

Jesus Final Instructions John 13-17 - 11/13/22

~~Jesus Foretells Christian Service~~

TEXT – John 14:1-31

INTRO – Last words of Christians:

- **Catherine Booth 1829-1890 Founder Salvation Army**

“The waters are rising, but so am I. I am not going under, but over. Do not be concerned about dying; go on living well, the dying will be right.”

- **David Brainerd 1718-1747 Missionary American Indians**

“I am going into eternity; and it is sweet to me to think of eternity; the endlessness of it makes it sweet. But oh! What shall I say of the future of the wicked! The thought is too dreadful!”

- **Evangelist Harper 1872-1912 Preacher on Titanic**

A survivor told the story how he found himself struggling in the cold sea water to stay afloat. Near him swam the American evangelist, Harper, who asked him, “Are you saved? Think about your soul.” With this, Harper sank under a wave of the icy sea, then after a few seconds reappeared. Again, he said, “Are you prepared to appear before the Lord?” The man replied, “I don’t know how to get saved.” Harper told him, “Believe in the Lord Jesus. His blood cleanses from all sins.” “These were Harper’s last words.

The first lesson was on humility. Jesus took a towel. John 13
Now he calms the troubled hearts of His disciples.

Why were the disciples’ hearts troubled?

- Christ had told them He was leaving them **John 13:33**
- One of them was a traitor
- Peter would fail Him **John 13:36-38**

This undoubtedly disturbed them all, for they looked to Peter as their leader. He gave them five reasons why He had to leave them and go to the Father.

I. To Prepare a Place for Them 1-6

Christ speaks of heaven as a real place, not merely as a state of mind.

He pictured heaven as a loving home where the Father dwells. “Mansions” or “abiding places,” speaking of the **permanency** of our heavenly home.

Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.

Christ prepared a heavenly home for all who have trusted Him.

And He will return to receive His own to Himself.

Paul later amplified this promise in **1Th 4:13-18**.

Also 2 Corinthians 5:8 *We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*

Had Christ remained on earth, He could not have prepared our mansion.

How can sinners ever hope to get to heaven? Through Christ!

Compare **Luke 15:11-24**, the story of the Prodigal Son, in connection with **John 14:6** *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Like the sinner, the boy was lost **John 15:24**

He was ignorant **John 15:17** — “came to himself”),

He was dead **John 15:24**. But he came to the father! **John 15:20**

He was lost, but Christ is the Way;

He was ignorant, but Christ is the Truth;

He was dead (spiritually), but Christ is the Life!

And he arrived at the Father’s house when he repented and returned.

II. To Reveal the Father to Them 7-11

Philip seemed to have trouble with his eyes: he wanted to see. Almost his first words in **John 1:46** are, “Come and see!”

He saw the great crowd in **John 6:1-71** and decided that Christ could not feed them **John 6:7**.

The Greeks who came to Philip said, “We would see Jesus” **John 12:21**. Jesus made it clear that seeing Him is seeing the Father.

“From now on you know Him,” He promises in **John 14:7**

It is by faith that we see the Father as we come to know Christ better.

III. To Grant Them the Privilege of Prayer 12-14

While He was with the disciples, Christ supplied their needs.

Now that He was returning to heaven, He gives them the privilege of prayer. He promises to answer prayer that the Father might be glorified.

John 16:22-24 *And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you. And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full*

To pray in “His name” means to pray for His glory

John 14:12 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

The “greater works” refer to the miracles the disciples experienced as recorded in the Book of Acts

IV. To Send the Holy Spirit 15-26

Christ has much to say about the Spirit in these next chapters. Here He calls Him “the Comforter,” literally, “The One standing alongside to help you.”

The word "another" means "another of the same kind," for the Spirit is God just as Christ is God. The Spirit within the disciples would take the place of the Savior living beside the disciples. He is also called "the Spirit of Truth." The Spirit uses the Word to convict sinners and to direct saints, and God's Word is truth **John 17:17**.

In **John 14:21-26**, Christ speaks of a deeper relationship the disciples will have with the Father and the Son through the Spirit.

Jesus' going to the Father made possible a deeper relationship between the saint and his Savior. The Christian who spends time learning the Word, then goes out to live the Word, will enjoy a close, satisfying communion with the Father and the Son. Love for Christ is not a shallow emotion to be talked about; it means loving and obeying His Word by the power of the Holy Spirit. In **John 14:1-3**, Jesus talked about the saint going to heaven to abide with the Father and Son; but here He talks about the Father and Son coming to abide with the saint.

V. To Grant His Peace 27-31

How the disciples needed peace!

The peace that Christ gives is not that of the world, nor does He give it the way the world gives.

The world's peace is shallow, unsatisfying, and temporary; while Christ's peace rests deep in the heart, is always satisfying, and will abide forever.

The world offers peace through outward means; Christ gives peace that dwells in the heart. Psychologists talk about "peace of mind," but Christ, through His death, resurrection, and ascension, gives "peace with God" Romans 5:1 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

There is peace with God but there is also the peace of God

Philippians 4:6-7 *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

By dying on the cross and going back to heaven, Christ defeated Satan who is the author of confusion and unrest.

John 14:30 *Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.*

CONCL – Said the Robin to the Sparrow: "I should really like to know Why these anxious human beings Rush about and worry so." Said the Sparrow to the Robin: "Friend, I think that it must be that they have no heavenly Father Such as cares for you and me." **By Elizabeth Cheney** who died in 1473 at age 51