

**Parting Words**  
Eat a Coal Miner's Shoes?  
John 14:15-31  
Small Group Discussion

**Intro Questions** (try to get everyone involved in discussion):

- What is your favorite love song, and why?
- Why do you think that our culture's popular songs so often involve bold claims to prove one's love? How do those claims stack up against long-term love in relationships?

**Pray:** Invite the Holy Spirit to be present and to guide your study and discussion of God's word.

**Read** John 14:15-31, then discuss the following.

- So far in the Upper Room Discourse (starting with chapter 13), what examples can you recall when one of the disciples claimed to or wanted to prove his love for Jesus in some extreme way?
- Point out all the places in today's passage where Jesus describes how love for him will be evidenced. You may want to make a list.
  - In your own words, if one loves Jesus, how will he/she show it?
  - Is there any distinction in the various ways Jesus makes this point, or are they all saying the same thing?
  - What is the concept of "having" his commands, in v. 21? How is this important for us?
  - Why do you think Jesus so persistently reiterates this point about loving him and keeping his commands?
  - How do you feel about the idea that true love for Jesus will be seen in keeping his commands?
- Now go through the passage and point out every instance where Jesus talks about the Advocate, whom he will send. You may want to make a list.
  - What is the relationship between this promise that Jesus makes, and the point above, about loving him by keeping his commands?
  - Try to pull out every description that Jesus gives of the Advocate, that would show us something of his character, or his function, or his effect in our lives.
  - What is Jesus' point, in v. 17, with regard to the world not seeing him? How do we "see" him?
  - What of these attributes of the Advocate have you personally experienced?
  - What of these attributes do you most need in this current season of your life?
- In v. 27—in light of the impending events—why does Jesus say, "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid?" What reason might the disciples have to heed his words here?
- What do you think Jesus means, in v. 28, when he says, "The Father is greater than I?" (Leaders: we have already seen in this series, how Jesus has said that to see him is to see the Father, as he and the Father are one. The current statement is probably

indicating that he lowered himself for his incarnate state, setting aside some degree of his power, for the Father's purposes. Now that he is returning to the Father, he will resume his rightful position and power in heaven. For this reason the disciples are to be happy for him.)

- In v. 30, what does Jesus mean that the Prince of this world has no "hold" over him? In what way does Satan have a hold over each of us that he did not have over Jesus?
- In what way does Jesus' statement in v. 31 tie back to his very first point in v. 15? How is his obedience of the Father a motivator for our obedience to him?
- Returning to where we started, do you think that Jesus is asking you to *prove* your love for him? Why or why not?
  - In what way does our acted-out love for Jesus differ from the world's claims to prove love?
- What aspect of this teaching do you need to most embrace presently? Do you need to take more seriously the idea of showing your love for Jesus outside of Sunday morning by obeying him? Do you need to more fully embrace the help of the Holy Spirit? Something else?

**PRAYER:**

- If you haven't already shared about other particular needs in your life, be sure to do that, and pray for one another.
- Pray in response to what God has revealed to you in this discussion of his word.