

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

Session 4- Part 2: The Primary Themes in John 13-17

I. THE THEMES JESUS TOUCHED ON IN THE UPPER ROOM

A. The main themes of John 13-17 are identified from the truths, promises, and warnings that Jesus emphasized at the Last Supper.

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.

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.

IV. THEME #3—THE INDWELLING SPIRIT: 5 SAYINGS ABOUT THE HELPER (PARACLETE)

A. Jesus' answer to their crisis was to send "the Helper"—the Greek word for Helper is "**Paraclete**." *Paraclete* is translated by some as "Helper," or "Counsellor," or "Comforter," or "Advocate."

Jesus' 5 passages about the Spirit as our Helper (14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-8, 13-14) are given in context to His other statements about the Spirit (1:32-33; 3:5, 34; 4:23-24; 7:37-39; 20:22-23).

B. The Spirit teaches, renews, and inspires our mind and emotions. He makes known Jesus' thoughts, words, and deeds and empowers us to express them. He both wills and works in us (Phil. 2:13).

C. The **first** mention of the Spirit highlights Him as the One who helps us to love and obey Jesus and ministers the Father's heart to us so we should not feel as helpless orphans in this hostile world.

15If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever 17the Spirit of truth...He dwells with you and will be in you. 18I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. (Jn.

14:15-18)

D. The **second** mention of the Spirit highlights Him teaching and reminding us at key times of God's truths and promises and how to apply them.

26The Helper, the Holy Spirit...will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. (Jn. 14:26)

E. The **third** mention of the Spirit highlights Him revealing more of Jesus to and through His people.

26But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. 27And you also will bear witness... (Jn. 15:26-27)

F. The **fourth** mention of the Spirit highlights Him convicting unbelievers as they spoke God's word. He convinces them of their sinfulness, the gift of righteousness, and that Satan is already defeated.

7...if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8When He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment... (Jn. 16:7-8)

G. The **fifth** mention of the Spirit highlights Him guiding us into all truth, including things to come.

13When the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth...He will tell you things to come. 14He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. (Jn. 16:13-14)

V. THEME #4—GOD'S LOVE FOR GOD

A. Jesus declared His love for the Father (14:31).

31...that the world may know that I love the Father...as [He]...gave Me commandment, so I do. (Jn. 14:31)

B. Jesus spoke of the Father's love for Him (15:9; 17:23-24, 26).

23...that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them as You have

loved Me. ²⁴Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. (Jn. 17:23-24)

C. Out of love for the Father, Jesus declared and continues to declare the Father's name (17:26) and gave the disciples the Father's words or message (14:10; 17:14).

²⁶And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them." (Jn. 17:26)

VI. THEME #5—GOD'S LOVE FOR HIS PEOPLE

A. Jesus expressed His love in serving His disciples by washing their feet and encouraging their hearts (He mentioned loving them 7 times—13:1 [2x], 23, 34; 14:21; 15:9, 12).

***1...Jesus knew that His hour had come...having loved His own...He loved them to the end.
(Jn. 13:1)***

9"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. (Jn. 15:9)

B. The Father loves His people (14:21, 23; 16:27; 17:23).

23...that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. (Jn. 17:23)

VII. THEME #6—OUR LOVE FOR JESUS EXPRESSED BY KEEPING HIS COMMANDS

A. Our love for Jesus is expressed by keeping His commands (14:15, 21, 24; 15:10, 12-14, 17; 17:26).

15If you love Me, keep My commandments...²¹He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me...²³If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word... (Jn. 14:15-23)

B. To "keep" His commands speaks of obeying them, but more—in the Old Testament it means to treasure, watch over, and guard something as precious. The Lord watches over us (Ps. 91:11). This "keeping" parallels our meditating on the Word to engage in conversation with the Spirit.

11For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. (Ps. 91:11)

12While I was...in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept. (Jn. 17:12)

VIII. THEME #7—LOVING PEOPLE AND THE CALL TO SERVANTHOOD

A. Jesus called His people to love one another as He loves us (13:34; 15:12-13; 17:21). This includes loving our adversaries (15:17-18). Jesus loved His disciples as demonstrated by washing their feet, laying down His life, and engaging in what troubled them by investing time and effort to encourage them even while His greatest personal crisis including a cruel death was hours away.

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)

B. This is the pinnacle of God's supernatural work in the human heart. It is the ultimate human experience and is a primary aspect of pleasure, victory, and safety of God's eternal kingdom.

17These things I command you, that you love one another. 18If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. (Jn. 15:17-18)

C. Jesus was talking to a group who would be tempted not to even like each other once He was not physically with them. They would not naturally be connected. Some were zealots with nationalistic agendas, some tax collectors, others were fishermen, and a few were followers of John the Baptist. They were not naturally friends, and they would not naturally stick together after His death.

D. Before entering Jerusalem, they debated who was the greatest and who would sit at His right hand (Mk. 9:33; 10:38). Each of them forsook or denied Him (Mt. 26:31). This undoubtedly led to accusations against one another. The persecution against them would bring new temptations.

E. We are to contend for each other's destiny in God, personal honor, and family blessing. This is one definition of loyalty—it includes not verbalizing our frustrations over the deficiencies or failures of our family and friends to others, but we express "love that covers a multitude of sins" (1 Pet. 4:8).

8And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." (1 Pet. 4:8)

44But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you... (Mt. 5:44)

IX. THEME #8—JESUS' DEATH—TRUSTING GOD WHEN UNEXPECTED CRISES COME

A. Jesus viewed death as going to the Father (Jn. 13:1, 3; 14:12, 28; 15:26; 16:5, 10; 16, 28; 17:11, 13)

1...Jesus knew...that He should depart from this world to the Father...3Jesus, knowing that the

Father had given all things into His hands, and that He...was going to God... (Jn. 13:1, 3)

28You have heard Me say to you, "I am going away and coming back to you." If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, "I am going to the Father" ... (Jn. 14:28)

B. After Jesus' death, the disciples were to trust in God in the face of this totally unexpected crisis of Jesus being suddenly taken from them in death, the crisis of Jesus being gone from them after 3. years of being daily in His presence and rejoicing in His light. His sudden absence forced them to question their faith and change the way they related to Him. This theme includes other shocking and painful aspects of God's plan that are not understood ahead of time because the Lord wants us to trust His leadership in unexpected pains.

X. THEME #9 —PRAYER (WORDS) RELEASINGS GOD'S POWER, PROVISION, & PRESENCE

A. Jesus emphasized the effectiveness of "Spirit-led prayer" 5 times (14:13, 14; 15:7; 16:23-24).

12...he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. (Jn. 14:12-14)

B. Access to God through Spirit-led prayer includes the assurance of God supplying our needs.

23"...I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you... (Jn. 16:23)

19My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:19)

C. To be "in" the Father or the Son includes being in agreement with what He thinks, feels, and says. This lifestyle is not out of reach because Jesus sent a divine Helper to us (14:16, 26).

D. We must see the significance of speaking words. Our words are in His heart, and His words are in our heart. Our active intimacy and union with Jesus grow by speaking words (15:7)—the Christian life is an ongoing dialogue with a Person. Jesus' words are spirit and life (Jn. 6:63), and His Word is living and active (Heb. 4:12). Over time, what He thinks, feels, and says gradually fills our hearts.

7If...My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. (Jn. 15:7)

E. Hosea taught that returning to the Lord includes bringing words to speak to Him (Hos. 14:1-3).

10 Israel, return to the LORD...2Take words with you, and return to the LORD. (Hos. 14:1-2)

G. It is a common error to try to live the Christian life without Christ—without conversation with Him.

XI. THEME #10—BETRAYAL AND FAILURE AND HOW JESUS RESPONDS TO THEM

A. This theme is how Jesus treats those who betray and fail Him—both enemies and sincere believers, e.g., the crisis of the pain of betrayal by a trusted friend and team member—Judas (13:2, 11, 18, 21-30; 17:12). Judas' betrayal of Jesus, leading to His death, was also a betrayal of the eleven.

2And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas...to betray Him ...11He knew who would betray Him...18“I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.’” (Jn. 13:2, 11, 18)

50But Jesus said to him [Judas], “Friend, why have you come?” (Mt. 26:50)

B. The crisis of denying Jesus that very night was one of their greatest personal failures (13:38; 16:33).

38Jesus answered him [Peter], “...the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times.” (Jn. 13:38)

32...the hour...has now come, that you will be scattered...and will leave Me alone. (Jn. 16:33)

8Jesus answered, “I have told you that I am He...let these go their way...” (Jn. 18:8)

XII. THEME #11—PERSECUTION

A. Jesus told the disciples that they would be persecuted (Jn. 15:18-16:4).

¹⁸If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you...²⁰If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you...²⁵"They hated Me without a cause." (Jn. 15:18-25)

B. Jesus' words gave them courage to be faithful to Him until the end.

¹These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble [fall away].

²They will put you out of the synagogues...[and] whoever kills you... (Jn. 16:1-2)

XIII. THEME #12—THE GLORY THAT GOD GAVE JESUS IS GIVEN TO HIS PEOPLE

A. The glory the Father has given to Jesus is also given in part to His people (Jn. 17:5, 22, 24).

⁵...Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had...before the world was ...²²The glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one as We are one... ²⁴Father, I desire that they...may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. (Jn. 17:5, 22, 24)

B. There are many facets and expressions of God's glory that Scripture mentions.

1. Talk to the Father about the glory He possesses.

2. Talk to the Father about the glory that He gave to Jesus before and after His earthly life.

3. Talk to the Father about the glory that Jesus gives to His people.

C. Talk to the Lord about each area—thank Him for each area and ask Him to show you more.