

JESUS

20. MASTER: The Upper-Room Discourse (John 13-16) STUDY AHEAD

Only the gospel of John contains an extended “Upper Room Discourse” that Jesus spoke to His disciples on the last night of His life. This discourse has been called “marching orders” from Jesus to His disciples, as He was about to leave them in the world to continue with His mission. These are the vital instructions they needed in order to succeed. By way of extension, since we today are Jesus’ disciples, this discourse has many important lessons for us. You should read it through in one sitting, then ponder it section by section. Since this is a long section, with many different ideas, we will survey the passage here:

1. John 13:1-17. What was going on that caused Jesus to wash the disciples’ feet? (Compare Luke 22:24-27.) What major lesson was He trying to convey to them? Why was this important for them as they continued on with Jesus’ mission after He left?

2. John 13:18-30. It would appear that Judas participated both in the foot-washing and in the sharing of the bread and the wine, before he left to betray Jesus. What significance do you see in this?

3. John 13:31-38. How do you think Peter felt when Jesus told Him what *he* would do in the coming hours? What is “the new commandment” and why is it so important as *the* defining characteristic of Jesus’ disciples?

4. John 14:1-3. What promise did Jesus make here, and why would it be comforting to the disciples in their historical context? Why/how is it comforting to you? Did you notice the 6th “I AM” statement of Jesus in John’s gospel?

5. John 14:15-31. Jesus spoke a lot about the Holy Spirit in this final discourse with His disciples. What specifically did He say in this section?

6. John 15:1-17. The group left the upper room at the end of ch.14. As they were on their way to the Garden of Gethsemane, they must have passed by a vine. Jesus stopped, gave the 7th and last “I AM” statement, and then taught some key lessons. What would you say is the central idea here?

7. John 15:18-27. What challenge did Jesus say that His disciples would most certainly face? Why is it significant that Jesus again referred to the work of the Holy Spirit in this context?

8. John 16:1-15. What did Jesus say in 16:1 about His reason for giving these warnings and instructions? He spoke again in more detail about the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit. Make a list of the things the Holy Spirit will do as He works in this world.

9. John 16:16-24. Jesus spoke here in words the disciples did not understand. What was He trying to say to them?

10. John 16:28-30. Jesus spoke very directly here. How did the disciples respond?

11. John 16:31-33. Here are Jesus' final words on this occasion. What warning does He give (v.32)? What assurance does He give (v.33)?