

Bible Study

Gods Word in Focus



Week Twenty Two

Gospel of John

John 14: 1-31

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life"

John 14:1-7

Do you allow any troubles to rob you of God's peace? As much as we try to avoid it, we all inevitably encounter troubles and difficulties, and sometimes more than we think we can handle!

Jesus knew his disciples would have to face adversity and trials after he left them to return to his Father. Jesus assured them that his departure is for their good, in order to secure a place for them in God's house – a place of refuge, peace, and everlasting happiness.

The Lord Jesus assures us of a safe passage to our true home in heaven with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

“He who has seen Me has seen the Father“

John 14:8-21

The disciples had lived with Jesus for three years. They had heard him teach in public many times. Also he had taught them many things in private. They had seen him do many miracles. They had seen his power over death. But still Philip asked to see God the Father.

Jesus promised to do anything that Christians ask. But he would do it only if it was in his name. We need to understand “in his name” means to know what Jesus wants us to do in a situation. Then we are asking with Jesus’ authority, as if we were Jesus himself. God will not grant our selfish requests. Jesus never made selfish requests. He asked only for what his Father wanted.

It is easy to say that we love Jesus. But there is only one way to prove that we love him. We must obey his commands.

Although Jesus left the earth, he did not leave his *followers alone. He gave us the Holy Spirit, who lives in us.

Jesus emphasised how to prove that our love for him is real. If we love somebody, we want to please that person. So if we really love Jesus, we will want to please him. So we will want to obey him.

We do not obey him because we are afraid of him. We obey him because we love him. And he gave to us the most wonderful promise. He will love us. And because we love him, his *Father will love us also

"If anyone loves Me, he will keep my word"

John 14:22-26

Do you know the love that surpasses all, that is stronger than death itself (Song of Songs 8:6)?

In Jesus' last supper discourse he speaks of the love he has for his disciples and of his Father's love. He prepares his disciples for his imminent departure to return to his Father by exhorting them to prove their love for him through their loyalty and obedience to his word. He promises them the abiding instruction and consolation of the Holy Spirit.

Saint Augustine says *the Lord loves each of us as if there were only one of us to love*. God's love for each of us is as real and tangible as the love of a mother for her child and the love of a lover who gives all for his beloved.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you"

John 14:27-31

Do you know the peace which passes all understanding (Phil.4:7)? In his farewell discourse Jesus grants *peace* as his gift to his disciples. What kind of peace does he offer? The *peace of Christ* is more than the absence of trouble. It includes everything which makes for our highest good.

The world's approach to peace is avoidance of trouble and a refusal to face unpleasant things. Jesus offers the peace which conquers our fears and anxieties. Nothing can take us from the peace and joy of Jesus Christ. No sorrow or grief, no danger, no suffering can make it less.

Jesus also speaks of his destination and ultimate triumph over the powers of evil in the world. In the eyes of the world the cross stood for shame, humiliation, and defeat. Jesus went to the cross knowing that it would lead to victory over the powers of sin and of Satan. Jesus also knew that he would return to his Father in glory.

The cross brought glory to Jesus and to the Father and it is our way to glory as well. In the Cross of Christ we find true peace and reconciliation with God. Do you live in the peace of Jesus Christ?