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## *Close Encounters with Jesus*

*<sup>16</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.*



TOMMY SMITH | PRESIDENT

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# 1 SESSION ONE

## *An Example to Follow*

JOHN 13–17 (ESV)

### *Session One Verses*

**What can we learn about our own close encounters with Jesus as we are drawn into these intimate hours of the night?**

### **John 13:1-17 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, <sup>3</sup> Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, <sup>4</sup> rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup> Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." <sup>8</sup> Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup> When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup> If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

### *Introduction*

What would you give to spend an evening with Jesus, eating supper with Him, asking Him questions, hearing Him teach, and listening to Him pray? This is what we experience in the Upper Room (or Farewell) Discourse of John 13–17. As the shadow of the cross loomed, Christ shared His final hours with the disciples to prepare them for His death, quiet their troubled hearts, and intercede on their behalf before the Father. What can we learn about our own close encounter with Jesus as we are drawn into these intimate hours from that night?

# 1 SESSION ONE

Listen to how the evening begins in John 13:1-11, and let's talk about the context of this event first.

## *There are three themes that come together here:*

### **The Departure Theme:**

Jesus tells his disciples over and over in this discourse that he is going away. Verse 3 tells us that Jesus, "knowing that he was going back to God" now continued to try to prepare these disciples for what was coming. Jesus also knew that they really couldn't understand now what was going on (verse 7) but what he would do and say would be recalled in the future to bring that understanding;

### **The Love Theme:**

Verse 1 tells us that the overwhelming motivation that Jesus has to prepare the disciples for his departure was love: he loved them to the very end; love is "seeking the other's highest good."

### **The Leadership Theme:**

Since Jesus was going away, since he knew what role these disciples would play in the leadership of the early church, and since he loved them so much, he felt an urgency to equip them as leaders; he had spent three years training them in how to be kingdom leaders, and now had one last lesson for them: a hard lesson embodied in Jesus' statement, "a servant is not greater than his master" (verse 16); and now Jesus was going to demonstrate how kingdom masters, kingdom leaders behaved.





# Departure Love Leadership

Jesus brings these three themes together not in a speech, not with words, but with a very shocking, vivid, memorable action. He washes the disciples feet.

The washing of feet is hard for us to understand because we really don't have anything in our American cultural practices like it. The first thing you must do is get Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper" painting out of your head...

The first-century Jewish culture of washing feet...

For whatever reason, the disciples and Jesus reclined at table without having their feet washed. The clue as to the reason why may lie in the fact that the disciples were arguing over who was the greatest—who gets to be first—who is the top dog (Luke 22:24-30). In their jockeying for position, nobody would take on the job of washing feet. We get the same clue from Peter's response in verses 6-8: Jesus' act violates cultural status boundaries so thoroughly that Peter finds it unthinkable. Washing feet is not for us disciples, and it certainly isn't for Jesus to do.

But what does Jesus do? He takes on the posture of a slave (removing his outer garments), and goes around the table doing the slave's work—the job of the person with the lowest status of the group. And not only does Jesus demonstrate lowly, humble, sacrificial service of others, he makes his point clearly and directly, so there would be no misunderstanding: "I have left an example for you to follow."

*<sup>12</sup> When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?" <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup> If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.*

# 1 SESSION ONE

## *This is an example of the Upside Down Kingdom of Jesus:*

- Mark 10:43 “Not so with you!”
- Mark 10:31 “The first will be last and the last first”
- Mark 10:43-44 “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant”; whoever wants to be first must be slave of all”
- Matthew 10:39 “Whoever finds their life will lose it and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it” (repeated in 16:25)
- Matthew 23:11-12 “The greatest will be your servant: “those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted”
- Matthew 15:24, Luke 9:23; Mark 8:34 “Whoever wants to be my disciples must deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow me.”

*It is the way of love. It requires humility, gratitude, and compassionate service. It all comes down to love:*

### **13:34-35**

*<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

### **14:21**

*Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”*

### **15:9-10**

*<sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> 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.*

***It is the way of love.***

### **15:12-13**

*<sup>12</sup> “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”*

### **I John 3:18**

*“Little children, let us not love in word or talk, but in deed and truth” (ESV)*

*“My children let us not love merely in theory or in words—let us love in sincerity and in practice!” (JBP)*

### **Tuesday:**

The Departure Theme (Let Not Your Hearts be Troubled)

### **Wednesday:**

Jesus’ Teaching on the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room Discourse

### **Thursday:**

The High Priestly Prayer of Jesus

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”



### *Abraham Lincoln’s “Farewell Address” (February 11, 1861):*

“My friends, no one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington.

Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well.

To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell.”

**John 13-17 contains Jesus’ farewell address**—his last words specifically spoken to his disciples. As this evening with his disciples comes to an end, Jesus would be betrayed, arrested, put on trial, beaten and abused, crucified on a cruel cross, and placed in a cold dark tomb. Yet, when he rose from the dead in power and glory, these words from John 13-17 would not mark an ending, but a beginning of a new life, a new reality, a new existence for God’s people, and the final stage of God’s great plan to redeem, reconcile, and re-create humanity through the sacrificial death and glorious resurrection of Jesus. The Good News will now be proclaimed first by these disciples who sat around the table with Jesus—these disciples who must learn the lesson of love—the lessons of humility, gratitude, compassionate service; they must learn how to be like their Master in this world. And so must we!



# 2

## SESSION TWO

# *Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled.*

JOHN 13:21–16:33

### *Introduction*

The longest recorded conversation between Jesus and his disciples in the Gospels took place in an “upper room” on the night Jesus was betrayed. We get a glimpse into some of the most significant, personal, and emotional moments in Jesus’ relationship with these disciples—these who had followed him for three years and were eyewitnesses to his ministry. This encounter, also called the Farewell Discourse, contained the “last words” of Jesus to them as a group before his crucifixion. It also serves as “first words” to these who would provide the foundational ministry for the early church. How would Jesus prepare them for what was to come? How would he equip them for their key roles in God’s plan of redemption? These are words of comfort, hope, challenge, rebuke, and instruction.

And what do we as followers of Jesus today hear when we step into this upper room? How does Christ equip us to serve Him? What is He calling us to be? To do? As we sit around this table with Jesus, what is He saying to us? A close encounter with Jesus is always life-changing, and we should come to this important biblical text with great expectations of hearing His voice.

***“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.”***

***How does Christ equip us to serve Him?***

***What is He calling us to be?***

***What is He saying to us?***

# In Context: Chronology of the Upper Room Discourse

- Blue=shared by all four gospels
- Green=shared by the three Synoptic Gospels
- Purple=shared by Matthew and Mark
- Orange=unique to Luke
- Red=unique to John

MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
25:46 End of Public Ministry	13:37 End of Public Ministry	21:38 End of Public Ministry	12:50 End of Public Ministry
26:1-2 Two days before Passover	14:1 Two days before Passover	22:1-6 Passover approaching	13:1 Just before Passover
26:3-5 Jews determine to kill Jesus	14:1-2 Jews determine to kill Jesus	22:2 Jews determine to kill Jesus	
26:6-13 Jesus is anointed at Bethany	14:3-9 Jesus is anointed at Bethany		
26:14-16 Judas agrees to betray Jesus	14:10-11 Judas agrees to betray Jesus	22:3-6 Judas agrees to betray Jesus	13:2 Judas to betray Jesus
26:17-19 Preparation for Passover meal	14:12-16 Preparation for Passover meal	22:7-13 Preparation for Passover meal	11:3:2 Evening meal being served
			13:3-17 Jesus washes the disciples' feet
26:20-25 Judas identified as betrayer; exits	14:17-21 Judas identified as betrayer; exits		13:18-30 Judas identified as betrayer; exits
26:26-29 The Lord's Supper instituted	14:22-25 The Lord's Supper instituted	22:14-21 The Lord's Supper instituted	
		22:22-23 Woe to the one who betrays	
		22:24-30 Dispute over who is the greatest	
		22:31-38 Prediction of Peter's denial	
			13:31-14:31 Table Conversation with Jesus
26:30 Departure for Mount of Olives	14:26 Departure for Mount of Olives	22:39 Departure for Mount of Olives	14:31b "Come now, let us leave"
26:31-35 Prediction of Peter's denial	14:27-31 Prediction of Peter's denial		
			15:1-16:33 Walking Conversation with Jesus
			17:1-26 High Priestly Prayer of Jesus
26:36 Arrival at Gethsemane	14:32 Arrival at Gethsemane	22:39-40 Arrival at Mount of Olives	18:1 Crossed the Kidron Valley to Mount of Olives

# 2

## SESSION TWO

### *Theme: The Departure* *("I am going away:")*

13:1	The hour had come to depart
13:3	He was going back to God
13:33a	Yet a little while I am with you
13:33b	Where I am going you cannot come
13:36b	Where I am going you cannot follow me now
14:19	Yet a little while and the world will see me no more
14:28a	I am going away
14:30	I will no longer talk much with you
16:7a	It is to your advantage that I go away
16:10	I go to the Father and you will see me no longer
16:16	A little while and you will see me no longer
16:19	A little while and you will not see me
16:28	I am leaving the world and going to the Father
17:1	Father, the hour has come
17:11	And I am no longer in the world
17:13	Now I am coming to You



## *The Departure Theme Summarized*

I am going away

I am going to the Father

It is a good thing that I go away

1. I am going to prepare a place for you
2. I will send you a Helper to be with you while I am away
3. I will come again to you

Therefore,

Don't be troubled

Don't be afraid

Don't fall away

Don't be sorrowful

Don't lose heart

You know the truth about me (I come from the Father)

You know how to abide in my love

You will have the Holy Spirit to teach, guide, comfort,  
and empower you

You will have my peace, joy, and love

I am coming back to get you—you will  
see me again

The next few days will seem like defeat

But I will have the victory

“I have overcome the world!”

Therefore, Take heart!

“Let not your hearts be troubled!”

# 2

## SESSION TWO

### *A Case Study: The Departure Theme Explained*

#### **John 14:1-11 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> 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 authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

**“In the world  
you will have  
tribulation. But  
take heart; I have  
overcome the  
world.”**

#### **John 16:25-33 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> “I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. <sup>26</sup> In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; <sup>27</sup> for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. <sup>28</sup> I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.” <sup>29</sup> His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! <sup>30</sup> Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” <sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? <sup>32</sup> Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. <sup>33</sup> I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.



## *Let not your hearts be troubled (John 14:1, 27)*

### **1. Jesus was troubled:**

John 11:33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly **troubled**.

John 12:27 “Now is my soul **troubled**. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour.

John 13:21 After saying these things, Jesus was **troubled** in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”

### **2. The Disciples were troubled:**

The disciples asked Jesus seven questions:

- Peter – Lord, do you wash my feet? (13:6)
- John – Lord, who is it? (13:25)
- Peter – Lord, where are you going? (13:36) (“made one”; “one new man”; v. 14, 15)
- Peter – Lord, why can’t I follow you now? (13:37)
- Thomas – Lord, we don’t know where you are going; how can we know the way? (14:5)
- Judas, not Iscariot – Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us and not to the world? (14:22)
- “some of” – What is this he says to us? (16:17)

“We do not know what he is talking about.” (16:18)

Jesus asked the disciples four questions:

- “Do you understand what I have done to you?” (13:13)
- “Have I been with you so long, and you still don’t know me?” (14:9)

- Do you not believe? (14:10)
- Do you now believe? (16:31)

“I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away.” (16:1)

“But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.” (16:6)

“You will weep and lament; you will be sorrowful.” (16:20)

### **3. And so are we:**

Troubled – *tarasso* (Internal):

- |             |                         |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| to disturb  | to agitate              |
| to stir up  | to shake together       |
| to unsettle | to throw into confusion |

Tribulation– *thlipsis* (External):

- to pressure/ to squeeze/ to afflict

### **4. Listen to the voice of Jesus saying:**

“Let not your hearts be troubled” (ESV)

“You must not let yourselves be distressed” (JBP)

“Do not be worried and upset” (GNT)

“Don’t let this rattle you” (MSG)

### **Jesus: He Gets Us.**

Hebrews 2:17-18 <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 4:10 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

# 2

## SESSION TWO

- **1 John 5:4-5** For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God

### 5. Two Resources: Faith And Peace

Faith as... (something we receive as a gift; something we exercise/do)

- Assent: the great truths that I believe to be true about Jesus; the Great Confession;
- Trust: the constant dependence that I place on Jesus that he desires and works for my best;
- Obedience: keep doing the right thing

Peace as...

- Wholeness and well being (shalom)
- Confident faith
- Expectant hope

Richard Rohr, *Preparing for Christmas*

“The theological virtue of hope is the patient and trustful willingness to live without closure, without resolution, and still be content and even happy because our Satisfaction is now at another level, and our Source is beyond ourselves.”

## *I have overcome the world* (16:33)

### 1. Overcome: *nikao*

- To gain the victory
- To be stronger than
- To prevail

### 2. Overcome as a theme/key word in John's writings:

- **John 1:4-5** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- **1 John 2:13-14** I am writing to you . . . because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you . . . because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.
- **1 John 4:4** Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

### 3. When you are troubled, listen to Jesus saying:

When everything seems to be falling apart,  
When reality falls far short of your expectations,  
When things stir and churn and agitate within your mind,  
When you think you cannot handle one more thing,  
When your emotions are out of control,  
When the difficulties pile up,  
When life seems to squeeze, and tug, and pull, and push you around,  
When you feel like giving up,

When you think you can't...  
When you think you aren't...  
When you think you won't...  
Listen to Jesus say: Take heart!

**I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD!**





# 3

## SESSION THREE



# *The Holy Spirit in the Upper Room Discourse*

JOHN 14:16-20, 25-26; 15:26-27; 16:7-15

### **John 14:16-20 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

### **John 14:25-26 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> 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 have said to you.

### **John 15:26-27(ESV)**

<sup>26</sup> “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. <sup>27</sup> And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

### **John 16:7-15(ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, 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. <sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

<sup>12</sup> “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning



### *A. Background: The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament*

1. We must distinguish between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant;
2. The Holy Spirit is fully God (doctrine of the Trinity);
3. The Holy Spirit was active in creation and is active in sustaining that creation (the Spirit as the Wisdom of God);
4. The Holy Spirit was sent by God to perform specific tasks, but then was withdrawn—there was no permanent indwelling of the Spirit in the lives of God’s people;
5. God promised that the Holy Spirit would be made available to all people (through the New Covenant).

### *B. Background: The Holy Spirit in the Ministry of Jesus*

1. The ministry of Jesus marks a key turning point (“bridge”) for understanding the work of the Holy Spirit;
2. Jesus demonstrated the fullness of the Holy Spirit; the Anointed One (Messiah);
3. Jesus promised the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit within His disciples;
4. The importance of Pentecost as the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise (Acts 2:1-4):

### *C. Background: The Holy Spirit in the Gospel of John*

1:32-34

3:3-8

3:31-36

4:24

6:63

7:37-39

20:21-23

Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism

The New Birth; The Wind

The Testimony of John (the Baptist)

Worship God in Spirit and Truth

It is the Spirit who gives life

Living Water

The Apostles Receive the Holy Spirit

The Upper Room Discourse contains the longest sustained teaching on the Holy Spirit from Jesus in the Gospels.

# 3

## SESSION THREE

***“for he dwells with you, and will be in you”***

### ***D. Overview: Jesus’ Teaching on the Holy Spirit in John 14-16***

1. How the Holy Spirit is identified in the Upper Room Discourse:
  - a. Paraclete (14:16; 14:26; 16:7): helper, advocate, counselor [word study]
  - b. Spirit of Truth (14:17; 15:26; 16:13)
  - c. “Holy” Spirit (14:26); also note “sanctified” (17:17-19); “Holy” Father (17:11)
2. Source of the Spirit: the Triune God (doctrine of the Trinity)
  - a. Sent by the Father (14:16; 14:26; 15:26; 16:12)
  - b. Sent by the Son (14:16; 14:26; 15:26; 16:7)
  - c. 14:20 “I am in my Father; you in me (the Son); and I in you (the Spirit)”
  - d. Sent by the Father in the name of the Son to communicate knowledge of God and animate (give spiritual life to) the believers;
  - e. Authority: the Spirit accurately communicates the truth about God
  - f. Presence: the Spirit enables believers to experience the life of God
3. The Indwelling Presence of the Holy Spirit
  - a. “will be with you forever” (14:16)
  - b. “for he dwells with you, and will be in you” (14:17)
  - c. “we will come to him and make our home with him” (abide; 14:23)
  - d. “it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you” (16:7)
  - e. “I in you” “make our home with you” (14:20, 23; abiding in the Vine; 15:1-17)
4. The Work of the Holy Spirit
  - a. The Spirit as Helper (14:15-17)
  - b. The Spirit as Interpreter (14:25-26)
  - c. The Spirit as Witness (15:26-27)
  - d. The Spirit as Prosecutor (16:4b-11)
  - e. The Spirit as Revealer (16:12-15)

*“Because  
I live,  
you will  
also live”*

## *E. Exegesis and Application: The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room Discourse*

### **14:16**

“another Helper” (Jesus is the other one: see I John 2:1)

“to be with you forever” (permanent indwelling)

### **14:17**

“the world cannot receive” (what is “the world”? difference between a follower of Christ and “the world”)

“Spirit of Truth” (is true; communicates truth; judge of truth)

### **14:18-20**

“I will not leave you as orphans”

### **14:21-25**

Love as fruit of the Spirit (see 15:12-13)

# 3

## SESSION THREE

### **John 14:25-27**

14:25-26

“he will teach you all things”; “he will bring to your remembrance all I have said” (Revelation and Illumination)

14:27

Peace as fruit of the Spirit

### **John 15:1-11**

15:1-6

The Allegory of the Vine

15:7-10

Abiding in Christ

**Scott Kellum: 15:1-17 The Vine and Branches allegory is the peak of the Farewell Discourse:**

“Abide” used 11 times in 15:1-17

“Love” used 9 times in 15:1-17

“Fruit” used 8 times in 15:1-17 (see Gal. 5:22)

**Warren Wiersbe: Five Secrets of Living**

The Secret of Living is Fruitbearing

The Secret of Fruitbearing is Abiding

The Secret of Abiding is Obeying

The Secret of Obeying is Loving

The Secret of Loving is Knowing



## **John 15:26-27**

**15:18-25**

Context of persecution

**15:26-27**

“he (the Spirit) will bear witness”

“you (the disciples) also will bear witness”

**[16:1]**

“I have said all this to keep you from falling away” (when times get tough, the Spirit shows up! Romans 8:11, 15-17, 26-28)

## **John 16:7-15**

**16:7**

“it is to your advantage that I go away” (so the Helper can come!)

**16:8-11**

“he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgement” (The Spirit’s ministry to the world)

**16:13**

“The Spirit of truth” “will guide you into all truth”

“he will not speak on his own authority”

**16:14**

“he will glorify me”

# 4 SESSION FOUR

## The High Priestly Prayer of Jesus

JOHN 17:1-26

### Introduction

1. Jesus was a person of prayer:
2. The High Priestly Prayer of Jesus:
3. Outline:

17:1-8

#### Jesus Prays for Himself

- I have glorified the Father (17:4)
- I have manifested the Father (17:6)
- I have delivered the words of the Father (17:8)

17:9-19

#### Jesus Prays for His Disciples

- Keep (Guard, Protect) Them (17:11)
- Sanctify Them (17:17)

17:20-26

#### Jesus Prays for All Believers

- That they may be one (17:21)
- That they may be loved (17:23)
- That they will bear witness to the world (17:21, 23)
- That they will share God's glory (17:24)

***“It is the greatest prayer ever prayed on earth and the greatest prayer recorded anywhere in Scripture. John 17 is certainly the “Holy of Holies” of the gospel record, and we must approach this chapter in a spirit of humility and worship.”***

**Warren Wiersbe**

4. Asking the Father: The Petitions of Jesus
  - a. Glorify Your Son on Earth (17:1-3)
  - b. Glorify Your Son in Your Eternal Presence (17:4-8)
  - c. Protect Your Children in the World (17:9-15)
  - d. Sanctify Your Children in the Truth (17:16-19)
  - e. May Your People be One so that the World May Believe (17:20-23)
  - f. May Your People Reach Their Eternal Home (17:24)
  - g. May God's Love Always Be with His People (17:25)

### I. Jesus prays for himself

#### John 17:1-26

*<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. <sup>6</sup> “I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. <sup>8</sup> For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.*

A. *“Glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You” (v. 1)*

*“I glorified You on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do” (v. 4)*

*“Glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed” (v. 5)*

*“I am glorified in them” (v. 10)*

*“The glory that you have given me I have given to them” (v. 22)*

*“To see my glory that you have given me” (v. 24)*

1. Glory:

- a. “the sum total of God’s attributes”; “the external expression or manifestation of His Being and His invisible attributes and perfections” “the kaleidoscopic bursts of the eternal magnificence of God’s being and character” (Sinclair Lewis)
- b. Shekinah: presence
- c. “Weight” or “substance”= value (“weight of glory” 2 Cor. 4:17)
- d. “Radiance” (to shine)

2. Glorify:

- a. To recognize/understand God’s nature and work (not adding to—“to give God glory”) (To Know God)
- b. To declare God’s nature and work (testify/bear witness to) (To Bear Witness)
- c. To worship and praise God’s nature and work (To Worship)
- d. To obey God by living a life consistent with His nature and work (To Obey)

3. Jesus’ pre-existent glory (John 1:1); his incarnational glory (1:14); his resurrected glory (17:5)

*“The glory that you have given me I have given to them”*



# 4 SESSION FOUR

*B. “I have manifested your name” (v. 6)*

*“Keep them in your name” (v. 11)*

*“I kept them in your name” (v. 12)*

*“I have made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known” (v. 26)*

1. Name is not just for identification; in Scripture, “name” refers to “nature of”: the name reveals the person’s character (“I have revealed the true nature of God”)
  - a. Jesus knows the name of the Father: his true character
  - b. Jesus reveals the name of the Father
  - c. Jesus is a living demonstration of the name of the Father
2. The authority of the name

*C. Both of these come together in the purpose (or work) of Jesus:*

*“To give eternal life” (v. 2-3); which is defined in v. 3 “that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”*

*“I accomplished the work that you gave me to do” (v. 4)*

*“I have given them the words that you gave me” (v. 8)*



## II. Jesus Prays for his Disciples (Vs. 9-19)

### John 17:9-19

<sup>9</sup> I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup> I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

### A. “Keep them in your name (v. 11)

“I have kept them in your name” “I have guarded them” (v. 12)

### “Keep them from the evil one” (v. 15)

1. The World
  - a. Definition: the world
  - b. The dangers of the world
  - c. In the world but not of the world
2. How does God keep/guard us?
  - a. Through his word
  - b. Through Jesus interceding on our behalf
  - c. Through the Holy Spirit as our Advocate
  - d. Through the fellowship of the Church
  - e. Through the joy of Jesus

### B. “Sanctify them in your truth” (v. 17)

“That they also may be sanctified” (v. 19)

1. Define sanctify: holy, holiness, sanctified, sanctification
  - a. To set apart: separateness, otherness; set apart for God’s purpose; “a radical belonging to God” (Reuben Welch);
  - b. Purity, wholeness: without sin; we become holy only by our relationship with the Holy God; “different by belonging” (Reuben Welch)
2. How are we set apart and made holy by God’s truth?
  - a. God’s Character: “be holy for I am holy” (gives us the standard, the criteria, the goals of our life);
  - b. God’s Mission: restoration, wholeness, forgiveness, reconciliation, redemption
  - c. The Gospel: Jesus is the embodiment of God’s truth (“I am the truth” John 14:6); believing and obeying Jesus (v. 8)
  - d. “Your word is truth” (v. 17)  
Jesus=Apostles=Scriptures

# 4 SESSION FOUR

## III. Jesus Prays for All Believers

### John 17:20-26

<sup>20</sup> “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just 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 have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. <sup>25</sup> O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

**A. “Those who believe through their word” (v. 20) The Apostolic Witness**

**B. “That they all may be one” (v. 21)**

1. An organic, relational unity: reflecting the unity of the Godhead (“as you are in me and I in you, that they may be in us” (note the nature of Christian unity is not creedal or organizational))
2. The purpose of unity: “so that the world may believe” (v. 21); “so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them” (v. 23) “that these know that you have sent me” (v. 25)
3. What unites us in Christ is so much more important than what divides us!

4. Restoration Movement: Unity/Authority/Mission (the church as a model of the community of God that attracts others to Jesus)
5. Back to love: “may know that you loved them even as you loved me” (v. 23); “because you loved me from the foundation” (v. 24); “that the love which you have loved me may be in them” (v. 26);
  - a. They will know you are my disciples by their love (John 13:35)
  - b. The self-sacrificing, humble love of Jesus demonstrated in the washing of feet

**C. “I desire that they also may be with me where I am, to see my glory” (v. 24); the promise of John 14 (I go to prepare a place);**

*I was built for glory, I was made to last;  
God formed these feet to walk golden streets  
When this hard life is passed;  
Say, “He’s doing well on the other side,” if  
anybody asks;  
I was built for glory, I was made to last.  
(Lost Dogs)*







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