used the New American Standard Bible version. Pastor John Wilson

For so long I have focused upon the prayer of Jesus in John 17 for believers to come into unity. Yet the requests of Jesus in the John 17 prayer to His Father are for much more than unity. I believe that this chapter offers us a glimpse of the Church, which Jesus is building, for it is He that will build it. Not only the picture, but also the building materials are revealed in this heartfelt prayer of Jesus. Jesus interceded for His own making at least seven specific requests of His Father. He prayed:

1. **keep them in your name (11)**
2. **keep them from the evil one. (15)**
3. **sanctify them in the truth;(17)**
4. **that they may all be one (21)**
5. **that they also may be in us (21)**
6. **I in them and You in Me that they may be perfected in unity (23)**
7. **(they will) be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory (24)**

As we envision the church that Jesus is building, surely she will have ingrained within her these 7 things for which He prayed on our behalf. Imagine the regional church which is:

A church that abides in the Father’s name

A church that is kept from the influence of the evil one.

A church that is sanctified in the truth.

A church that is one, undivided and unified.

A church that is dwelling deeply in the Lord.

A church that experiences the indwelling presence of Christ yielding perfected unity.

A church that has a living anticipation of seeing the glorified Lord in His Kingdom

In verses 1-5 the focus is primarily upon Himself and the Father. The rest of the chapter, Jesus intercedes for His disciples and then all believers. The major theme of John 17 is not unity but glory. The only request that Jesus had of the Father on His own behalf was centered upon glory. Jesus had glorified the Father on earth and now He desired to be glorified with the Father in heaven that He may continue to glorify Him there. You could say that Jesus summarized the success of His life in verse 4 when He declared that He had glorified His Father on earth by accomplishing or finishing the work or assignment that God had for Him to do.

In the rest of the chapter, He reveals that He was glorified in His followers and that the very glory that the Father had deposited into Him was now deposited into the disciples as seen in verse 22. The very next verse Jesus becomes more specific and identifies this glory as “I in them and Thou in Me”. The indwelling presence is the glory, which He gives and with His glorious presence comes many other things identified in this chapter.

Jesus is the means by which the Father releases or deposits that which is of and from Him into our lives. As the mediator and intercessor between the Father and His people, Jesus is the channel of all blessings from God. Therefore Jesus was imparting to His followers that which was given to Him from the Father by the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit. I like the term “life flow” which speaks of this divine flow of life and blessing. This flow does not stop with us but we are to pass on the fruit or overflow to others around us.

Jesus identifies blessings that are contained in this “life flow” that begins in God the Father. Jesus came to impart the very life of God in and to us. As Christ imparts what He was given by the Father, we are made into the image of the firstborn Son Jesus (Rom.8:29). This is our highest purpose in life and our greatest destiny, to be like Him.

JESUS BETOWS UPON HIS FOLLOWERS:

He manifested His Father’s **Name** to His followers. (6)
The **Words** that His Father gave Him, He gave to His disciples (8)
His **truth** is given to us through the words He has spoken (17)
His words are the source of His **joy** that is to be ours in full (13)

The **glory** that the Father gave to Jesus has been given to us. (22)
The **love** of the Father toward the Son being deposited in us (26)
His very **presence** in us in the same way that Christ and the Father abide. (23)
Our lives **intertwined into the union** of the Father and the Son (21)
Jesus sanctified Himself so that we could be **sanctified** with truth (19)
As Jesus was **sent** (commissioned), He has sent His followers into the world. (18)
Jesus promised ongoing **revelation** by making known the name of the Father. (26)

In earlier chapters in John 14 and 16, Jesus identified the role of the Holy Spirit in accomplishing this work of downloading the blessings of the Father and is an unidentified yet very important part of the transformation process revealed in the John 17 prayer.

The Final Night- Week 10

We will meet at Southfield Village Upper Room for a special Last Supper Celebration on Thursday March 29 at 6pm. We will also have a potluck celebration that will precede our Last Supper Celebration. Sign up at church on Sunday to bring a dish to share.

You may find these articles listed below very interesting to give you a greater understanding of how Jesus and His Disciples may have viewed this Passover celebration.

Passover at the time of Jesus <https://bible.org/article/passover-time-jesus>

Was Jesus Last Supper a Seder? Biblical Archeological Society

<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/jesus-historical-jesus/was-jesus-last-supper-a-seder/>