

The Gospel of John

Chapter 14:12-31

September 21, 1997

- **The Gospel of John Outline:**

- - Chapter 1 Our Lord is the Word, the Light and the Life
 - Chapter 2 The Lord of the Wedding Feast; Zeal for the purity of the temple
 - Chapter 3 Spiritual Birth, Belief and Salvation vs. Unbelief and Condemnation
 - Chapter 4 The Ministry in Samaria, The Harvest, The Faith of the Nobleman
 - Chapter 5 Paralytic man healed on the Sabbath, Unity of The Father and Son
 - Chapter 6 The Bread of Life
 - Chapter 7 The public debates about Jesus during the Feast of Tabernacles
 - Chapter 8 Public debates: Woman caught in adultery; The Son makes you free; Abraham's true children
 - Chapter 9 Jesus heals a man born blind.
 - Chapter 10 Jesus is the Door and the True Shepherd
 - Chapter 11 Our Lord is the Resurrection and the Life
 - Chapter 12 Jesus Anointed and Worshipped as King, God softens some and hardens some, Public ministry ends
 - Chapter 13 Jesus Loves His Disciples, Judas Betrays The Master
 - Chapter 14 The Way, The Truth and The Life

- **Review and Introduction**

Jesus has been giving His final instructions to the disciples (net of Judas Iscariot) which have included a reassurance for them that He is going away and will surely return. He has also plainly declared to them that there is no other way by which one can come to the Father except by faith in Himself. His declaration was clear and authoritative but even still without the Spirit to open their hearts and eyes the disciples still have difficulty understanding, as evidenced by Philip and Thomas' foolish questions.

Exposition of John 14:12-31

- ● *¹² "Most assuredly, 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 My Father."¹³ "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."¹⁴ "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."*

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- The Scriptures give us proof that what Jesus said here came true. In the first few chapter of the book of Acts alone, we have more people being converted through the ministry of the Apostles than during the entire three year ministry of Christ. The miracles and power that Jesus demonstrated testified to His authenticity and it continued to do so while being administered by the Apostles.
- Notice that the works will be greater *because* He goes to His Father. We can really only speculate the real meaning of this but perhaps it is because when He ascended to the right hand of the throne of God, He took possession of His kingdom and He rules in power and glory from there.
- Many who are tempted by the name-it-and-claim-it (a.k.a. blab-and-grab) have used this verse to claim that whatever we ask of God He will do as long as we say it in the right way. If the thing we prayed for does not come true then our method or our faith was at fault. This command was given to the disciples for the purpose of equipping them for testifying to the death, burial and resurrection of Christ and declaring this good news to a dead world.
- Although this promise primarily applied to the Apostles, we do see a pattern for how we should pray, that is, coming to the Father in Jesus' name. Nowhere do we have a pattern of praying to Jesus rather, in all cases our prayer is to the Father based on the merit and righteousness of the Son granted to us.

- ● *¹⁵ "If you love Me, keep My commandments."¹⁶ "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—"¹⁷ "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither*

sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.¹⁸ "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

- Our love for Christ is made sure by our obedience to Him. The world hates the concept of obedience; it thinks "if you loved *me*, then don't ask me to obey *you*." But here there is no fear of capricious leadership or arbitrary commands, all that our Lord commands of us is for the glory of the Father and our blessing.
- We learn here that the Father sends the Spirit—we do not beckon Him. The Father sends the Spirit in the name of the Son as the Son prays. The Son prays for all those whom the Father has given Him as He continually makes intercession for them and saves them to the uttermost. (Hebrews 7:25)
- Jesus alludes to the change in the ministry of the Spirit; originally the Spirit was present and would open eyes and grant faith as well as equip many in the Old Testament to carry out specific acts. Notice that they knew the Spirit because "... He dwells with you" and then Jesus adds "...and will be in you."
- Jesus will not leave us without our inheritance. Although we will experience the first death, the second death (eternal damnation) will have no effect upon us. This avoidance of the second death is because of our redemption, adoption and glorification as Sons of God. Our Brother, Jesus Christ, will not leave us alone but will return to bring us to the Father.

● ● ¹⁹ *"A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.²⁰ "At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.²¹ "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."*

- The world believed that Jesus was dead and gone. But, He appeared and made Himself known to the disciples and many others. Attempting to estimate the significance of the resurrection is futile—without it, we would be dead in our sins and both the first and second death would have dominion over us. Jesus rose from the dead as the firstfruits from the grave; for our justification; to be testified as the Son of God with power; guaranteeing the redemption of our bodies; and so that the Spirit would be sent by the Father.
- Although this instruction is primarily given to the disciples, we can see the pattern applies to those whom the Son loves. Catch the clear train of thought here: 1) He who keeps Jesus' commands is the one who loves Him; 2) He who loves the Son will be loved by the Father; 3) He who is loved by the Father is loved by the Son; 4) The Son will manifest Himself to those whom He loves.

● ● ²² *Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest 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 home 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.*

- The primary application is that Jesus would manifest Himself to the disciples. However, here we see it being expanded to anyone who loves the Son, the Father and the Son will dwell with Him by means of the Spirit. Here we see the application becoming normative for all believers.

● ● ²⁵ *"These things I have spoken to you while being present 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 things that I said to you.*

- The Holy Spirit had not yet come in the manner that He was yet to come at Pentecost. We can see from Acts 1:1-8 that this promise was fulfilled and then the Apostles went out to the North and South and to the ends of world to make disciples, equipped with the Holy Spirit to testify to their authority. This is also the means by which the New Testament authors were able to recall so precisely all of the things that Jesus said while recording the writings.

● ● ²⁷ *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*²⁸ *"You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I.*

- - The peace of Christ is not like the peace the world strives after. Although a well equipped and trained army is a blessing, it can never bring about true peace as evidenced by the sinfulness within our own nation. There is a civil peace which is a blessing from God and there is also peace amongst us which can only be found in the reconciliation provided by Christ. Until we are reconciled unto the Father, we cannot be reconciled to one another.
 - Christ commands them to rejoice that He returns to the Father. True, it was a disappointment to have their Lord leave them. But much was accomplished by His departure including the reconciliation between the Father and Son. Christ explains that the Father is greater than the Son with regard to His mission and purpose but ontologically speaking, He and the Father are one. Christ's whole purpose was to bring the elect not to Himself but to the Father. 1 Cor 15:27-28.

● ● ²⁹ *"And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe."*³⁰ *"I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me."*³¹ *"But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here. NKJV*

- - The ruler of the world, Satan, was busy accomplishing his plan through Judas and here Jesus declares that Satan has no part of Him. Christ's obedience unto death declared that He really loved the Father because all that Jesus did was commanded by the Father.