

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe
The Blessings of Christ's Absence
John 14:1-31 (page 752)

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Jesus' departure is necessary for the benefit of His followers (14:1-31)

His departure:

- will secure our future (14:1-7a; Acts 4:12)
- will complete the revelation of the Father through Jesus (14:7b-11)
- will equip them for living for Him and servicing His mission in the world (14:12-27)

His leaving means He will send the Holy Spirit (vs 15-17a) who will:

- impart power for service (vs 12-14; Psalm 37:3-5; 2 Peter 3:9)
 - unite us to new intimacy with Jesus (vs 17b-21; Phil 3:10)
 - help us to love and obey Jesus' teaching (vs 22-24)
 - teach us and help us remember what Jesus has said (vs 25-26; 1 Peter 1:10-12)
 - impart supernatural peace (v 27; 16:33; Phil 4:6-7)
- will demonstrate that He is the sovereign God (14:28-31)

Taking it home.....

The answer to trouble is to trust in God.

Our ability to see or understand is influenced by what we are trained to look for.

While preparing a place for us, Christ is preparing us for that place.

Growth Group Sermon Study Helps

John 13:1-38 (Week Twenty-four)

(Note: This guide is to help *facilitate* discussion with your Growth Group. Use it as a *RESOURCE* for the group in discovering and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you *do not want to use* and there may be instances where the group *chooses to focus on a particular point, verse or truth*. This guide is to assist the group in growing in their relationship with Christ and the Scriptures, thus, it is not necessary to complete all of the points in the discussion guide...use this with flexibility and not as a rigid task list to get through. God's richest blessing upon you all.)

Intro:

In John chapter 13 we find Jesus in the shadow of the Cross as He spends His last night and last meal with His disciples. In fact, in this chapter, we see several scenes evolve before us dealing with His love for His followers as He prepares to leave them. Even though He should have been the one in the place of honor, we see Him take the lowly position of a servant - exemplifying servanthood by washing their feet. Then we see the dramatic moment when Jesus announces to the disciples that one of them will betray Him this night. Judas has already sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver and is dismissed by Jesus to do what he planned to do. Finally, we see Jesus give the disciples a new command concerning love - this new dimension not only changes lives, but also shows the whole world that we belong to Jesus.

Discussion Questions

Was there anything said on Sunday that got your attention, a particular point, or that you have a question about?

How do you think Judas felt as Jesus washed his feet?
Explain.

How does foot washing relate to the meaning of the Cross? In what way are we "bathed" and in what way do we still need to be washed? Explain and discuss.

How does Jesus re-define leadership by His actions in vs 1-17 as compared to the worldly or secular view of leadership? Discuss.

Read vs 15-17...what is Jesus saying here? What is the example He speaks of as providing? How, or in what ways, do we follow that example? What brings God's blessing into our lives? Discuss the above.

Define humility in your own words. Is humility a sign of weakness? Discuss why or why not?

Have you ever been betrayed or let down by a friend? How did you react to what they did? How does your reaction compare with how Jesus reacted to Judas?

Is there someone (no need to give name) who is difficult for you to love? Why? What are some practical steps you can take to change your attitude toward them?

Taking it to the streets....

Where do you see love exemplified at WCC? How much do you think the community sees WCC as a place of love?

What are some ways to increase our love for one another? How can we, as a WCC Growth Group, be agents of peace, healing and love in our *church body*?

How can we, as a WCC Growth Group, be agents of peace, healing and love in our *community at large*?