

**The Final Week (Thursday):
The Disciples Encouraged and Warned, Part 1**
Looking into the Face of Jesus
The Life of Christ, 2: Pages 412-424, 427, 428
Manuscript: Lesson Plan 107

Introduction

Our text for this lesson is John 14—16. We will be primarily focusing on John 14.

Let us start with some past events. It was the evening of the Passover Feast. They ate the feast. The Lord washed their feet. He called out Judas and Peter. He instituted the Lord's Supper.

And now, He gave them (the apostles) His farewell discourse. In the next few chapters (John 14—16), it seems like Jesus is making last minute arrangements. H. I. Hester writes that these chapters are, "one of the richest treasures of the Christian faith."

John Franklin Carter writes, "In these precious utterances . . . the beloved disciple has given us an insight into the emotional life of the Lord Jesus found nowhere else in the gospels."

Jesus' death was drawing near. He emphasized to them that the time had come for Him to go (John 14:2, 3, 12, 19, 28, 30). Since Christ was speaking of Himself going away, it should not surprise us that He started this message off with, "Do not let your heart be troubled."

Let us preview some of the key points of His message found in John 14—16. This discourse is filled with words designed to comfort and strengthen. He also will explain why His leaving was necessary. And He explained and emphasized how His departure would benefit the apostles. We are going to try to get through a chapter in each of the next few lessons.

Please look at John 14 (read).

This lesson is divided into nine sections focusing on the verses.

John 14:1

Jesus begins by saying, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." Remember earlier it was said that the purpose of this discourse was that He was leaving and wanted to comfort them. In John 14:2 Jesus will stress that the peace the Lord provides is not like the world's peace. The peace that the world gives is dependent on favorable circumstances and is, therefore, temporary. Jesus' peace is not dependent on favorable circumstances—it comes from within—and can therefore endure.

In the second part of the verse, He said, "Believe in God; believe also in me." This could mean: "You believe in God; you also believe in Me." The ESV translation notes that it could be indicative or imperative mood. The indicative mood gives information or facts. The imperative mood gives a command.

H. I. Hester, *The Heart of the New Testament* (Liberty, Mo.: Quality Press, 1963), 199.
John Franklin Carter, *A Layman's Harmony of the Gospels* (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1961), 292.

John 14:2, 3

These verses explain one of the reasons for His departure; He wanted to go and prepare a place for us. Look again at the information He provides about this place He is preparing. There are many dwelling places—this place will be sufficient. It is prepared by Jesus—it will not only be sufficient, but also magnificently made. He will come and get us; He will guarantee our arrival.

John 14:4-7

He said they knew the way to where He was going. Thomas did not know; remember, he was still thinking physical and/or earthly here. Where was Jesus going? He was going to His Father.

To get to the Father, you must go through Jesus because He is "the way, and the truth, and the life." It is impossible to get to God any other way. He tells them from now on, they know the Father. Why? They know the Father because they have seen Jesus.

John 14:8-11

Philip wanted to see God. Jesus reprimanded Philip a little here and asked how long He had to be with him. The same question could be asked of us; how long does Christ have to be with us before we truly turn our life over to Him?

Look at all the times Jesus used a form of the word "believe" in the next few verses. Basically, He was saying if you truly believe, you will know Jesus. And if you truly know Jesus, you will know that He and the Father are one.

John 14:12

What "greater works than these" was Jesus referring to? He said that "whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do." Did the apostles do greater works (miracles) in quality than Jesus did? No, they did not. They could, however, have done greater works in quantity than Jesus.

"Great works" could also be referring to the preaching of the gospel. Jesus was only able to impact a small area, but they were going to preach to the world. Why were the apostles able to do greater works? They were able because they could now ask the Father in the name of Jesus.

John 14:13, 14

Jesus then spoke of asking in His name. Until now, prayer had not been in the name of Jesus. He was telling His apostles how He could do more sitting on God's right hand than He could on Earth.

Christ is now our mediator (1 Timothy 2:5). He intercedes for His followers (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; 9:24). He promised whatever they asked in His name would be granted (John 14:13). But this promise is conditional upon living the kind of life God can bless (1 John 3:22) and asking "according to His will" (1 John 5:14).

John 14:15, 21-24

Do you love Jesus? What will we do if we love Him? We will keep His commandments—not just some of them, but all of them. How do we know what His commandments are?

What benefits do those who love Jesus have? According to John 14:21—they have the love of the Father, the love of Christ, and Christ will manifest himself to

them. And according to John 14:23 Jesus said of He and the Father, "We will come to him and make our home with him." Have you allowed God to make His home with you?

John 14:16-20

Jesus told them that a Helper is coming. Who was the Helper? The Helper is The Spirit (John 14:17). Helper in Greek means to "walk along side." He would come and walk alongside the apostles; He would support, guide, and direct them. This is one of the reasons Christ had to go—so that the Helper could come (John 16:7). Jesus did not explain why He had to go before the Holy Spirit could come. Perhaps the significance is that the Spirit could not come to reveal the full gospel of Christ until after His death, burial, and resurrection (the central facts of the gospel; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

Who cannot receive this help? The world cannot receive this help (John 14:17). He said that the world would not see Him anymore. But He said the apostles would. Why? Because He lives (John 14:19).
What would the Helper do (John 14:25-27)? He would teach them all things. He would bring to remembrance all that Jesus had said. Why is this important? He had been teaching them for three years; it would be hard for them to remember everything. The Helper would also bring peace.

General Instructions of What is to Happen Next (John 14:28-31)

Jesus reminded them He was going away. However, He reminded them so they could believe. He reminded them that the time was now.
Jesus also told them the devil is coming. "He has no claim in me." Why could Jesus say that? Because He was sinless. Can you say that? No and yes—we cannot say it because we are sinless, but with Christ's blood, we are washed clean. The chapter concludes with Jesus saying, "Get up, let us go from here." Where were they going? They were going to the Garden of Gethsemane. We do not know if the next few chapters were in the upper room still (because they lingered) or while they were going to the Garden.

Conclusion

As we continue the study of the next few chapters, dig deep and listen to some of Christ's final words. Do not forget the purpose. He was trying to accomplish three things. He wanted to strengthen His apostles, give them reason for His departure, and provide benefits for His leaving.
We conclude this lesson with these questions.

1. Do you believe in Christ?
 2. Do you love Christ?
 3. Do you utilize the power He provides through asking in His name?
 4. Are you utilizing the peace He provides?
 5. Are you remembering that He is the way, truth, and life?
- He is the only way anyone will get to heaven.