

The Gospel According to John-

Our final week in the Gospel according to John picks up in the middle of our Lord's last night with His disciples. His teachings to them are packed full of wisdom, encouragement, warnings and commands. As we move past that night and into the Jesus' accomplishment on the cross, we find His passion being displayed and His power manifested in the resurrection. As we absorb the Lord's nourishment found in these chapters, may we find ourselves growing and producing much fruit in right response to His words of life as we act upon the words of Jesus, the risen Lord!

Helpful Study Links:

Additional Commentary: (Great Resource!)
http://preceptaustin.org/john_commentaries.htm

Helpful Bible Survey Resource:

Explore The Book by J. Sidlow Baxter

Commentary:

The commentary used with permission throughout this booklet is

With the Word Bible Commentary
by Warren W. Wiersbe.
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Daily Bible Study

Thursday, July 16th, 2008

Passage for today: John 15

Questions to Ponder

1. In His “I am the Vine” speech, Jesus speaks much of *abiding*. What does that mean and why is it vital for producing fruit? How does this apply to you today?
2. Jesus also spoke here of the world’s hate for Him and His followers. How might these words have helped the disciples hold fast as they endured the hatred and persecution they were to receive after His departure?
3. From what we see in this chapter, what would you say the life of a disciple is to look like? What are the benefits, responsibilities and hardships that go along with being a disciple of Christ? Applications?

With the word Bible Commentary

John 15

His life (1–8). A branch is good for only one thing—bearing fruit. It may be weak in itself, but it has a living relationship with the vine and can be productive. To abide in Christ means to be in communion with Him so that our lives please Him. We know that we are abiding when the Father prunes us, cutting away the good so that we can produce the best. We glorify God with fruit, more fruit, much fruit.

His love (9–17). Abiding depends on obeying, and obeying depends on loving. Love and joy go together and make it easy for us to obey His will. We should love Him, love His will, and love one another. Note the “fruit of the Spirit”: love (v. 10), joy (v. 11), and peace (14:27; Gal. 5:22).

His name (18–27). We enjoy the love of Christ and of the brethren, but we also must endure the hatred of the world for His name’s sake. The more we are like Christ, the more the world system will oppose us. Depend on the Spirit’s power and you will be a fruitful, faithful Christian (vv. 26–27).

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Jn 15:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Friday, July 17th, 2008

Passage for today: John 16

Questions to Ponder

1. In many ways, Jesus is preparing His disciples for what life in the world will be like without Him. What things does Jesus tell them (and us) to expect—and not expect—from the world? Why?
2. What do we see of the Holy Spirit here? What functions of the Helper are highlighted? Seeing that the surrounding verses deal much with sorrow and suffering, how would these words about Him be encouraging realities to the disciples after the ascension of Jesus?
3. Note verse 33. These are His last words recorded by John before the cross. Why are they significant? How do they apply to your life today?

With the word Bible Commentary

John 16

The world's opposition (1–15). The Lord warned them about the opposition that would come. Do not be surprised when you are persecuted by religious people (v. 2), for this has been going on ever since Cain killed Abel (Gen. 4; Luke 11:47–51). The Spirit helps us witness to the world and glorify Christ before the world (Acts 4:8ff.), so depend on Him.

The world's joy (16–24). When Jesus was arrested, crucified, and buried, the world system rejoiced because their Enemy was out of the way. But today He is alive, and we have every reason to rejoice! The Lord does not *replace* our sorrow with joy; He *transforms* our sorrow into joy. The same baby that gives the mother pain also gives her joy. The world's joy does not last, but the believer's joy is forever (Ps. 16:11).

The world's defeat (25–33). In the next few hours, the disciples would watch their world fall apart; and yet Jesus assured them that He was the winner. “I have overcome the world” is a fact, not a promise, and it applies to us today. We are overcomers through Him (1 John 5:1–5).

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary (Jn 16:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Saturday, July 19th, 2008

Passage for today: John 17

Questions to Ponder

1. Considering all that was to take place in the hours following what we see here, what pressures might Jesus have been facing at the time? How significant is it that we find Him praying to the Father in a time such as this?
2. Look through the prayer and seek to list the things that Jesus prays for. Jesus was about to undergo intense opposition and pressure and yet we find Him praying for His followers and for the glory of the Father. How might this apply to our own lives?
3. In Jesus' prayer, we find much about being one. What does that mean? How does it happen? Why does Jesus pray for it? Today, do you share Jesus' heart for being one? Explain.

With the word Bible Commentary

John 17

In this, his high priestly prayer, Jesus prayed for Himself (vv. 1–5), His disciples (vv. 6–19), and all of His church (vv. 20–26).

The prayer reveals our Lord's spiritual priorities: glorifying the Father (v. 1), the unity of the church (vv. 21–23), the sanctity of the church (v. 17), and the winning of a lost world (vv. 18–19). Are these priorities in your life?

It also reveals the gifts He has given His people: eternal life (vv. 2–3), the Word (vv. 8, 14), and His glory (v. 22). But note that believers are the Father's gift to Him (vv. 2, 6, 9, 11–12), just as Jesus is the Father's love gift to us (3:16). It is all of grace!

The word *world* appears nineteen times in this prayer, for this prayer tells us how to "overcome the world" (16:33). We must seek God's glory first (vv. 1–5), experience His joy (v. 13), be sanctified by the Word (v. 17), seek to win the lost (vv. 18–19), and encourage the unity of God's people (vv. 20–23).

Glory is another key word. Christ laid aside His glory to come to earth (v. 5b), glorified God on earth (v. 4), and was glorified when He returned to heaven (v. 5a). Christ is glorified in His church (v. 10) and has shared His glory with the church (vv. 22, 24). We already have the glory; we are just waiting for it to be fully revealed (Rom. 8:18–21, 30). The Scottish Reformer John Knox had this prayer read to him daily during his last illness. But you would benefit by starting now to read it and meditate on it. What a treasury of truth it is!

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Jn 17:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Sunday, July 20th, 2008

Passage for today: John 18

Questions to Ponder

1. Here we see Jesus enter into the final portion of His incarnate ministry. What is His attitude? How would you describe the various encounters that He has in this chapter? What do we learn from each of His encounters that points to Him being the Christ, the Son of God?
2. Peter's betrayals are recorded here. What do you suppose caused him to be moved to such acts? Can you relate to him in any way? Explain.
3. Note Pilate's words and attitude toward the Lord. What was it that kept him from believing in Jesus as the King of Jews? What kept him from acting according to the truth? How might this apply to our lives today?

With the word Bible Commentary

John 18

Judas depended on the strength of numbers, Peter on the strength of his arm, Annas and Caiaphas on the strength of their position, but Jesus on the strength of love and devotion to the Father. Jesus had a cup in His hand, not a sword, but that cup was His scepter. He was in complete control.

On the other hand, Peter fought when he should have yielded and followed when he should have fled. Yielding and fleeing looked like defeat, but they were the Father's will; and Peter should have obeyed. While Jesus was giving His witness to the high priest, Peter was denying the Lord. Which was the successful witness, Peter or Jesus?

As a Roman governor, Pilate was worried about the threat of another kingdom. Verse 36 is certainly a rebuke to believers who follow the example of Peter. At Pentecost, Peter wielded the sword of the Spirit and won a victory.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Jn 18:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Monday, July 21st, 2008

Passage for today: John 19

Questions to Ponder

1. This chapter shows us the condemnation and crucifixion of Jesus. Looking at the crucifixion, what details of it does this account of the gospel point out? How much (or little) emphasis is put on Jesus' death? Why? What do the details seen here show us about Jesus? How might they act to further prove that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God?
2. Again, note Pilate's dilemma. Why did he do the things we see him do here? Also note the actions of the Jews. What was driving them? Applications?
3. John often pointed back to the Scriptures to back up the events and words that he recollected and wrote about. How might we apply this to our own lives today?

With the word Bible Commentary

John 19

The crown (1–16). Jesus and Pilate had been talking about a kingdom, so it was only right that the King have a crown. It was meant for mockery, but it preached a message, for Jesus was wearing the consequences of Adam's sins (Gen. 3:17–19). But a crown is a sign of victory. He has overcome!

The cross (17–27). Jesus started out bearing His own cross, but then Simon was drafted to carry it for Him (Mark 15:21). We are not told why, although tradition says that Jesus fell and could not carry it. Considering all He had been through, that is not difficult to believe. Criminals carried the cross as a sign of guilt, *and Jesus was not guilty!*

The conquest (28–42). "It is finished!" was the cry of a conqueror. Jesus accomplished what all of the old covenant sacrifices could not do (Heb. 10:1–18). The prophecies and types were fulfilled and the sacrifice for sins made once and for all forever. It was not a martyr that Joseph and Nicodemus put into the tomb; it was a victor.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Jn 19:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Tuesday, July 22nd, 2008

Passage for today: John 20

Questions to Ponder

1. This chapter displays for us some of the key encounters with the risen Lord, Jesus. Why do you suppose John wrote only of these encounters? How do they show Jesus being the Messiah, the Son of God? What makes the resurrection of Jesus so important?
2. The angels and Jesus asked, "...Why are you crying?" Why did they ask such a question? What did they know that the followers of Jesus did not know at this time? Why is this significant?
3. What significant things does Jesus say in this chapter? How do these things apply to your life today?

With the word Bible Commentary

John 20

Confusion (1–10). Mary jumped to conclusions and soon had Peter and John on the run. They were busy, but they had nothing to say and were accomplishing little. They saw the evidence for the Resurrection, but it did not change their lives. They needed a meeting with the living Christ.

Love (11–18). Unbelief blinds our eyes to the Lord's presence. When He speaks His word to us, faith and love are rekindled. Mary was changed from a mourner to a missionary when she met the living Lord.

Peace (19–23). Locked doors will not give you peace, nor will they keep out your loving Savior. He comes with the message of peace based on His sacrifice on the cross (v. 20; Rom. 5:1).

Faith (24–31). The Lord tenderly deals with our doubts and unbelief. We today cannot see Him or feel His wounds, but we have the Word of God to assure us (vv. 9, 30–31). When your faith falters, do not ask for signs. Open His Word and let Him reassure you.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Jn 20:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Wednesday, July 23rd, 2008

Passage for today: **John 21**

Questions to Ponder

1. John 21 closes John's account of the good news by showing us the manifestation of Jesus at the Sea of Tiberias. Why did God chose to end the book in this way? What does this chapter say to us concerning Jesus being the Messiah, the Son of God?
2. In light of all that Peter had gone through with Jesus (especially in Jesus' last days), how do you think he might have felt leading up to this day? How does Jesus deal with him? Why is this important? Applications?

With the word Bible Commentary

John 21

Jesus the Stranger (1–4). When Peter returned to the old life, he took six other men with him. Their work was in vain (15:5) because the Lord was not with them. How kind He is to come to us when we have disobeyed Him and have failed in our work!

Jesus the Master (5–8). When Jesus takes charge, failure is turned into success; and the difference was only the width of the ship! You never know how close you are to victory, so admit your failure and obey what He tells you to do. He never fails.

Jesus the Host (9–14). It took six men to drag the net (v. 8), but Peter did it alone when Jesus gave the orders (v. 11). We should always remember that “God’s commandment is God’s enablement.” Did the fire of coals remind Peter of his denials (18:18ff.)? Did the miraculous catch of fish remind him of his call to service (Luke 5:1–11)? How kind of Jesus to feed Peter before dealing with him about his sins!

Jesus the Shepherd (15–17). The most important thing in ministry is loving Christ, for all ministry flows from that. Peter the fisherman was also to be a shepherd and care for the lambs and sheep.

Jesus the Lord (18–25). By saying, “Follow Me,” Jesus reinstated Peter as an apostle. But Peter turned around and took his eyes off the Lord (Matt. 14:30), and Jesus had to rebuke him. The next time you are tempted to meddle in somebody else’s ministry, ponder Christ’s words: “What is that to you? You follow Me!” (v. 22).

Peter followed the Lord right into the excitement of the book of Acts!

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Jn 21:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson

Outline

- I. The Incarnation of the Son of God (1:1–18)
- II. The Presentation of the Son of God (1:19–4:54)
- III. The Opposition to the Son of God (5:1–12:50)
- IV. The Preparation of the Disciples by the Son of God (13:1–17:26)
- V. The Execution of the Son of God (18:1–19:37)
- VI. The Resurrection of the Son of God (19:38–21:23)
- VII. Conclusion (21:24, 25)

This Weeks Detail Outline

- IV. The Preparation of the Disciples by the Son of God (13:1–17:26)
 - B. On the Way to the Garden (15:1–17:26)
 - 1. Interceding with the Father (17:1–26)
- V. The Execution of the Son of God (18:1–19:37)
 - A. The Rejection of Christ (18:1–19:16)
 - 1. His arrest (18:1–11)
 - 2. His trials (18:12–19:16)
 - B. The Crucifixion of Christ (19:17–37)
- VI. The Resurrection of the Son of God (19:38–21:23)
 - A. The Burial of Christ (19:38–42)
 - B. The Resurrection of Christ (20:1–10)
 - C. The Appearances of Christ (20:11–21:23)
 - 1. To Mary Magdalene (20:11–18)
 - 2. To the disciples without Thomas (20:19–25)
 - 3. To the disciples with Thomas (20:26–29)
 - 4. Statement of purpose for the Gospel (20:30, 31)
 - 5. To the disciples (21:1–14)
 - 6. To Peter (21:15–23)
- VII. Conclusion (21:24, 25)

John 17 Notes

Judas the Lost: Judas was not a saved man, even though he was one of the Twelve. He never believed in Jesus (6:66–71) and therefore was never washed from his sins (13:11). He was not chosen by Christ (13:18) and therefore not kept (17:12). Judas is a frightening example of how near one can get to the kingdom and still be lost.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary (Jn 17:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

John 19 Notes

Our Final Payment: *The Greek word translated “It is finished!” was a familiar word in that day. Bankers used it when the final payment had been made on a debt. Jesus completely paid the debt we owed, and it will be remembered against us no more forever. Hallelujah, what a Savior!*

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary (Jn 19:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you [John 15:18–19].

Notice what will happen if you are a child of God. The world will hate you. I believe that a Christian’s popularity can be an indication of how he is representing Christ to the world. I do not believe a Christian can be popular in the world. No Christian has any right to be more popular than Jesus was. Beware of a compromising position in order to be popular. The world will not love a real child of God. The world will love you if you are of the world. You don’t have to act oddly or be superpious. The world will hate you if you are a child of God. This is difficult, especially for young people who want so much to be popular. Let’s tell our young people what the Lord says. They are not going to be popular with the world if they are the children of God.

Unfortunately, there are folk in the church today who are not honestly born-again, and they will also hate you if you are a child of God. They will hate the preacher if he is true to the Word of God.

May I say again, beware of the Christian who is popular with the world.

McGee, J. Vernon: *Thru the Bible Commentary: The Gospels (John 11-21)*. electronic ed. Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 1991 (Thru the Bible Commentary 39), S. 101

“I Am Not.”

John 18:17

It is interesting that John notes this “other disciple” hearing Peter’s first denial. How humbling for Peter and how disheartening for this other disciple to hear Peter say the words! It would have been shaming enough for Peter had he denied Christ away from the hearing of all the others whom he had walked beside as disciples of Christ. But here Peter denies Jesus before one of his fellow comrades. This brings to mind one of the stories found in *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs*. The story goes something like this. There were two couples who were engaged to be married. They were both apprehended by some who sought to get them to renounce their belief in Christ. The men of the two couples both denied Jesus as their Savior in order to save themselves from death at the hands of their persecutors. The women of the two couples held fast to their confession. Oh, the shame that the men must have endured after seeing their future wives stand firm in faith to the death while they denied Christ and were allowed to live! And how broken-hearted the women must have been to see their fiancés give up that which they could not earn for something that, in the end, they could not keep. Let us not be quick to judge these two, nor our brother, Peter. Let us instead take heed to their faltering and be humbled by our own ability to do the same. May we instead cry out to the Lord that He might pour out His grace upon us that we might hold fast to the confession of our faith in times when we might easily be moved to deny Him! Lord Jesus, give us grace to say, “I am.”

WHAT IS TRUTH?

John 18:38

Pilate asked Jesus, “What is truth?” This is a good question. And when we look at Pilate we have to wonder if he was asking it in sincerity, or was he being sarcastic? We know that he was a man on the hot seat. He was a man in politics. Could it be that like many of our politicians today that he might have lost touch with the concept

of truth? We know that he definitely hold fast to acting out of it. Pilate found nothing wrong in Jesus, and yet he beat Him and troubled Him all because of what worked best for his political career. We find this happening much in our country and in the world today. Many know the truth and yet they do not stand upon it. They falter when pressures mount. They compromise when they can benefit from doing so or when not doing so might hurt their reputation. Jesus is the King. And yet He made Himself of no reputation. Might it be safe to say that for one to stand in the truth as He did, it would require doing away with reputation? It is a tough thought to process, but worth doing none-the-less. Taking our eyes off of Pilate and off our politicians today, let's look to Jesus to ask, "What is truth?" and when He tells us, may we believe in it and act accordingly! Amen.

"They Crucified Him..."

John 19

Very little detail is given about the crucifixion. One might study this gruesome act of torturous execution in detail in history or anatomy books, but not here in John. John's gospel focuses more on proving to us that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God. God moved John (in his recollection of this ugly day) to focus on and write about these signs and proofs that Jesus was indeed God. May we rejoice in his doing so! For God's gift of salvation lies in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and not in other things. May we see it hear and let the Holy Spirit take us deeper into the saving and life-altering truth that is – Jesus is *the* Living God!

"Do You Love Me?"

John 21:15-17

Jesus asked Peter, "Do you *agape* love Me?" the first two times. Peter answered to these two questions, "You know I *phileo* love You." Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him with the love of God. Peter knew that he didn't and that is why he answered that he only loved Jesus with friendly, affectionate-type love. Peter didn't know really that he lacked the ability to love God with the same love that God loved him with. He lived in denial for all his days with Jesus. Jesus called he and the other disciples to love one another with the love of God. He commanded it. But they (and no one else ever to live) lacked the ability within themselves to love with the love of

God. This is only a love that God can produce in us. Galatians 5:22 tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is *agape* love. Peter had yet to have the Spirit poured out upon him to the point of producing such fruit. And until we utterly surrender to God's Spirit working in and through us, neither do we. Jesus finished the series of questions by lowering the love level down to Peter's capability. He asked him if he *phileo* loved Him. Peter, at this point, realized this to be true of himself. And so he answered affirmatively. Until the denial of Christ, we look at Peter's life and see a man who thought he could love God and live for God *all by himself* – on his own power. But when Peter was brought to rock bottom in the wee hours of the day of Jesus' death, it seems that he might have come to the understanding that he could not follow Jesus or love Jesus with the love of God, on his own. He must have thought that Jesus was done with him. But here on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias, Peter experienced the Lord's grace. Jesus took him right into his weakness and walked through it together with Peter, showing him the truth.

Perhaps you have failed God. Perhaps He has run ahead of you on a trail that you, in your own strength, cannot go down. Perhaps you feel as if He is done with you because you tried something on your own strength, and you came up short. Jesus is full of love and grace. Jesus has greater plans for you. Peter, this day, was brought to the sobering truth. He was shown by Jesus that he could not follow Jesus or love Jesus with the love of God in his own strength. But Jesus did not leave him there. And His heart is not to leave you there either.

Just weeks after this morning at the Sea of Tiberias, we find Peter baptized with the Holy Spirit and full of boldness and love that was used by the Lord to jumpstart the church (Acts 1-2). He had to be filled for that to happen. But before being filled he had to be emptied of self. Alan Redpath once said something to the effect of, "The Lord will always bring a man to a minimum, before He pours in the maximum—and not until." Peter was brought to a minimum and it was a rough fall. But he was filled with the maximum and, oh, what a joy unspeakable there must have been for Peter in that. If you find yourself at the bottom, being emptied out of your efforts to do well by the power of self, may you meet with the Lord and address your weakness with Him. May He show you your inability in great reality. And when you see it, may you like Peter, be filled with the maximum and enjoy the life of much fruit that awaits you in that place!