

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE STUDY

"The Gospel of John"

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Lesson 55: John 14:18-15:1 "Not as the World Gives"

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

- a. "I will not leave you as orphans" – As Jesus prepared for His crucifixion, death would not hold Him. He would rise again.
- b. "the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me." – After His resurrection, Jesus appeared ONLY to believers. (You would think that, after His resurrection, would be the perfect opportunity to prove He was the Son of God!) Believers "see" Jesus, i.e. trust in His presence, even though we don't "see" Him physically.
- c. "In that day you will know" – Easter morning was the evidence of Jesus' testimony: Jesus is God with skin on!
- d. "has My commandments and keeps them" – guards, cherishes, upholds in the face of threats, persecution, or indifference
- e. "I will love him and manifest Myself to him" – to love and trust in Jesus is equated with loving and trusting in God the Father.
 - a. "manifest Myself to him" – Jesus links the Word (My precepts/commandments) to loving Him. As you love Him, He makes His presence known through the Word.
 - i. The Word of God is described in Lutheran theology, as one of the "means of grace," that is, where the Word is present, there the Holy Spirit creates and sustains faith. To know the Word, is to know Jesus!
 1. John 1:14. *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son^{id} from the Father, full of grace and truth.*
 2. Romans 10:17. *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*
 - ii. This is not to say that Jesus CANNOT reveal Himself, other than through the Word. It is to say that the REVEALED Word gives us the certainty and comfort of grace and faith. Some believers hold to the teaching that Jesus reveals Himself apart from the Word, i.e. special messages, intuitions, emotional high's, etc. These subjective experiences may or may not be from Jesus! No certainty; no comfort!

²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" ²³ Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. ²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

a. "manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" – Judas (Thaddeus) asked the logical question: "How is it that we will see you, but the world won't see you?"

a. One of the perplexing questions, always on the minds of Jesus' followers, was: "Why would you limit your manifestations (after your resurrection) only to those who already believe in you? Why not show up in Pilate's court, the Sanhedrin's meeting hall, and on the streets of Jerusalem?"

b. Those who witnessed His death, and saw Him after His resurrection, would be His evangelists in the world.

i. Acts 1:21-22. So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection."

b. "love Me...keep My Word...we will come to him and make Our home with him." – Loving and trusting Jesus = keeping His Word. The result of that is "our home" is in the believer! The Word guards the faith of the believer!

c. "does not love Me...does not keep my words" – not loving and trusting Jesus = not keeping (guarding, treasuring, obeying) His Word. The absence or the neglect of the Word can starve faith

d. "the Holy Spirit...will teach you all things...and bring to your remembrance all" – the Holy Spirit would be the great 'dot-connector' for the disciples! Not only would He remind them of Jesus' teachings, but He would empower them to preach and teach with the authority of the Spirit.

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

²⁹ And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹ but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.

a. "Peace I leave...My peace I give" – Distinguished from a subjective feeling of peacefulness, Jesus asserts a peace, which He alone can give ("My"). It is a condition, in which your forgiven relationship with God cannot be extinguished. Forgiveness flows out of God's mercy and grace to us, accepted through faith in Jesus. Peacefulness, as a feeling, flows out of "Peace" with God, as a reality!

- b. "Not as the world gives" – How does the world give?
- Temporarily, based on the right conditions.
 - Transactional, based on what you are willing to trade or pay
 - With skepticism, based on previous worldly promises, which didn't deliver
 - Temporal, not eternal
 - Sinful nature based; not new creation based
 - What have you done for me lately?
 - Fairness over mercy
 - Vengeance over forgiveness
 - Pride over repentance
- c. "Let...hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid?" – "afraid" – troubling fears and dismay) – In other words, Jesus is saying, "I have made peace with God on your behalf. Therefore, do not give in to fear or dismay, as if to think that God has stopped loving, forgiving, or blessing you."
- d. "the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on Me." – Satan will have his way with Me, but it is all in the Father's plan.
- Genesis 3:14-15. The LORD God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring^[a] and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

Rise, let us go from here.