**John 14 - THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE - “If you love me…”**

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**Last chapter - A New Commandment**

**John 13:34-35***“*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35**By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” *(NKJV)*

### Setting: Upper Room during Passover

### Jesus was preparing His disciples for His departure. Comforting them, because he was about to go to the cross, the grave, and eventually leave them.

### Some of what he says is figurative in these next chapters, he tells us;

### John 16:25“Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father.

### Jesus Comforts His Disciples

**14**“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. **2**My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that 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.

### Jesus the Way to the Father

**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?”

**6**Jesus answered, “I *am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

This is an important scripture. It shows very clearly that there is no other way to God, than through Jesus. It puts to rest any arguments about salvation being through a variety of ways. It is only by Jesus that we can be saved.

### He begins to expound on the reality of who He is, as he mentioned during Chanukah;

### John 10:30 “I and the Father are one.”

**7**If you really know me, you will 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’? **10**Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. 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 works themselves.”

What did He just say?

*9“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” ?!?!*

*11“I am in the Father and the Father is in me;”*

What was Jesus explaining here to Philip?

That the Father and Son were the same person? No.

And what about the Holy Spirit (*whom He is about to explain*),

Are The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the same person, or different modes of the same God? NO!

The doctrine of the Trinity (Tri-unity) is very important to Christianity.

Our doctrine states that;

**There is *one God*, Creator of all things, who is infinitely perfect, existing eternally in *three persons*: *Father*, *Son*, and *Holy Spirit***.

It’s hard to completely understand the Trinity in basic human terms, mostly because God is Spirit (John 4:24), Jesus is his only begotten Son (John 3:16), and the Holy Spirit is sent from the Father (John 14:26).

It sometimes helps to remember the beginning of Genesis and the beginning of John together.

**Gen. 1:1-2** “In the beginning God *[Elohim]* created the heavens and the earth. **2**Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God *[Ruach]* was hovering over the waters.”

**John 1:1&14** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **14**The Word became flesh [Jesus] and made his dwelling among us.”

*Internet example:* Teaching and installing a network and internet in a company that only had a mainframe and non-network laptops.

Explaining the Network and the internet.

* + PC’s can connect to the network
  + The network can connect to the internet.
  + The PC’s, the domain controller, and the network router are all part of the internet.

**12 “**Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they 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 Father may be glorified in the Son. **14**You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

### Doing things in HIS NAME means doing things according to His will and in His authority.

### NOT doing things according to your own will, in your own authority but using His name. (That belongs in the category of using His name in vain).

### When we ask in His name, according to His will, He will do it.

### Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

**15**“If you love me, keep my commands. **16**And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and 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 bein 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. **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 keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

**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, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. **24**Anyone 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.

*“If you love me, keep my commands”*

Sometimes this can be difficult. We know we love God, at least we think we do, but we often have trouble keeping His commands. Then when we fail, we are afraid that perhaps we really don’t love God. The apostles struggled with this in Gethsemane when Jesus asked them to stay awake, and they fell asleep. This is why He said, *“The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*(Matt. 26:41).

Paul struggled with this in Romans 7:15, when he said; *“what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.”*

We can honor, please and LOVE God by doing what He tells us to do. He gives us these commandments, not to make life difficult for us, but because He loves us and knows what’s best for us. Much like a loving Father telling his children where to play, where not to walk, and what to be careful of, because he loves them. They show their love to him by doing what he says.

Our love for God starts, with loving Him not by keeping the commandments. That’s what the Pharisees did.

You could put it this way; *“Love God… really love Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and watch what happens…you’ll notice that you will keep His commands.”*

**25**“All this I have spoken while still with you. **26***But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you*.”

This is a life verse of mine.

*“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” (John 14:26 KJV*)

I have found this to be true for me, ever since I was a young man. This is for all of those who, like me, find it hard to memorize scriptures, and verses, but want to be used by God to preach, teach, and evangelize with His Word.

Allow the Holy Spirit to;

1. *Teach you all things*
2. *Bring all things to your remembrance*

*He will use Bible Study, Sermons, Teachers, Commentaries, and in some cases Bible College and Seminary. But the HOLY SPIRIT is the one who teaches you the deep truths about Jesus, and He is also the one who brings them to your remembrance when you need them.*

**PEACE**

**27**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

When the world speaks of peace, it is usually referring to the absence of violence, chaos, or conflict. Jesus gives us peace that is different than just the absence of something, it's the presence of some *one*, the Prince of Peace (Sar Shalom).

His presence in our lives drives out violence, chaos, and conflict and replaces it with enduring satisfaction, fulfillment, and balance. When the Prince of Peace is given the throne of your life, there is peace in the kingdom of your life. When he does not reign, there is no peace, your heart will be troubled and you will remain afraid.

We all want peace. We seek it, crave it, sometimes even fight for it, but it will not come until our minds (souls) are focused on trusting Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

**Isaiah 26:3** “You will keep in *perfect peace* those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.”

**28**“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

Jesus was excited to go to the Father, he hoped that the disciples who loved Him would be happy for Him too.

[Example: Leaving my church in Nashville to go home for the holidays to see my family in NJ. My congregation was happy for me].

Closing words:

**29**I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. **30**I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, **31**but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. “Come now; let us leave.”<>

The devil was present on that last night before the cross.

We already saw that in the last chapter;

**John 13:27** “As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.”

**Luke 22:31** “Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat.”

Jesus was aware that the Devil was waging war on Him and the Apostles on that crucial night. He also knew that the plan that the Devil put in place would not only bring about the outcomes that God intended, but would show the world the *true meaning of love.*

*“he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.”*

**1st John 4:10** *“This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”*

**Romans 5:8** “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

In the next chapter, Jesus will tell us “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (John 15:13).

Jesus showed us how to love one another. He demonstrated it to His apostles and gave them a new commandment “Love one another as I have loved you”.

He even loved those who did not follow him;

The rich young ruler, who didn’t follow him;

**Mark 10:21***“Jesus looked at him and loved him.”*

Lazarus, who was his friend but not an apostle;

**John 11:35-36** *“Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”*

He taught them how to love their enemies;

**Luke 6:27** *“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.”*

But the most important thing He showed us is to;

* Love God,
* Put Him first.
* Be devoted to His will above your own (“not my will but thy will be done”).

You can do this, by *keeping his commands.*

Particularly the greatest commandment;

**Matt 22:37-40** “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**38**This is the first and greatest commandment. **39**And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. **40**All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

**Love God with all you’ve got, and love your neighbor as yourself.**

***If you love him, you’ll keep this command.***