

Jan 24, 2021



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

When Jesus called those men to follow Him, He wanted them to be with Him and to teach the good news of the kingdom of God

COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:

Jesus is still calling His followers to this simple, yet powerful process of discipleship, being with Him, following His instructions, and living His example

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach

(Mark 3:14 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Oct 01, 2010)

Series: Call in the New Testament

UNIT 3: The Call of Women

NEXT WEEK

Called to Prophecy
(Luke 2:36-39; Acts 2:16-21; Acts 21:8-9)

Called for the World's Belief John 17:14-24

Lesson Background and Introduction

Matthew 26:36-44; Mark 14:32-40; and Luke 22:39-46 give brief accounts of Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. Their focus is on his agonized petition that he might be spared the crucifixion. John's Gospel, by contrast, doesn't include that prayer. Instead, it features Jesus' lengthy and detailed prayer for his disciples. That prayer comes at the end of a lengthy section known as the Farewell Address (John 13-17), the longest recorded speech by Jesus. After washing the disciples' feet and dismissing Judas into the night (13:1-30), Jesus told his confused followers that he would not be with them much longer (13:33). He gave them a "new command" to be followed after his departure from the world: "As I have loved you, ... love one another" (13:34). The remainder of Jesus' goodbye speech builds on this theme by explaining how God would express his love for the disciples (examples: John 14:8-21; 15:26-27; 16:5-15), why "the world" would hate them (example: 15:18-25), what it means for Christians to love one another, and why it was essential to do so (17:20-24). Our passage for today highlights several key themes that run through John's Gospel, two of which are particularly significant. First, Jesus stresses his own oneness with the Father. Christ demonstrated this unity through absolute obedience to God the Father in his resolve to fulfill the Father's mission of offering salvation. Jesus asked his heavenly Father to equip the disciples in certain ways so they could continue his work. Second, Jesus presented his relationship with the Father as a model for the way His disciples should relate to one another. Christians are to be completely united with both Christ and one another so that Christ's mission can continue through the work of the church.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Jesus, God's Spokesman - Jesus told all people precisely what the Father wanted to communicate about Himself. Now this task belongs to Christ's followers. Jesus prayed for His disciples not to isolate themselves as they faced difficult challenges. God's children are His lights in society, being used by God to shine His light into utter darkness and chaos. Believers represent His wisdom, truth, and love. Jesus also prayed for their protection from the evil one, Satan. Many temptations lure Christians, and they are in danger of being overcome by them, but Jesus prayed for their strength and for their pattern of behavior to be like His—walk in obedience to the Father, rely upon His authority, and reflect His character. God does not just say to Christians, "Get the job done, however you can." Instead, He lovingly invites His children into the vineyard to work for and with Him, holding up Jesus as an example, and with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Unity and Love - Jesus prayed for future believers to worship together as one family. The foundation of this unity is in the relationship between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each Person in the Trinity is completely unified with the other. With unity comes love. God sent His Son to die for us, and Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross proclaimed to the world, "God loves you!" (John 3:16).

The Mandate Today - Loving one another and standing together in unity is often difficult for Christians. Students of the Bible, even scholars, interpret specific biblical passages differently. Sometimes, the intensity of the arguments causes church splits and denominational discord. When opposing parties can come together, forgive, and be loving toward one another, in Christ's name and for His sake, this sends a strong message to the world that we are one as God in the Trinity is one.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

World's Belief through the Disciples (John 17:14-19)

Kept from the world (14-16)

- Kept through God's Word (John 17:8)
- Kept through being chosen (John 15:19)
- Kept through knowing God and listening to Him (1 John 4:6)
- Kept through being a child of God (1 John 5:19-20)
- Kept through God's protection (Ps 121:7)
- Kept through God's deliverance (Matt 6:13)
- Kept through God's faithfulness (2 Thess 3:3)

Sanctified through truth (17-19)

- Sanctified through the knowledge of the truth (John 8:32)
- Sanctified through being cleansed by God's Word (John 15:3)
- Sanctified through faith (Acts 15:8-9)
- Sanctified through being transformed (2 Cor 3:18)
- Sanctified through the washing of God's Word (Eph 5:26)
- Sanctified through the Holy Spirit (2 Thess 2:13)
- Sanctified through obeying the truth (1 Peter 1:22-23)

World's Belief through the Church (John 17:20-24)

Belief in the Word (20)

- Through acceptance of the Word (Acts 2:41)
- Through belief in the testimony of the Word (John 19:35)
- Through the knowledge and understanding of the Word (1 John 5:20)
- Through the hearing and believing of the Word (John 5:24)
- Through the Word of eternal life (John 6:68)

Unity through the Church (21-23)

- Unity through belonging to one another (Rom 12:5)
- Unity in mind and thought (1 Cor 1:10)
- Unity through being one in Jesus Christ (Gal 3:28)
- Unity through the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:3-6)
- Unity through being united with Jesus Christ (Phil 2:1-2)
- Unity through being God's chosen people (Col 3:12-14)

Future with Jesus in heaven (24)

- In heaven because of being faithful (Matt 25:21)
- In heaven because of serving Jesus (John 12:26)
- In heaven because Jesus is preparing it for us (John 14:3)
- In heaven because of being raptured (1 Thess 4:17)
- In heaven because of overcoming (Rev 3:21)