

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE STUDY

“The Gospel of John”

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Lesson 54: John 14:8 – 31 “Loving Costs...”

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! Jesus is God with skin on!
- b. “**Have I been with you so long, and you still...**” – Jesus’ response indicates a deeper concern for Philip (and the other disciples). It is the issue of:
 - a. “Is Jesus “enough” for you?”
 - b. When people are anxious about life, their focus shifts from having “enough” to not having enough: abundance vs. scarcity!
 - c. Abundance calm = inner peace; making do; God will provide; learning to be content; living within your means; healthy self-respect; seeing to the interests of others & yourself
 - d. Scarcity anxiety = hoarding what you have; resenting others’ who “have,” while feeling hurt by what you don’t “have;” spend like there’s no tomorrow; paralysis by analysis; too anxious to be generous
 - i. Security & safety
 - ii. Health & well being
 - iii. Financial & material
 - iv. Self-Esteem & being lovable
 - e. Scarcity anxiety is like a virus –
 - i. It cannot say “No” to itself.
 - ii. It cannot stop itself.
 - iii. It lives off off/in a host, which has a weakened immune system.
 - iv. It sucks the life out of the host and moves on to someone new.
 - v. It lives in the fear of “not enough,” and cripples courageous action
- 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^[e] 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,^[f] 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^[g] 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 belief in the Word as 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 God as the source of a 6-day creation; the Supreme Court justifies abortion-on-demand; etc.
 - iv. When Christians practice a misuse of the Word, i.e. guilt 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.