

### Words of Comfort

Jesus and His disciples had gathered for the Passover meal. The mood was somber as hard times were soon to come for all who were around the table in that upper room that night.

1. What troubling information had Jesus shared with His disciples (John 13:21, 33, 36-38) and what emotions might that have evoked in them?

**Drawing Near:** *Dear Shepherd of my life, You know that my strength is weak, my heart is fragile and my understanding finite. Thank You for Your goodness and love that follows me all the days of my life so that I may dwell in Your house forever. (Psalm 23) Amen*

2. **Read through John 14:1-31 several times** making note of repeated words or themes.

The thought of being separated from Jesus was unbearable for the disciples. As we begin chapter 14 Jesus speaks to all of them while answering Peter's questions (John 13:36-37).

**From John 14:1-4:**

3.
  - a. What did Jesus say was the remedy for their troubled hearts?
  - b. What promises did Jesus go on to make that they could hang on to as they endured the coming separation from Him? (These promises are given to all believers in Him as well.)

Note: *I will come back* in verse 3 probably referred to Jesus' physical second coming (Matthew 24:30) although Jesus did come to them spiritually before then. (More on that later.)

**Personal Reflection:** Envision that day when you step through the threshold of your Father's house (symbolic picture of heaven). As you think about that day what comforts your heart?

**Read John 14:5-7.**

4. Not understanding what Jesus had just told them, Thomas interrupted Him with what two-part concern?
  
5. Notice that Jesus responded by answering Thomas' statements in reverse order, declaring another one of His great *I AM* statements.
  - a. How did Jesus' three-part declaration beautifully connect us to the Father?

Note: The Greek word for *know* in verse 7 means knowing through first-hand knowledge usually gained through **personal relationship of intimacy or connection**.

- b. Are there other ways that can lead people to God? Explain.

**Review John 14:8-11.**

Philip and the other disciples had been close companions with Jesus for more than three years yet they had so much more to learn from Him.

6. What did Philip think would be necessary before the disciples' hearts could be at rest?
  
7. Jesus addressed this request by speaking further about the relationship He had with the Father.
  - a. Describe the intimacy that was at the core of Jesus' very being.
  
  - b. How did this intimate relationship manifest itself in Jesus' life (verses 10-11)?

**Read John 14:12-14.**

8.
  - a. What shocking promises did Jesus go on to make (verse 12)?
  
  - b. Compare verse 13 with James 4:3. What different motives can be at the heart of people's prayers?
  
  - c. What changes might need to take place if people pray in Jesus' name (verses 13-14)?

**Prayerfully read through John 14:15-21 several times.** Here Jesus gave His disciples a new truth (and why they would be able to do *greater works* after He went away). He unfolded this truth one layer at a time until a most marvelous Gift was revealed. In verse 15 Jesus described those who would receive this Gift. Today we refer to them as followers, believers or Christians.

9. *Counselor* (verse 16) is a legal name for someone who comes alongside another to give help, protection and deliverance.
  - a. Where would the Counselor come from?
  - b. How long did Jesus say the Counselor would remain with them?
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ is another name for the Counselor (verse 17). What do you learn about this name from Isaiah 65:16 and John 14:6?
  - d. Explain what Jesus meant when He said they knew the Spirit because He was *with* them and later would be *in* them (verses 17-19).

After Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension the Spirit was poured out on believers at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). Jesus said it would be *on that day* (verse 20) when they would begin to understand the gift of the Spirit. We read in Acts that the Spirit's indwelling presence changed this group of fearful disciples into bold proclaimers of the gospel.

10. Write out a description of the relationship you have with the Father, Son and Spirit if you are a believer (verses 20-21).

**Personal Reflection:** Because of the relationship you have with the triune God, you have all the resources of heaven available to live as He desires. What are you facing this week that you need Him to speak His words and do His works through you? Take comfort, Jesus said that He is with you now and forever! (Reflect back on John 14:12-16.)

**Re-read John 14:22-27.** Jesus was interrupted once again. Judas and the others were expecting Him to set up an earthly kingdom. Jesus continued to teach them about a spiritual kingdom that He would establish in the hearts of believers.

11.
  - a. For the believer, Jesus said that love and obedience are closely linked together (verses 21, 23-24). Where should the desire and motivation to live as He desires come from?
  - b. Describe the supreme example of obedience Jesus lived out for us (John 14:31).
  - c. What produces this kind of love in us? (See 1 John 4:19 and Romans 5:5.)
  - d. As you think back through the lesson, what is it about Jesus that brings you a renewed sense of love and gratitude to Him? Tell Him what is on your heart.
  
12. Jesus emphasized the holiness of the Spirit by His title in verse 26.
  - a. What role would the Spirit have in the disciples' lives in the days to come?
  - b. Several of these men went on to write many of the books of the New Testament. Because of the Spirit's work through them, by what means does the Spirit teach and remind us today?

**From John 14:28-31:**

13. What would have been a comfort to Jesus' heart and those who loved Him as He prepared to leave?
  
14. What do you see here that affirms the fact that the events of the rest of that evening and the next day were in Jesus' control?

*Jesus, You are with me throughout my lifetime, in my death and my eternal home.  
You are more than enough for me!! Amen and Amen.*