

Episode: Three Gospels Series No. 09

Narrator: Philip the Apostle

Primary Scriptures: John 13-17

Story Summary: The last Passover meal of Jesus and walk to the Kidron Valley

Location: Kingdom of Judea (Israel)

Time: Circa 30 AD

Suggested Memory Scriptures: John 13:16, 34; 14:1-3, 6-7, 13-16, 23; 15:1-8, 15; 17:3-4

What would you do if you had only twenty-four hours left to live? Spend it with your family, go skydiving, ask forgiveness of any you have offended, go to work? Jesus chose to eat Passover dinner with his twelve closest friends. The first few of his last hours consisted of eating the ritualistic Passover feast and giving his final instructions and farewell message.

According to *John*, the evening started with Jesus ritualistically washing the feet of his apostles, a task normally reserved for household slaves or servants. This act signified that the apostles were to be servants as they acted as the messengers of the Gospel.

Following this act of humility, Jesus prophesied several things, including: Judas would betray him, Peter would deny him three times, Jesus would go to be with the Father, and Jesus would send back the Holy Spirit.

John 14-17 comprise some of the most detailed and mysterious of all of Jesus' teachings. Even though the apostles had gone through three years of intense training, these teachings stretched them to the maximum. Starting in John 14:9, Jesus talks about "being in," "remaining in," or "abiding in," as per John 14:9, "I am in the Father and the Father is in me." That terminology permeates much of the teaching. In fact, Jesus said in John 15:6, "He that abides in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit. Without me, he can do nothing."

There are few times when Jesus expressly commands something, but he does so in this farewell talk. In John 15:12, Jesus commands the apostles to love one another, just as he has loved them. He follows that up by telling them that they are his friends if they do whatever he commands them to do.

In John 16, Jesus gives the apostles fair warning and encouraging words about what will happen to them after he is gone. He ends that section with a very encouraging statement: "I have overcome the world." Note that he did not say he "would" overcome the world, but that he already had.

John 17 is a long prayer for his followers. John 17:3-4 are two of the most informative verses in the Bible. They provide a definition for eternal life, and they provide a good summation statement of Jesus' work and purpose on earth.

Discussion Questions:

1. According to John 14:6, how many ways are there to come to the Father? What does that verse mean?
 2. In John 14:6, Jesus tells the apostles they can ask Jesus for anything in his name, and he will do it. Does that apply to every Christian or just the apostles?
 3. Based on John 15:8, how do you bring glory to God? What is much fruit?
 4. According to John 17:3, what is eternal life? So, when does eternal life start?
 5. How did Jesus bring glory to God, according to John 17:4?
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1. The only way is through Jesus. 2. The Bible does not say. 3. Eternal life is knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ. So, eternal life starts when someone knows God and Jesus. 4. By finishing the work God gave him to do.

Application Questions:

1. In your life, what would it mean for you to wash someone's feet? Are you willing to do that? Who for?
2. It is currently popular for people to say that all religions have equal value and that there are many ways to God. Does John 14:6 impact how you view that view?
3. John 14:15-17 talks about the Holy Spirit. In light of those verses, what can you learn about the Holy Spirit? What does it mean for the Holy Spirit to live inside of you? In John 14:20, what does it mean for Jesus to live inside of you?
4. John 14:23 says that anyone who loves Jesus will obey his teaching? Based on that verse how would you evaluate your love for Jesus? How do you know what his teachings are?

Application Questions for Teens:

1. If you are a Christian, do you deserve to lead a trouble-free life? What type of life does Jesus promise in John 16:33?
2. What does eternal life mean to you? Does that fit with John 17:3?
3. John 17:4 is a one-sentence summary of how Jesus evaluated his life How would you evaluate your life in one sentence? Are you satisfied with what that sentence describes? Are you doing what it takes to lay the groundwork to change that sentence to what you want it to be someday?
4. When did God the Father start loving Jesus? (John 17:24) Did he start loving you at the same time?
5. John 13-17 reveals what Jesus did with his final few hours before he died. If you knew you were going to die tomorrow, what would you be concerned with?