

COMMENTARY

Gospel of John Chapter 15:

vs. 1-17:

Jesus begins this discourse, on the night of His arrest, by showing the special relationship that He enjoyed with the Father and was to be with the disciples and followers of Him. He is the vine and source of life. Those who desire life, must become a part of Him. Then they will be able to produce fruit in their lives. This fruit can be through evangelism or the developing of a Christlike life. The Father is the husbandman, who cares for the vine and branches, seeing that they are nurtured so that they will be the most productive. We find that those that fail to bear fruit, or become what Jesus expects, are cut off and are to be burned. Even the fruitful go through the pruning experience, to make them more productive. This pruning procedure would represent the trials and troubles in life which teach us to have greater faith in Christ and show us areas of weakness where we need to grow.

Jesus speaks of asking for whatever we wish, and it will be given. This needs to be considered in light of James 4:1-3 and other passages that show that we must be living for Christ and be seeking His Kingdom.

Jesus speaks of the love that exists between Him, the Father and believers. This love is great and is demonstrated by the fact that one was willing to lay down His life for others. Christians express their love through their obedience to God and His commands. Jesus calls His disciples, friends. He says this because He had explained all that He had done and was going to do; showing them that He was accomplishing the will of God. He had chosen them especially for the task of bearing fruit through righteous living and proclaiming God's message of love.

vs. 18-27

Jesus has shown His followers the love that they enjoy and can look forward to from God and Himself. He now warns them that their reception from the world is going to be a totally different experience. Since those in the world don't want their evil exposed they rejected Jesus and they will reject all who carry forth the message of Christ. There will be some in the world who will accept those proclaiming God's message and that is because they have accepted the one that God has sent and have a desire to do what God would have them to do.

Jesus explains that the Counselor [Holy Spirit] will come and testify that Jesus is from God and that He accomplished God's will. They are to accept this testimony and also be witnesses and proclaimers of all that they have seen and heard concerning Jesus.

COMMENTARY

Gospel of John Chapter 16:

vs. 1- 4

Jesus is continuing His discourse as the chapter begins. Jesus speaks of the actions that some of the world will take toward His followers. He tells them that they will be received like this because these same people have no love for God or His Son.

vs. 5-16

Jesus speaks of His going to the Father, and sending one to take His place in the lives of His disciples. The Counselor [Holy Spirit] would convict the world of guilt and make clear the shortcomings of man in regards to sin, righteousness and judgement. Man has fallen short by rejecting Christ. This keeps them from being able to be with God, because God cannot tolerate wickedness. This is the reason that Satan [Prince of this world], will be condemned and punished for eternity. The Spirit also guides Christ's followers into the truth and will declare the will of God.

Jesus speaks of not seeing the disciples in a little while [his death and burial], and then seeing them again [His resurrection and appearances].

vs. 17-33

The disciples, who are confused about His leaving and coming, discuss it among themselves. Jesus, knowing what is on their minds, discusses the matter with them. He declares that they will mourn and weep [at His death] and the world will rejoice, thinking that they have destroyed Him. In reality, Jesus will rise from the dead, creating more joy and hope among His disciples than the amount of anguish His death had caused. Then, He says, He will clearly reveal to them all of God's will and they will be able to ask for anything [see comments on Ch. 15 about prayer] and they will receive.

Jesus declares that the day will come shortly where He will declare plainly the message of God and that He is going to be returning to the Father.

The disciples become convinced by His reading of their minds and knowing what was on their hearts and feel like they are beginning to understand. Even now, Jesus tells them that they will be scattered and will desert Him, but consoles them with the fact that God will be with Him.

Jesus explains that He has told them all of this, so that they would find peace in Him and hope, realizing that He has overcome the world.

STUDY GUIDE

Gospel of John Chapter 15:

1. What does the Father do to the branches and why?
2. What happens to those who remain in the vine?
3. What happens to those who do not remain in Christ?
4. What 2 conditions must be met, if we want to ask whatever we wish, from Jesus?
5. How are we to love each other?
6. What is there no greater love than?
7. Why did Jesus consider the disciples friends and not servants?
8. According to verse 20, how will people respond to Christians?
9. If Jesus had not come and spoken, what would man not be guilty of?
10. What will the Counselor testify about?

BONUS:

1. What does the picture of God trimming the vine, mean to you?
2. What does being a friend of Jesus, compared to a servant of Jesus, mean to you? Are we to be one or the other, or both?
3. Explain how you feel the world treats Christians, today.

STUDY GUIDE

Gospel of John Chapter 16:

1. Why will people kill Christians and try to cut them off from society? (according to verse 3)
2. What did Jesus promise to send when He left them?
3. In regard to what 3 things, would the Comforter convict the world of guilt?
4. Name the 3 reasons that Jesus gives, as to why the Comforter will convict in regard to these 3 items.
5. What does the Spirit of truth do, now that He has come?
6. What would the disciples do, while the world rejoiced?
7. What would be the result when Jesus would see them again? (according to verse 22)
8. According to verse 23, what would the Father give the disciples?
9. Why does the Father love the followers of Jesus?
10. Why would Christ be left alone, except for the Father?
11. Even though we have trouble, why should we take heart?

BONUS:

1. How have you seen the Counselor work, in our day and age?
2. Tell how Christ's overcoming the world, should help Christians to take heart.