

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE STUDY

"The Gospel of John"

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Lesson 53: John 14:8 – 31 "Loving Costs..."

13:34-35

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

- a. Who, in your life, do you need Jesus' help in loving?
- b. "Lord, teach me how to keep on loving -----."
- c. How did Jesus "keep on loving" ... with people 'hard to keep on loving'
 - a. The condescending scribes and Pharisees?
 - b. The abusive Roman soldiers at His crucifixion?
 - c. The zealots: anarchists who sought to overthrow the government?
 - d. Peter, who eventually denied Him?
 - e. The Jewish money changers in the Temple courts?
 - f. The Samaritans, who were oppressed by the Jews?
 - g. The Samaritans, who in turn, despised their oppressors?
 - h. The other disciples, who slept when Jesus needed them in Gethsemane, and ran away when He was arrested?
 - i. St. Paul, who intentionally helped kill Stephen?
 - j. You?

14:6

"I AM the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

- a. Jesus reiterates Himself as the gatekeeper for the sheep. The way into the Father's house, is through faith in Jesus.
- b. His perfect life was lived for us, because we could not do it.
- c. His perfect life was sacrificed, because an imperfect life would not suffice to pay the price of redemption/forgiveness.
- d. His perfect, but dead life, was raised to life as the first fruits of our resurrection from the dead.
- e. Any attempt to know the Father, other than through Jesus, ultimately fails because imperfect people cannot inherit the kingdom of God, without the forgiveness God offers.

14:8ff

⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The

words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

- a. "show us the Father, and it is enough" – Philip, ever the rationalist Greek, didn't get that God is a consuming fire. Jesus continually taught, that to know Him, was to know the Father!
- b. "Have I been with you so long, and you still..." – By this time, Jesus was exasperated that Philip still did not get it! Good thing the Holy Spirit was coming!
- c. "Do you not believe" – Jesus encouraged Philip to subject his rational mind to faith in Jesus' words.
 - a. **Whatever became of Philip?**
 - i. Missionary instinct: brought Nathanael to know Jesus.
 - ii. Knew how to diffuse skepticism: didn't argue; "Come and see!"
 - iii. Could do math in his head: feeding of the 5000
 - iv. Had a questioning mind and asked out loud: "Show us the Father"
 - v. Common belief: Philip became a great missionary in Asia.

¹² "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me^[9] anything in my name, I will do it. ¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,^[9] to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be^[9] in you.

- a. "Whoever believes in Me will also do the works" – Jesus is preparing His disciples for life after His ascension. They will be able to do what they saw Jesus do: heal the sick, raise the dead, offer forgiveness, etc. He promises:
 - a. "and greater works" – even beyond what Jesus did (imagine that!).
 - b. "Whatever you ask in My name...that the Father may be glorified"
 - c. "in My name, I will do it." –
 - i. The qualifier in praying or "asking," of course, is "in My name."
 - a. No believer will ask for what conflicts with his own faith and standing as a believer.
 - ii. "Whatever" places no limitations on what could be prayed for: spiritual, physical, economic, relational, etc.
- b. "love Me, you will keep My commandments." – "keep" (literally "guard, hold as a treasure, not let others trash it) the Word is designed for loving God and loving your neighbor. Loving Jesus and guarding His Word go hand-in-hand.
 - a. When the God's Word is under assault, Christians must take a stand to preach and teach the Word as ultimate Truth.
 - i. When the Bible is viewed as "containing God's Word."
 - ii. When the Bible is interpreted as "mythology" or out-of-date.
 - iii. When Christianity is demeaned as "an opiate of the masses" (Marxism)

- b. When Christians take the preaching/teaching of the Word for granted or diminish its priority in life, Christians must encourage the highest priority:
 - i. When Christians say, "I've already heard all that; what's new?"
 - ii. When Christians say, "The Bible is out of touch with modern thinking."
 - iii. When Christians doubt the clear Word, because post-modernism denies the existence of any Absolute Truth; rationalism denies miracles; evolutionary science denies a 6-day creation; public health justifies abortion-on-demand;
 - iv. When Christians practice a misuse of the Word, i.e. guilt-tripping people into Christian living: giving more money; claiming spiritual superiority on the basis of special knowledge (Gnosticism) or spiritual gifts; taking verses out of context to provoke a divisive spirit, etc.
- c. "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper...the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive"
 - i. "cannot" – it is impossible for the "world" (carnal mankind without faith in Jesus) to receive the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is only received exclusively by faith in Jesus.
 - 1. **Romans 1:18.** *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth*
 - 2. **Romans 1:21.** *For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*
 - ii. "Helper" – "paraclete" – advocate, friend of the accused
- b. "You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you." – the little, small voice, which speaks 'soul-truth' in the context of the Word.