

**The Gospel of John**  
**Week Twenty-Two**  
**John 13:31-14:24**

**Day One**

31 When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. 32 If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. 33 "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. 34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

v. 31 – When Judas had gone to perform his dastardly deed, Jesus continued to teach the Eleven. He was not done with His lessons for their time together. Jesus had a purpose for His meetings with the disciples and we should have an objective and goal for our ministry times as well.

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me (Colossians 1:28-29).

v. 32 – Jesus declared that He was glorified as Judas walked out the door to betray Him! That could appear to be a strange conclusion, yet Jesus knew He came for the hour that was at hand. The Father and the Son would be glorified together and share their glory with one another. I won't even try to explain that, since it involves the covenantal relationship among the persons of the Triune God, for which I am ill-equipped to talk. Suffice it to say that there is perfect selflessness exhibited by their relationship with one another. They share glory, wisdom, and majesty with one another. They are perfect.

v. 33 – Jesus was telling the men that He was about to depart and their relationship would be different than they had known. What's more, the journey that Jesus would take in the next few days was also a personal journey, one that only Jesus could make. I am not comparing your journey to Jesus' journey, but every one of us has a journey in life that we need to make. Paul realized this and wrote:

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

**What is the race and course set out for you? Are you running it? If not, why not?**

v. 34 – Jesus returned to the theme of His dinnertime discussion, which was love and service to one another. Jesus saw this as a new commandment, which only God Himself could institute. Therefore, Jesus spoke with authority as God as He gave the men a new directive: As Jesus loves us, we are to love one another.

v. 35 – The hallmark of Jesus' followers is love for one another, not for all men, but for one another. I was asked the other day if all men are our brothers. My answer is no. Only those who belong to the family of God are my family and I am to prioritize my good deeds to take care of the family first:

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:9-10).

## Day Two

36 Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." 37 Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." 38 Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

v. 36 – Jesus was going to His death, suffering and dying according to God's purpose. Peter could not follow at that moment, but he would follow later. You and I will also follow Jesus into death, but the good news is that death is not the final destination. Resurrection life is! Therefore, we do not have to fear death, for that is the enemy that Jesus conquered on our behalf.

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants (Hebrews 2:14-16).

v. 37 – Peter would eventually lay down his life for Jesus, but he was not quite as ready then as he thought he was. I think everyone has at one time or another overestimated their spiritual capability for either success or failure. There are times when we are convinced we are not ready to do something but we are, and there are times when we think we ready and we aren't. Paul wrote about this when he said:

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you (Romans 12:3).

**Where are you overestimating your spiritual readiness? Where are you underestimating it?**

At the same time, I have heard people say harsh things about Peter as being rash, reckless and proud. I am not among those who hold to that opinion. Peter was a born leader and, although he was not always perfect, he was brave and honest, traits we all could use and emulate.

v. 38 – The story of Peter’s failures have been included in every gospel for all generations to read. Yet this did not prevent him from being used by God in the early church. **Where have you allowed failure to keep you from moving forward or perhaps believing that God can use you?**

Consider David, Samson, Moses, Solomon and Jonah. **Did their failures prevent their usefulness for God’s purposes?** They did not! And failure did not prevent Peter from playing a pivotal role in the early church. I think failure can only stop you in your service and usefulness to God if you allow it to do so. Let’s look again at Romans 8

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).

Unless I am mistaken nothing covers everything. **Do you agree?**

### Day Three

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

v. 1 – Jesus did not make recommendations in this verse; He issued commands. His first command was not to allow your heart to be troubled. I have often treated worry and anxiety as uncontrollable but that isn’t true. Jesus commanded me to rule over them by not giving in to them. That doesn’t mean that troubling thoughts would not tempt me. I must, however, know how to talk myself out of worry and not into it. You need to do the same.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7).

The second command is that I am to trust in God and the third is to trust in Jesus. Those two are closely related. If I trust God, then I will trust that He sent Jesus and I will therefore also trust Jesus. So if Jesus commanded me to trust, then I must have the ability

to make a decision to trust. It isn't based on how I feel, but rather on obedience to Jesus' command.

vs. 2&3 – We cannot think there is a literal house and that Jesus was going there to make the beds and prepare it for our arrival. He was talking about making a way to God on our behalf. So the trust commanded in verse one must be placed in Jesus securing a place with God for us through what He was about to do. Jesus was telling them that He was about to leave, but He did not want them to be fearful. He was not abandoning them and He will never abandon you either. He left but then He came back through the Spirit to bring the disciples to be with Him. He still does that today for you and me.

Jesus made a way to the Father for us through His departure. That is certainly good news. Perhaps Paul worded this same mission a little differently:

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

vs. 4&5 – Jesus told them they knew the way to where He was going. Of course that way was and is trusting in Him. The disciples did not know yet that they knew the way, but they really did.

Thomas spoke up and declared that they did not know where He was going so how could they follow? We see in the Acts of the Apostles, however, that they did know the way and they eventually shared it with the world, so much so that the people referred to faith in Christ as The Way. **Do you know the way to God?** If you know Jesus, you do!

#### Day Four

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." 8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." 9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

v. 6 – **How did the disciples know the way?** They knew because they knew Jesus. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life in the way and truth. Jesus then made a statement that many would challenge then and today: that He is the only way to the Father. They would say that this is true only of those who have heard of Jesus. If anyone is sincere, then perhaps there could be another way to the Father. Jesus was clear: No one comes to the Father except through Him. **Who does the “no one” cover?** Why, it covers everyone!

Rather than debating whether or not this is true, we need to be spending our time declaring it to everyone without earshot. If it is true, then we have a message that many must hear who have never heard it, for Jesus is the only way. **What are you doing to promote world missions and the propagation of the gospel to the ends of the earth?**

v. 7 – Jesus could declare with confidence that anyone who knew Him also knew the Father! Anyone who had seen Jesus had also seen the Father! That is another bold statement Jesus made. No other prophet could say that, but Jesus was more than a prophet. He was and is the Son of God!

v. 8 – Philip indicated that the disciples didn't fully understand what Jesus was trying to tell them. He made a simple plea known: Show us the Father and we will be happy! That is the cry of every human heart, whether each person realizes it or not. We were made to know the Father. We try to substitute many things for that knowledge, but those things never fill the void or satisfy the need to know God.

While this is the heart cry of many, the rebellion in man's heart still says, "I want God, but I want Him on my terms. I want to come to Him the way that is most meaningful to me." So you have man seeking God, but often seeking Him in ways that are most sensible to each and not according to the way God established, which is through Christ.

v. 9 – Jesus mildly rebuked Philip for making such a statement. Jesus told them that they should know that they could see the Father when they beheld Him. They were still not seeing clearly, but Jesus was about to change all that by doing what He had to do in the next few days. Paul later summarized for us what Jesus was trying to say here:

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority (Colossians 2:9-10).

**Do you fully comprehend and grasp the nature of your relationship with Jesus? Do you understand what that enables you to do in regards to your relationship with the Lord God?**

### Day Five

10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. 12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

v. 10 – Jesus spoke again of the covenant nature of His relationship with the Father. Our understanding of that is based in faith, for Jesus asked, "Don't you believe?" While in

my mind Jesus and the Father being one makes perfect sense, it didn't start in my mind. That understanding started in faith and it has grown from there.

The words that Jesus spoke, which we are reading in John's gospel, are still powerful. They are accomplishing the Father's purpose today just as they did then. We will learn more later about the nature of Jesus' words, but the writer of Hebrews also had something to say about it:

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account (Hebrews 4:12-13).

v. 11 – Jesus recommended two confirmations to establish and prove what He was saying. The first is faith, for one can have faith that Jesus' gracious words are proof in and of themselves. The second is faith, this time in the miracles that Jesus performed. Either way, it requires faith to accept and comprehend what Jesus said and says.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him (Hebrews 11:6).

v. 12 – Take a look at this verse again. **What is the greatest thing Jesus did in your estimation?** In mine, it is that He raised the dead. Yet Jesus said that I would do greater things than that! **What does that mean? I will raise even more from the dead than He did?** Perhaps I will do so, but let's look at that another way. Jesus never wrote a book, founded an orphanage, started a hospital or began a ministry organization. He left those things for you and me to do and frankly, it will require as much faith for us to do those things as it would to raise the dead. **Are you doing greater things than Jesus did?**

v. 13 – When you understand what the “greater things” are for you, then you will pray and God will grant your prayers. The Son will be glorified in your greater works and your prayers that are answered.

v. 14 – Here again Jesus reiterated His willingness to answer any prayer that focused on bringing the Father glory by bearing fruit and doing greater things. Too often, we have tried to use this promise to get our own needs met. That is not the context of the promise. The context is doing greater things than Jesus did, for the glory and purpose of God.

Again I ask: **What are the greater works that you are to engage in your life and ministry? Are you doing them? If not, when will you begin? What is hindering you from doing those greater works?**

## Day Six

15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

v. 15 – There is one way to prove our love for Jesus and that is to obey His commands. Talk is cheap where the love of God is concerned, but action speaks louder than words. **What did Jesus command as you understand it? Are you proving your love by doing those things? If not, why not? What can you do to improve?**

v. 16 – Jesus promised that He would ask the Father who would send the Holy Spirit to be our Counselor! What's more, this Counselor is eternal, so He is an expression of God Himself! I need a Counselor and so do you. The good news is we have One. **Are you utilizing this Counselor to give you counsel? How can you draw more from this Spirit of Counsel?** One way would be to ask but also to create the need for Counsel by doing the greater things that Jesus promised. **What are you doing that is new for you and for which you can use some Counsel?**

v. 17 – This Counselor Spirit is truth, which is why the world cannot know or see Him. Yet this Spirit will be an intimate part of each believer's life. **Is He an intimate part of your life? What evidence is there that He is?**

I have often told my children that we cannot expect Christian behavior from a non-Christian, which seems obvious. Yet at times they would marvel at how badly someone would or could behave. The world cannot know or accept the role of the Holy Spirit, for He bears the truth about Jesus. A believer cannot help but know the Holy Spirit for He lives in and with each person.

v. 18 – Jesus was talking to the disciples about His departure, but He promised not to leave them orphans. He said that He would come to them through the agent of the Holy Spirit. Jesus cares for His own in every way possible. He never abandons them or leaves them to fend for themselves. When Jesus said that He had kept every one that the Father had given Him, He spoke the truth and speaks it now. We are right back to the truth that Paul wrote in Romans 8, which we have referred to in this week's study already. Yet I cannot help but repeat it due to how well it fits in with what Jesus said here:

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).

**I never get tired of reading those verses in Romans 8, do you?**

v. 19 – Soon the world would not see Jesus’ physical presence, but His disciples would see Him through the power of the Spirit. Because Jesus would come back to life, He would impart that same life to His disciples, again through the Spirit. The disciples could not have understood this before the resurrection, but only after the resurrection, I am sure they had one major revelation after another then, aided in part by Jesus’ explanations, where perhaps He said, “Do you remember at the Passover meal when I told you this and that, well, now you know that this is what I meant.” That is obviously why the disciples were so bold; they had the power of Jesus’ explanations behind their actions.

Yet those same explanations are available to you and me, as the Spirit makes them known to us today, 2,000 years later. We have Jesus with us through the Spirit, so we are not alone, just like those disciples were not alone.

### Day Seven

20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." 22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" 23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

v. 20 – **To which day was Jesus referring?** I would imagine from the context that it was the day when the Spirit would come to them as Jesus promised. Then they would realize the nature of their relationship in Christ. It is an interesting study in Paul’s writings to look at how and when he used “in Christ.” You may want to do that study when you have a few minutes.

v. 21 – Jesus continued to “bundle” the Father, His disciples and Jesus Himself together. When someone loves and obeys God through Christ, there is a spiritual unity among them all. Yet love for God is shown through action and not just words, as John wrote:

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth (1 John 3:16-18).

### **Do you love God? Can you prove it by your obedience level?**

v. 22 – Notice how accessible Jesus was (and is). The disciples were asking a lot of questions at this meal, and Jesus was not just teaching or lecturing. They were free to ask and direct the discussion. **How accessible are you to those whom you lead and teach?**

**If your current leaders whom you follow are not open or accessible, how does that make you feel? How would you do differently if and when you are a leader?**

v. 23 – Jesus did not give Judas any more information than He had already given, for the answer to Judas’ question was spiritual. By that I mean that the unity and revelation Jesus was referring to was not to be explained in the natural. It was rather a spiritual relationship, spiritual because it was done through the power of the Spirit.

Jesus repeated this formula

*Love Jesus: obey Jesus’ commands: Father will love the obedient one: Jesus and the Father will come through the Spirit to make their home with the obedient one.*

Jesus promised access and relationship with the Father. That indicates He was speaking on behalf of the Father. Only the One who came from the Father could possibly speak as Jesus spoke, promising what Jesus promised. And what a promise He made! Jesus and the Father, through the Holy Spirit, will live with every believer.

v. 24 – Anyone who does not love Jesus will not follow His teaching and the implication is clear: The Father will not come and live in that person, no matter how good and noble he or she may be. Jesus is the entrance point for any relationship with God. Jesus came to speak for the Father and the words He used were of the Father. As we close this week’s study, we look again at what Paul wrote about Jesus to help us understand what Jesus said here in John:

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority (Colossians 2:9-10).