

# THE JESUS YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW

## Seeing Jesus in John's Gospel

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### Lesson 7: The King Prepares His Disciples

#### INTRODUCTION



John Chapters 13–17 record the final evening Jesus spends with His disciples before the cross. Instead of organizing an escape or defending Himself, He prepares their hearts. He speaks about humility, love, betrayal, the coming of the Holy Spirit, trouble in the world, and the certainty of victory. Reading and understanding these

chapters will help you to know what matters most to Jesus.

#### READ JOHN CHAPTERS 13-17

##### A. The Importance of Humility — John 13:1–17

Knowing He had come from the Father and was returning to the Father, Jesus took the position of a servant and washed the disciples' feet. Peter struggled to accept such humility, but Jesus explained that cleansing and fellowship with Him require receiving His grace. The acted parable redefines greatness: leaders in Christ's kingdom stoop to serve.

##### B. What Authentic Discipleship Looks Like — John 13:18–38

During the meal Jesus identified the reality of betrayal and the weakness that would soon surface in Peter. Yet in the shadow of treachery He issued a new commandment: His followers must love one another in the same self-giving way He has loved them. Their relationships would become the visible badge of authentic discipleship.

##### C. Replace Anxiety with Trust — John 14:1–31

Jesus addressed their anxiety by calling them to trust in God and in Him. He promised a prepared place in the Father's house and declared Himself the only way to the Father. To ensure they would not be abandoned, He pledged the coming of the Holy Spirit, who would teach, remind, and bring His peace.

#### **D. Stay Connected to Jesus — John 15:1–27**

Using the image of a vine and branches, Jesus taught that spiritual life and productivity flow from continual connection to Him. The Father lovingly prunes so that fruit increases. At the same time, disciples must expect hostility, because the world that rejected Christ will also resist those who belong to Him.

#### **E. Difficult Times are Only Temporary -- John 16:1–33**

Jesus prepared them for confusion and grief surrounding His death but promised that sorrow would be transformed into lasting joy. The Spirit would continue His ministry by guiding them into truth and magnifying Christ. Though trouble is unavoidable, believers can live with courage because Jesus has overcome the world.

#### **F. The Last Prayer of Jesus — John 17:1–26**

Jesus turned from instruction to intercession. He prayed for the Father's glory to be displayed through the completion of His mission, for the protection and sanctification of His disciples, and for the unity of all future believers. Their oneness would testify to the reality of who He is.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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1. What point was Jesus making by washing the disciples' feet? (Hint: see John 13:12-15).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What specific characteristic will people recognize when they see true followers of Jesus? (Hint: see John 13:34-25).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What Instruction does Jesus give to his followers when they are feeling troubled? (Hint: see John 14:1-3)

4. What is “spiritual fruit” and what is necessary to produce it? (Hint: See John 15:1-5).

5. Briefly describe at least three things that mean the most to you when reading Jesus’ prayer in chapter 17?

## **SUMMARY**

On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus gathered with His disciples in an upper room to prepare them for His departure. He shocked them by washing their feet, showing that true greatness in His kingdom is expressed through humble, sacrificial love.

During the meal He revealed that Judas would betray Him and foretold Peter’s coming denial, yet He continued to love them to the end. Jesus urged their troubled hearts to trust Him, promising that He was going to prepare a place for them and that He would come again. He explained that He is the way to the Father and promised to send the Holy Spirit to teach, guide, and remain with them.

Using the picture of a vine and branches, Jesus taught that lasting fruitfulness comes only by abiding in Him. He warned that the world would hate them as it hated Him but assured them that their sorrow would turn to joy and that He had overcome the world.

Finally, Jesus prayed to the Father for Himself, for the disciples, and for all future believers, asking for protection, holiness, and unity. He concluded by expressing His desire that His followers would one day be with Him and see His glory.

## **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

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Describe three practical ways we as Christians can apply John Chapters 13—17:

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