

July 26, 2020



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Wisdom to Follow John 14:1-14

Lesson Background and Introduction

Our lesson text comes near the beginning of the chapters in John's Gospel that focus on Jesus' words and actions on the night before His crucifixion (John 13-18). Much of this material is Jesus' private teaching to His followers. Hanging over the discourse is the shadow of Jesus' looming crucifixion (John 13:1). By what seems to be Satan's defeat of Jesus (13:21-27; 19:16-30), is actually Jesus' defeat of Satan. Though Jesus would no longer be present as He had been, His followers would not be alone, for Jesus promised to send God's Holy Spirit (14:16, 17, 26). By the Spirit's power, they would continue the work that God had begun in Jesus (16:7-14). This section of John begins as Jesus washed His disciples' feet. This was to show them, in part, that in His death He, their Lord, would be serving them (John 13:1-17). As Jesus brought His teaching to a close, He prayed for His followers, asking the Father especially that they be unified as He and the Father are unified (17:6-26). As Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, He was willingly surrendering to a death that would free His disciples from the guilt of sin (18:2-9). In Jesus of Nazareth, we indeed see God! Fully human and fully divine, Jesus spoke and acted with authority that belongs to God alone. For this reason, His followers came to understand that God was personally present in Jesus. The God who is incarnate in Jesus is patient, as Jesus was patient with His disciples. He is just, as Jesus was just with the mighty and the lowly. He is gracious, generous, and merciful beyond comparison, as Jesus willingly gave His life for the unworthy, even for His enemies. To know Jesus is to know God. To reject Jesus is to reject God. To follow God's path of wisdom is to follow in the path of Jesus, to love and serve as He did.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Trusting in Jesus - At His last supper with His disciples, Jesus announced His departure and plan to return to His Father in heaven. This caused great anxiety for the disciples and troubled hearts. Therefore, Jesus offered encouraging words and promised to calm their fears. He talked about firmly placing trust in Him. He spoke about God's plans for their future once He departed. He assured them they would one day be in the Father's house with Him. He promised plenty of rooms for everyone who believes in Him. With great love, Jesus is even now preparing a home for God's children. These verses are also teaching about an anticipated time when Jesus ultimately returns at the end of the age when all believers will gather together in heaven, united with Christ.

Asking Questions - All the disciples were probably perplexed by this information. Thomas bravely asked Jesus a question: Where exactly are you going, and how do we get there? Jesus emphatically stated, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6, KJV). He is not a map or a signpost pointing in the direction of heaven, but the true causeway that leads to heaven and eternal life. Then Phillip asked Jesus to show the disciples the Father. Jesus, once again, attempted to explain the connection between God the Father and God the Son: they are the same in essence. Jesus came to earth to display the Father's love, mercy, and goodness, His very nature. Jesus entirely depended on God for each step of His ministry and existence on the earth. The power displayed through Jesus came only under God's authority and His ability.

Living for Jesus - Jesus offered the disciples more information. First, He said, God's work will continue. Amazing things will be done through Jesus' followers. Second, His followers can ask anything in His name. Tacking on "in Jesus' name" to the end of a prayer is not a magic formula, guaranteeing God's answers. What we ask in His name must be in His will and glorify the Father. A wise person searches out these statements and claims of Jesus and sees the truth in them. The fool dismisses Him and ignores the truth.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
God asks His children to follow the Leader

HYMN FOR THE WEEK:
In fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet, Or we'll walk by His side in the way; What He says we will do, where He sends we will go; Never fear, only trust and obey.
—Sammis

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
At the command of the Lord they remained encamped, and at the command of the Lord they journeyed; they kept the charge of the Lord, at the command of the Lord by the hand of Moses
(Num 9:23 NKJV)
(from "Our Daily Bread", Aug 19, 2014)

Series: Many Faces of Wisdom

UNIT: Faith and Wisdom in James

NEXT WEEK

Faith and Wisdom (James 1:1-11)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Follow the Way to God (John 14:1-6)

The method (1)

- Method of looking to the Son and believing in Him (John 6:40)
- Method of the precious blood of Jesus (1 Peter 1:17-21)
- Method of belief in Jesus that removes condemnation (John 3:18)
- Method of belief in the gospel of salvation (Eph 1:13)

The preparation (2-3)

- Preparation for a later following of Jesus (John 13:36)
- Preparation for being where Jesus is and the seeing of Jesus' glory (John 17:24)
- Preparation by entering the inner sanctuary on behalf of believers (Heb 6:19-20)
- Preparation of a heavenly home (Heb 11:13-16)
- Preparation of a new Holy City for the Church (Rev 21:2-3)

The proclamation (4-6)

- Proclamation of being the gate (John 10:9)
- Proclamation of being the only Name by which believers can be saved (Acts 4:12)
- Proclamation of being the access to God's grace (Rom 5:1-3)
- Proclamation of being the access to God and the Holy Spirit (Eph 2:18)
- Proclamation of being the new and living way into the Most Holy Place (Heb 10:19-22)

Follow the Truth of the Relationship between the Son and the Father (John 14:7-11)

Knowing the Father is knowing the Son (7-8)

- Knowing Jesus is the way of knowing God (John 8:19)
- Knowing God and Jesus is having eternal life (John 17:3)
- Knowing that Jesus is the image of God (Col 1:15)
- Knowing that Jesus is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of God's being (Heb 1:3)
- Jesus made God known to show God's love (John 17:26)

Seeing the Father is seeing the Son (9)

- Seeing Jesus is seeing the One who sent Him (John 12:45)
- Seeing Jesus makes God known (John 1:18)
- Jesus is the only One who has seen God (John 6:46)
- Satan has blinded unbelievers from seeing Jesus for who He is (2 Cor 4:4)

Believing in Jesus is believing in the Son (10-11)

- Believing in Jesus and God by being indwelt by Them (John 17:21)
- Believing that there is only one God and Son and that Jesus is the Son (1 Cor 8:6)
- Believing Jesus is God by acknowledging Him as such (1 John 2:23)
- Believing by honoring Jesus as God (John 5:23)
- Believing in Jesus means believing in God also (John 12:44)

Follow the Life in the Glory of the Father (John 14:12-14)

Greater works (12)

- Greater works of healings (Acts 5:15)
- Greater works of faith (Matt 21:21)
- Greater works through spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:7-11)
- Greater works through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Acts 2:3-12)

Answered prayer (13-14)

- Answered prayer through asking in the Name of Jesus (John 16:22-24)
- Answered prayer for wisdom (James 1:5)
- Answered prayer through being righteous (James 5:16-18)
- Answered prayer through obedience (1 John 3:21-22)
- Answered prayer through asking according to God's will (1 John 5:13-15)