

Simply Jesus

The Life and Ministry of God's Son

Lesson 23

Introduction

The Bible states that it is appointed for men to die once and afterward there is judgment (Hebrews 9:27). Jesus' talk about His own death and about going somewhere that the disciples could not come (John 13) had left them bewildered and confused about His meaning. Knowing that they were troubled and frightened, here in John 14, Jesus tells them precisely where He was going and why. As you read through your text, notice that the key word you find is "Father," which appears twenty-two times in this chapter and thirteen times in the first fourteen verses.

Here John speaks about an exclusive gospel; that there can be no universal hope that everyone will someday be in heaven. Here we get a clear depiction that there is only one way—a narrow way—of salvation through Jesus Christ alone. The word used in this chapter for "way" is *hodos* in the Greek, appearing 102 times in the New Testament. We see the same word used elsewhere in Scripture: John the Baptist quoted the Old Testament prophet Isaiah in Matthew 3:3 to warn individuals to prepare the way of the Lord. The Jewish Pharisees told Jesus in Matthew 22:16 that they were aware Jesus taught "the way of God in truth." The Apostle Peter later wrote about the way of truth (2 Peter 2:2); and the Book of Hebrews (10:20) speaks about coming to God by a new and living way. But no where do we catch the drama of the word "way" as vividly as it appears here in John 14, where it centers on the specific person of Jesus. He links Himself with the Father, indicating that through the Holy Spirit they take up residence in the lives of believers. His people would not be left alone on earth; He would send another "Helper" to come alongside them and comfort them. It is this Helper who would assure their hearts of His promise, peace and presence.

Did you know ~

We see the Holy Spirit's activity best demonstrated throughout the Book of Acts, but perhaps no book of the Bible presents more theology about the Holy Spirit—*pneumatology*—than what is represented in chapters 14–16 of John's Gospel. It is this third member of the Trinity that reminds us of the truth Jesus taught, calling it to our remembrance and assisting us in applying the truth to our daily lives. It is this daily application of God's Word that enables us to practice the Spirit's presence, call on the Lord's name in prayer, and reveal the Father to a needy world around us.

Open your Bible and lesson each day by beginning with a word of prayer.

Up Close ~

The chart below represents a reader's guide to the contents of this week's lesson. The topical teachings and/or events covered are followed by the primary scriptural text as well as the supportive parallel passages. You will be able to receive and grasp a well-rounded picture of the story narrative in the Gospel harmony by reading every passage. However, using the bolded text as your point of reference (your anchor text) will allow you to determine the facts, lessons, and personal applications necessary to formulate your own conclusions.

<u>Teaching / Event</u>	<u>Scripture Text</u>	<u>Parallel Passages</u>
Jesus is the Savior	John 14:1-6	
Jesus Reveals the Father	John 14:7-14	
Jesus Promises another Helper	John 14:15-31	

First Impressions: Group Discussion

Reflect for a moment on the passages you have just read.

Respond by recording your first impressions from your initial reading of the text. Be prepared to share one of your impressions with your discussion group.

Heartbeat: John 14:6 NKJV (Memory verse)

(Write it out once in the space below. **Practice it each time** you open your lesson.)

*Jesus said . . . "I am the way, the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

Part One: _____

John 14:1–6

Jesus is the Savior

Whenever you come to a crisis point on your road of life, how can you be certain which way to turn? When circumstances appear to be full of contradictions and in sorrow you become desperate for consolation, to whom do you go? The fact is if you allow yourself to worry about the daily details of “life” you may quickly find that you are headed for overdrive—constantly allowing your mind to wander away from the truth and onto “what might happen” highway. The further you sink into the abyss of worry, the more it interferes with your overall well-being: your appetite, digestive system, blood pressure, sleep patterns, lifestyle habits, relationships and job performance. Bottom line: when you worry, your body responds to the anxiety the same way it would react to physical danger—you prepare for the “fight or flight” situation your worry has brought about; not to mention it robs you of your peace of mind.

Jesus knew that His troubled disciples faced real problems and that they needed His peace and presence. They had followed Him faithfully for over three years, eyewitnesses of the healings, miracles, feedings, and raising the dead back to life again. Now they would have to learn to do without Him while trusting Him with their lives.

1. Take a close look at John 14:1–4. Write down the particular words of affirmation Jesus used to calm His men in each of the following verses:
 - a. v.1:
 - b. v. 2:
 - c. v. 3:
 - d. v. 4:

The point made about Jesus’ abundant provision in heaven does not have to do with lavish riches; but rather that there is more than ample space provided for all of Jesus’ followers to be with Him in His Father’s house.

2. Count the number of times Jesus uses the words “I” or “Me” and “you” in vv. 3–4 (the emphases is intended to be a personal one).

Jesus underscores that by at this point in His ministry, the disciples were expected to know the way to the place where He was going—but did they know the way?

3. Thomas, known as the doubter, was the first to speak up. What does he ask? v. 5
4. Jesus' response to Thomas' question becomes the key verse of the passage (v. 6); one that has been committed to memory by Christians around the globe. Write it out again below.

Jesus declares Himself to be the way to reconciliation, the truth through illumination, and the life of regeneration. In Him we find the complete Gospel message—there is no other way to the Father except through Him!

Selah ~

Compare the proclamation of John 14:6 with that of the similar affirmation found in Hebrews 10:19–20: “We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body.” Do *you* know and trust in Him today?

Part Two: _____

John 14:7–14

Jesus Reveals the Father

If you were asked what God is like, how would you describe Him? Would you be able to convey an accurate representation of the Father to someone else? Thomas wasn't the only one that had a question that day; Philip also did not fully understand the connection between the Father and the Son. Jesus put it clearly in verse 7: “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.” But Philip went on to say in verse 8: “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”

1. Did Jesus immediately answer Philip's question? What did Jesus say? v. 9
2. What did Jesus say about the basis of believing in Him through His words? v. 10

- a. Through His works? vv. 10b–11

The way Jesus made known the reality of the Father was through His words and His works. The authority of God's truth filled His words; the almighty power of God filled His works! The truth is evident: Jesus is in the Father and the Father in Him; the two are one.

Look closer ~

If you want to know who God is, all you have to do is look at Jesus Christ. How do the following passages answer that age old question and affirm Jesus' words here in John 14?

- a. John 1:18

- b. Colossians 1:15–19

In verse 12, Jesus stated that His disciples would do greater things than He had done. Meaning that His earthly ministry was limited to the boundaries of Palestine, but theirs would be carried out to the farthest known parts of the world. But in order to achieve that goal, prayer would play an important part (vv. 12–14).

3. If we want to experience answered prayer, then we should be in the habit of using Jesus model of prayer in John 14:13–14. What key element is added? Why do you think Jesus states it a second time?

There is obviously no magic formula for prayer in these verses. It would be appropriate to note here that the culture in which these words were spoken gave serious consideration to a person's name. In fact, so much so, that they equated a name with that person's character and reputation. It's a good reminder to us to remember that when we invoke the Lord's name in our prayers we do so in acknowledgment of who He is and that He desires to answer us in a way that glorifies God.

Part Three: _____

John 14:15–31

Jesus Promises another Helper

Do you know where your confidence as a Christian comes from? Do you have absolute surety that you belong to God as His child? The world cannot have this assurance, but Jesus told His disciples that they would know they were His. He is talking here about the third member of the Trinity: the Holy Spirit. Though His coming into their lives as the indwelling presence was ahead at Pentecost (Acts 1–2), at the present time the Holy Spirit was constantly *with* them.

Here Jesus talks about the Promise of this Helper and the difference He will make in the lives of Jesus' followers forever.

1. According to Jesus, what condition proves a follower's love for Him? v. 15
 - a. State what His promise is to everyone who meets this condition? v. 16
 - b. Who is He and why is the world unable to receive Him? v. 17

They didn't know it but following Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, this same Spirit who was *with* or *beside* them would be *inside* them. Jesus changed the verbs to demonstrate the difference between the two relationships. The verb "dwells" in the Greek is *menei* and is in the present tense. The verb "will be" is *estai* which is in the future tense. In addition, the new Helper's presence will be endless—"with you forever." Jesus went on to say, "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you" (v. 18). Those words must have washed over the disciples' grieving hearts at that moment. They may not have fully understood their meaning, but they would shortly.

2. The words "on that day" (v. 20) refer to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. How does Jesus indicate that a person will know whether or not they truly have the Spirit's indwelling? v. 21
 - a. What does Jesus promise to the one who loves Him and keeps His commandments?

Judas (not Iscariot) in verse 22 verbalizes the current confusion the disciples are feeling. He asks "how" Jesus will manifest Himself to them and not to the world.

Jesus will manifest His presence to those He knows will respond to Him by obeying His teaching. Again He links Himself with the Father, indicating that the Father and the Son through the Spirit take up residence in the lives of Christians.

3. What is the key distinction that sets Jesus' followers apart, willing to obey Him? v. 23

a. As if to make it undoubtedly clear, He restates His point using the negative in v. 24. What does Jesus say?

Look closer ~

Aware that peace of mind and spirit were essential for believers, in the remainder of vv. 25–31, Jesus strengthens the disciples' faith: "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you" (v. 25). Note below the things in the verses indicated where Jesus presents a picture of the purpose of the Holy Spirit's coming into the believer's life.

a. v. 26:

b. v. 27:

c. v. 28:

d. Why did Jesus tell them these things beforehand? v. 29

e. Personal: Do *you* believe this? The things you are learning about the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence and the difference He wants to make in your life are yours for the asking—if you haven't already—so *that you might believe*.

Selah ~

How do *you* practice the presence of the Holy Spirit in your daily life? Be specific.

Behold & Be Transformed

What did you see as you beheld God's Son?

How does beholding (looking upon) Him, motivate you to change your thoughts, habit, attitude, speech or actions?

Pause . . . What is the most significant lesson you have learned this week?

Ponder . . . How will you put it into practice?

Pray . . . Write out your prayer and be specific.
