

Intimacy with Father, Son and Spirit in the Context of Eschatology

Session 4: The Primary Themes in John 13-17

I. THE THEMES JESUS TOUCHED ON IN THE UPPER ROOM

A. I think it is easy to fall into the lullaby of reading the bible as if someone wrote it as a fiction book. When in reality all the events, especially in the Gospel, were planned, orchestrated events with purpose by the Father in Jesus for the outcome He desired.

Jesus choose the upper room, and the last week in Jerusalem to speak about the most important topics of His entire ministry. No, not because these topics were different than anything else, No, because they summed up everything else.

It was Jesus' *"In conclusion"* paragraph to the essay He had already lived out.

Initially, Jesus spoke John 13-17 to the leadership of His new Church to prepare His disciples to thrive spiritually in the face of the pressures they would encounter as new leaders in the kingdom.

The main themes of John 13-17 are identified from the truths, promises, and warnings that Jesus emphasized at the Last Supper. They were for the benefit of the Church throughout history but have significant application and fulfillment in the end-times as Jesus' Bride is prepared for His return.

I encourage you to read Jesus' words prayerfully in the 5 chapters in ***John 13-17*** together with what He said when He revealed Himself to John and the churches in the 5 chapters in ***Revelation 1-5***.

I think you will find an astonishing correlation.

Jesus highlighted various pressures that He spoke about two days earlier in Matthew 24 (***Lk. 21***). He clarified that in the end times these pressures would be more intense than any other time in history (***Mt. 24:21***). They include a betrayal culture, hatred, offense, deception, and persecutions that occur inside and outside of those identifying with the Church. It will include loved ones being imprisoned and martyred, the capture of Jerusalem, the betrayal of Israel by the Antichrist, etc.

9They will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. 10And then many will be offended, will betray one another...11Many false prophets will...deceive many. 12And because lawlessness will abound...21There will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time. (Mt. 24:9-12, 21)

II. THEME #1—THE PURPOSE OF HIS MESSAGE: IMPART JOY AND PEACE UNTO LOVE

- Jesus' multifaceted message in John 13-17 was spoken to equip His disciples to walk in joy (15:11; 17:13), not stumble or fall away (16:1), and have peace (16:33); thus, to love and serve the Lord and others (13:15, 34; 14:15, 23; 15:12) even in the face of great pressures.

11These things I have spoken...that My joy may remain in you...that you love one another... (Jn. 15:11-12)

13...these things I speak...that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. (Jn. 17:13)

33These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. (Jn. 16:33)

1These things I have spoken to you, that you should not...stumble [fall away; ESV]. (Jn. 16:1)

14I washed your feet...15I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you... 34...that you love one another, as I have loved you... (Jn. 13:14-15, 34)

- Joy is emphasized 7x in John 13-17 (15:11 [2x]; 16:20, 21, 22, 24; 17:13).

20...your sorrow will be turned into joy. 21A woman, when she is in labor...but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born...22your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. (Jn. 16:20-22)

III. THEME #2—UNION WITH GOD: HOW WE ARE TO RELATE TO GOD

- Jesus gave insight into how He related to the Father as a “man filled with the Spirit”—to provide a model for how believers are to relate to God and to one another and how to walk as overcomers.

- Jesus described how He related to the Father as a man (**14:7-11**), and how His disciples are to relate to the Father in a similar way by the Spirit (**14:12-27**), and then He applied it in **John 15:1-12**.

- Jesus taught that the Father lives in the Son and the Son lives in the Father (**Jn. 10:38; 14:10-11, 20; 17:11, 21-23**). This is not a doctrinal lesson about Jesus' deity, but of His Spirit-filled humanity— as the model of how a believer is to relate best to the Lord in a deep way. John highlighted Jesus' relationship to the Father (**14:6-7, 9-11, 28; 15:10, 23-24; 16:15; 17:1-2, 4-5, 6, 8, 10, 21-26**).

10Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works... 20At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in

you. (Jn. 14:10, 20)

- The gospel of John highlights at least 5 aspects of the mutual indwelling or mystical union of the Father and Jesus—Their mind (thoughts), heart (feelings), will (values/decisions), words (speech), and works. They think, feel, speak, decide, and act in ways that are in full unity with each Other.

Jesus invited His people to participate in the intimacy shared in the mutual indwelling of the Father and Son (14:10, 20). They enjoy, celebrate, honor, and partner with each Other in all that They think, feel, say, and do. We begin to participate in this reality by ***thanking God*** for this and by ***asking for more insight*** into the way. As we do this, we posture ourselves to receive more.