



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: LESSON 15 *"COME AND SEE"*

In John 13:33, Jesus again told the disciples that He was going away. This announcement shook them up. They had left everything behind and spent three years with Jesus, walking, talking, eating, and fellowshiping. They loved Him in an incredible way. How could they possibly live without Him? How would they survive? In our next few chapters, Jesus takes time to encourage and comfort their hearts, explaining to them that they will not be left alone as orphans.

The disciple's hearts were obviously troubled. Is your heart troubled as well? I pray that the word of Jesus will bring comfort and peace to your troubled or agitated heart. Peace should be the state of a Christian. That peace can only be found in Him.

First Day

There is an unfortunate chapter break between chapters 13 and 14. As Jesus told His disciples that He was going away, they must have become worried. He had told them He would die soon and that they couldn't come with Him. Peter must have also become very upset, as Jesus had just announced that he would betray Jesus three times. (I imagine Peter became very quiet!) Jesus is quick to tell them not to worry. As Peter's eyes probably got huge, Jesus continues by telling him not to be troubled.

1. Read John 14:1-31. Observe and list any facts you find.

2. What is the main point of this chapter?

3. List the repeated words, phrases, and thoughts.
4. Did the disciples seem to understand what Jesus was saying?
5. What verses show the deity of Christ?
6. Personally, how does this chapter encourage your own heart today?

I want to share this quote with you because it has always blessed my heart, although I have no idea where it came from. "It's not in going to Heaven that you'll find Christ; it's that in going to Christ you'll find Heaven."

What a "Reason to Rejoice"!

Memory Verse of the Week: "Jesus said to Him, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" John 14:6

Second Day

Work on your memory verse. Jesus is making an important claim. He is not "A" way, but "The" way.

1. Read John 14:1-31 again. The word "troubled" means "agitated." In the first 4 verses, what encouragement does Jesus give them?

Our hearts become troubled very easily, don't they? Just reading the newspaper can send your heart for a spin. We are troubled by the darkness in the world, as well as in our own lives. Often we are troubled because we have been criticized, misunderstood, or betrayed. We can be experiencing financial hardship, health issues, or loss of loved ones. We often find ourselves depressed, sad, and frustrated. Yes, I would say that our hearts are easily troubled. Jesus tells us in this chapter that His desire for us is to have peace, even in the midst of tribulation. Peace does not come from a denial of reality or an absence of trials, but from a right relationship with Him. The word for peace in the Greek is "eirene," which indicates "not an absence of turmoil but an inward sense of goodness that is unrelated to circumstances. It is an untroubled state of well-being."

I would like to look at this chapter today a little differently. In her book *My Savior, My Friend*, Kay Arthur uses John 14 to show us 6 ways to walk in God's peace when our hearts are troubled. I would like to share her 6 steps with you, because I think they're great. When embraced, these truths, says Kay, will "keep us from denying Him in an hour that calls for the obedience of faith." While looking at these steps, try applying them to your own life as well.

2. The first step to walking in peace when our hearts are troubled is: **Put your trust in Jesus**; in who He is and what He says. Jesus says to believe in Him and His Word.
 - A. List the verses from chapter 14 that support this.
 - B. Why does having faith in God prevent or calm a troubled heart?
 - C. Does our faith have to be in Jesus? Why can't it be in our own faith, like some teach?

D. Is your heart troubled today? Why? Will you trust Jesus and His Word right now?

"Personal faith in a personal God brings personal strength."

Charles Swindoll

3. When your heart is troubled, the second step is to: **Remember that God does not lie.**

A. How does verse 2 show us this truth?

B. Why does remembering this encourage our hearts?

C. Have you been doubting His Word in any way? May this truth bring peace to your soul.

E. Read John 8:44. Who is the Father of lies? How will he try to distort the truth, making you troubled? What should you do?

In verse 2, Jesus says that there are many mansions in His Father's house. The word "mansion" means "dwelling or lodging places." It implies "permanent residences."

4. While Jesus is preparing that place for us, He is preparing us for that place. Why are we being prepared? How are we being prepared? What tools does He use?

5. What "tool" is He using on you right now?

I pray that you will take these first steps when your heart is troubled. Believe and trust in Jesus, and always remember that God cannot, and will not, lie. See you tomorrow, my friends!

Third Day

Work on your memory verse. Is He your life?

Today we will be looking at two more things we should do when we find ourselves troubled or distressed.

1. Read John 14:1-31. What question does Thomas ask Jesus? How does He answer Him?

2. Jesus makes another "I AM" statement. Does Jesus claim to be one of the ways to find life, or that all roads lead to the same place? What great truth does He make?

3. The third step for walking in peace is: **Look to God's future for you.** Kay Arthur lists **three** things to focus on concerning this. Can you find a **verse** from this chapter that supports each?
 - A. **Focus on the eternal instead of the temporal.** How does remembering that all the things we go through here on earth are only temporary comfort our hearts? He is coming again for you ... are you living in expectation?

B. Focus on the Father, whom you have seen through the Son. Allow Him to be all you need. How does focusing on the Father and His love for you calm a troubled heart? Are you resting in the arms of your Father?

C. Focus on your calling from the Lord. Remember that you are here on this earth for a purpose: to do the will of God who created you for His pleasure. In verse 12, Jesus says that we will do greater works than He. Our works will be greater, not in power, but in extent and scope, because of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

1. Is your purpose in life to do the will of God? Read Ephesians 2:10. Ask Him to show you what works He has ordained for you.

2. How does remembering your call bring peace to your troubled heart?

4. The fourth step to bring peace to a troubled heart is: **Ask in His name.** What verses support this?

John MacArthur states that "Asking in His name is not a formula to be tacked on to the end of your prayer, but a reference to the fact that the believer's prayers should be in accord with God's holy nature and eternal purposes." To ask in Jesus' name is to ask for that which is consistent with His character. I read that in Biblical times, a person's name revealed his character. God's names reveal who He is, and to ask in His name is to ask in accordance with His will.

5. How is John 14:13 often taken out of context? Why is that so dangerous?

6. According to verse 13, what is the purpose in prayer?

7. How is your prayer life? Do your prayers consist more of seeking to be of one mind with the Father, or of asking for things you want? Is God being glorified in your prayers? Does He give us everything we want?

Let's end here for today. I hope I'm not confusing you by going through the chapter this way. I hope that as you believe and trust in Jesus, remembering that God cannot lie, and look to God's future for you, you will find peace.

Fourth Day

Study your verse. Have you shared that truth with anyone lately?

1. Please read John 14:1-31 again with me. (You probably can quote it by now.)

2. The next point we want to look at for calming our hearts is this: **Never forget that you are not alone.** You have not been abandoned or orphaned. Jesus promised His disciples a continuing intimacy with Him, even though He would not be physically present with them. **What does Jesus tell us about the Holy Spirit in this chapter?**

3. How should knowing that the Holy Spirit dwells in you, and that you are not alone, bring you peace? Does it?

4. How long will the Holy Spirit dwell with us, according to verses 16-17?

5. Why can't the world receive the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is called our "Helper," which comes from the Greek word "parakletos," meaning "to call hither, toward." This word can be used for a legal advisor, pleader, proxy, or advocate. William Barclay explains it this way: "A parakletos might be a person called in to give witness in a law court in someone's favor; he might be an advocate called in to plead someone's cause when someone was under a charge which would issue a serious penalty; he might be an expert called in to give advice in some difficult situation. Always, a parakletos is someone called in to help when the person who calls him is in trouble or distress or doubt or bewilderment."

6. How is the Holy Spirit our Helper?

The Holy Spirit dwelling within us allows us to understand the things of God. He enables us to do the work of God and He guides us into all truth. According to verse 17, we have a two-fold relationship with the Holy Spirit. He dwells "with" you, which is "para" in the Greek. Before you were saved, the Holy Spirit convicted you of sin and drew you to Jesus. When you received Christ, the Holy Spirit came and dwelled "in" you. Acts 1:8 tells us that the Holy Spirit also comes "upon" us, giving us power from on high!

7. Do you depend on the power of the Holy Spirit, or do you try to do things in your own strength? Are you in a "situation" right now? Will you allow the Spirit to guide you, instead of yourself?

8. Our sixth and final step in finding peace for our troubled heart is this: **Love Him and obey Him.** What verses support this? How does that quiet our heart?

9. How are love and obedience linked together? How is our obedience to the Lord a proof of our love?

10. If you do not desire to obey God and His Word, do you really love Him? (1 John 5:1-3)

11. If you say you love God, but hate your brother, do you really love God? What does 1 John 4:20-21 say about that?

The word "love" is used ten times in this chapter. Obviously, love is a cure for our troubled hearts. And if we love Him with our whole heart, we will desire to turn away from sin and keep His commandments (20-24). The Trinity will make their home in our hearts and dwell there forever. His glory will fill your temple!

12. What will happen if we love and obey Jesus, according to verse 23? What does that mean?

13. Is your life characterized by obedience? Is there an area that you are hesitating in your obedience? How often are you seeking His will and asking Him what He wants you to do?

We'll end here for today. I pray that your love for God is producing obedience in your life. When asked what "held him" as he suffered for the Gospel in a communist prison for 13 years, Haralan Popov said this: "When you love someone, you will do anything for Him." Ladies, is that true in your life?

Fifth Day

Write out your verse from memory.

**Today we will be going over a few different verses,
jumping around a bit.**

1. Read John 14. How many times does Jesus tell His disciples not to be troubled?
2. In verse 27, Jesus offers them peace, but not the peace the world gives. What does He mean? What kind of peace does this world offer? (Notice in verse 27, Jesus offers us the same peace He had.)
3. Before you were a Christian, where did your peace come from?
4. Although as believers we know that true peace is found in Jesus, we still look for it in other things at times. Have you been seeking peace lately somewhere else besides the Lord?

In verse 18-19, Jesus seems to be referring first, to His resurrection; and secondly, He lets them know He will be coming back for them. They literally saw Him after He rose from the dead, but they will also see Him again in Heaven. The resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us living hope for eternal life. Chuck Smith said, "The resurrection is the affirmation that all He said is true."

5. In verse 28, why does Jesus say that they should be happy for Him?

6. Who do you think Jesus is referring to in verse 30 as the "ruler of this world"? (John 12:31, Matthew 4:8-9)

7. Read John 14:31. What commandment is Jesus referring to? Read John 10:18.

Because we know that Christ is in us (19-20), we can be assured that God is in control of our lives. We can trust Him in every circumstance; we don't have to be troubled.

8. How can we practically train ourselves to see God in every and any situation we find ourselves in? How does knowing He's in control cause us to rest?

9. In verse 27, Jesus also tells them not to be afraid. The Lord also tells us not to be afraid of our future, because He is there! Are you afraid of something? How does this chapter calm your heart? Will you let it?

