

Lesson 31: The Final Instruction

Objective: To know that Jesus is *the answer* to all human needs.

Background: Jesus spent the first three days (Sunday to Tuesday) in public ministry in the Temple and the last two days (Wednesday & Thursday) privately with the disciples. All Four Gospels are silent about *Wednesday's* activity but record in detail about Jesus' final hours between the Passover (Thursday evening) and the crucifixion, noon.

Instruction: Read John 13-17 one chapter a day as if you were there listening to Jesus in person.

Let's Think: Make it a habit to read first carefully the verses listed at the end of each question. Thursday evening at the Passover meal, Judas discovered that Jesus knew his secret and quietly left the group. Knowing His earthly ministry is near the end, Jesus gives the final instruction to the remaining eleven disciples. The instruction begins in the upper room (Jn. 13:13-14:31), continues as they're passing through the quiet streets of the city and heading toward the Garden of Gethsemane (Jn. 15 & 16). And before they reach the Garden, Jesus speaks openly to His Father in the hearing of the Eleven, known as "the High-priestly Prayer of Jesus" recorded in John 17. Let us listen attentively to what He says about:

1. God (Whom Jesus calls "my Father.")
 - a. Where do we begin if we want to know God? Explain. (Read carefully John 14:7,9-10)
 - b. Is God a "person" whom we can get to know or is He some sort of "impersonal power"? (John 14:21, 23) Is He interested in our lives? (John 14:16, 16:27, 3:16).
2. Himself (Jesus).
 - a. Do *all* religions lead to the same destination in the light of John 14:6? Why or why not?
 - b. What promises did Jesus give on the eve of the crucifixion? Are they relevant today? Explain. (John 14:1-3; 14:16; 14:27; 16:22,23)
3. Holy Spirit (Also called "the Counselor" or "the Spirit of truth").
 - a. When will the Holy Spirit come? (read also John 7:39) Will His work be independent or will it be related to that of Jesus? Explain. (John 14: 15f.; 25f.; 16:26, 12-14) What do we mean when we say "the Holy Spirit is the executor of the Godhead."
 - b. How do we know that the Holy Spirit is a "person" and not an "it"? Substantiate your answer. Read also Acts 5:3; Ephesians 4:30.
4. The World (The world here stands for the evil force, the enemy of God)
 - a. Has Jesus promised His followers "a blue-sky and a bed of roses" all the way? What should the believers expect from the world? Why? (John 15: 18, 19; also John 16: 1-4a.) Are we offering "easy" Christianity in the way we make converts? Think!
 - b. Why should the believers be confident in facing the world? (John 16:23; 1John 4:4) Give the reasons.
5. The Believers.
 - a. How did Jesus illustrate the believers' relationship to Himself in John 15:1-5? Explain. Does it imply that a genuine believer is bound to have some evidence in life?
 - b. How can believers show their love for Jesus? (John 14: 15,21) How do you account for the gossip and criticism (negative ones) among the believers in the light of John 13:34f; John 15:12?
6. What one thing have you learned for the first time as you listened to Jesus for the last time before His crucifixion? How would you implement it? Be specific. Let's Remember: Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but by me." (John 14:6)