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Part II: In the Shadow of the Cross

John 12:1 – 13:35

A Famous Anointing and Object Lesson

Paragraph Analysis

Questions for Review

1. Describe Mary's act of anointing Jesus with the costly perfume: why did she do it? What was the significance of it? See Matthew 26:6-12; Mark 14:3-8.
 2. What was the reaction of the disciples to her act? What did Jesus say?
 3. Why does John tell us that the disciples did not understand these things until after He was glorified [12:16]?
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4. Explain the figure and the application of the grain of seed that dies [12:24-26]

5. Describe Jesus' emotions as He looked toward the cross. What does it demonstrate about Him?

6. What was the general reaction toward Jesus? What was lacking even in those who "believed" in Him? [12:28-50]

7. Jesus loved His disciples; what did He do? [13:1-11]

8. Describe the object lesson and the main point of it [13:1-35]

Daily Bread



In God's world, death plays an important part. It precedes resurrection and renewal. Every winter, plants die so that they can spring back to life when pleasant days return. Likewise, a seed must die before it will sprout, grow and bring forth a harvest.

Jesus uses this metaphor to describe the life of a Christian. Unless the seed dies, it remains a seed and remains alone. Only after it dies does it become a stalk of corn among other stalk, or a shaft of wheat in the wheatfield. Likewise, Christians who refuse to die to themselves – those who "love their lives" – will be "alone" in the world, separated from Christ and other Christians, and will produce nothing, except for their own selfish ends. Sadly, they will lose their lives in the end. But if we die – i.e., "hate" our lives – only then will we grow, and bring forth a great harvest.

9

The Farewell Discourses *John 13:36–16:33*

Paragraph Analysis

Questions for Review

1. Why did Peter ask Jesus where He was going? What was Jesus' response? [13:36-38].
 2. What "place," with many "dwelling places," was Jesus going to prepare? How many ways are there to God? [14:1-6]
 3. Describe Jesus' exchange with Thomas and Philip. What was Philip's problem and Jesus' response? [14:5-11]
 4. To whom is Jesus speaking in 14:12-14? Why is it important to know?
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5. In several places in this section, Jesus speaks to the disciples about the Holy Spirit (see 14:15-18, 25-27; 15:26-27; 16:5-15). Describe the Spirit's work and note to whom the words are spoken.

6. Read chapters 14-16 and take note of the teachings that (a) are specific to the disciples and (b) timeless, applicable to all disciples in all times.

7. Picture Jesus as a father who knows he is going to die and gathers the family around to give them some final instructions and to set his house in order. How would you summarize Jesus' message?

Daily Bread



Everyone wants to be loved, but there is also a "hate" we should relish. "If the world hates you," said Jesus, "you know that it hated Me before it hated you." In every age, being righteous comes at a price. It is no feather in the Christian's cap for one to say of him, "He is loved by all." To be a Christian means that he shares in the sufferings of Christ and suffers tribulation (cf. 1 Pet. 3:17-18; 4:1; Jn. 16:33). Peace with the world often comes with its own price: compromise, a price Jesus was unwilling to pay.

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The Prayer of Jesus *John 17*

Paragraph Analysis

Questions for Review

1. What “hour” has come and in what way will God “glorify” Jesus and He, in turn, glorify the Father?
 2. What is “eternal life” according to the prayer? Who gets it?
 3. What does Jesus ask for His disciples? Why does Jesus say He is praying for the disciples?
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The Death of Jesus

John 18-19

Paragraph Analysis

Questions for Review

1. What do the actions of Peter and, possibly, Judas, tell you about how the disciples misunderstood Jesus and His mission?
 2. What did Jesus say about Himself when they came to arrest Him?
 3. Describe Jesus' conversation with the High Priest. Meanwhile, what is Peter doing?
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12

The Resurrection of Jesus

John 20-21

Paragraph Analysis

Questions for Review

1. Describe the events of the resurrection morning. What details does John mention that impress you?
 2. 20:9 is an amazing statement. How could they possibly not have understood that Jesus was to rise from the dead? What does it say about our ability to understand scripture today?
 3. Explain why these arguments about the empty tomb lack credibility: (1) the disciples stole the body; (2) dogs stole the body; (3) the Jews stole the body.
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4. How and when did Jesus first appear to the disciples after His resurrection? To how many disciples did Jesus appear afterwards (see I Cor. 15).

5. Explain v. 17.

6. What confession did Thomas (finally) make? Who displays greater faith than that of Thomas?

7. What is the significance of Jesus eating with the disciples after His resurrection?

8. Describe the exchange between Jesus and Peter. What was Jesus teaching Peter?

Daily Bread



Wouldn't you get frustrated if those you love most constantly asked you if you love them? How do you suppose Peter felt as Jesus kept asking him over and over, "Do you love me?" What was Jesus wanting Peter to say or do? Isn't it likely that Jesus was making sure Peter didn't settle for a superficial answer to that question, especially since he had denied Him earlier? We should not answer the Lord's question too quickly either, lest we fail to reflect on the gravity of the answer. When we truly love Christ it changes everything. But some are not ready for everything to change. "Do you love Me?" Think before you answer.