**John XIII Abiding in Christ John Ch 14-15**

Review:

John 12. A transition. Last chapter in “The Book of Signs.” The passion narrative about to start.

1. During this chapter we enter Jerusalem.

2. The public ministry of Jesus comes to an end.

3. The “Book of Signs” ends and the “Book of the Passion” begins

Theme of John 12: The glorification of the king

1. His anointing.

2. His triumphal entry.

3. God: I will glorify your name

4. Jesus will be “lifted up.”

John 12:1-8 Jesus is being prepared for burial.

12:12-16 The passion story begins as Jesus enters Jerusalem. On Palm Sunday.

Jesus rides in on a donkey. Warriors ride in on horses. He comes in peace on a young donkey, not as a conquering king.

Irony: He will be made king and he will be glorified, but not how the people think. He will be glorified by dying!!!

John 12:24 Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed, but if it dies, it produces many seeds.

Jesus is obviously talking about himself, but he is also talking about us.

Do you want your life to produce a crop for eternity? They you, like Jesus, must die to self.

John 12:32. I, when I have been lifted up… will draw all men to myself. Double or ever triple meaning here.

On the cross,

resurrection,

ascension,

us lifting him up. Have you been lifting Jesus up?

**John 13:1-17 Jesus shows his love**

John 13:1 He loved them “to the end” can mean utterly or right up until his death.

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.

John 13:18-38 We are skipping the Lord’s Supper scene where the beloved disciple (John) leans on Jesus breast, and where Judas leaves to betray Jesus. We are skipping the scene in which Jesus tells Peter he will deny him.

But we have to look at John 13:31-35

The theme of glorifying again. Jesus will be glorified “at once” (ie the next day on the cross)

I love v. 33 “Little children…” I love the intimacy of this. We are Jesus’ friends (Jn 15:15) We are his family. We are his “little children.”

13:34 Jesus’ command: Love one another. How? “As I have loved you.”

1 John 4:10 This is love, not that we loved him but that he loved us and sent his son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Are you giving your life for the family here? If you are, then truly we can put into practice our theme, “Coming Home.” This is how the world out there will understand that they have come home—by the ways we love one another.

This is our evangelism tool in 2021.

**John Ch 14 Jesus Comforts His Disciples**

Reasons to be comforted in John 14:

1. I will be with you.

2. You will be with me.

3. I will be sending the Holy Spirit—the Comforter and Counselor.

John 14:1-4

Jesus is commanding us to believe/trust in him. (the imperative is used)

Jesus is claiming, in the strongest possible terms, to be God. He equates “believe in God” with “believe in me.”

A simple question: Do you trust God? How do you trust him? When do you trust him? In what things do you trust him? Is there any area in your life, honestly, where you do not trust God?

Repeat this question and pause….

Jesus is using wedding commitment as a metaphor. In a Jewish marriage, the groom gave a commitment to build a “room” for his bride when they were betrothed. If she accepted the offer, he went and built a room (either an addition to his family house, or a separate house nearby). When the dwelling was built, he came a brought her to that dwelling place. That is when the marriage was consummated. But…. in Jewish eyes they were married when they made the commitment to each other. (Note: This was the situation for Joseph and Mary)

The parallel is obvious.

We are married/betrothed to God, but our marriage will be consummated at the end of time. We are married already but not yet.

As we are righteous already but not yet.

As we are saved already but not yet.

So we are married to God already but not yet.

Rev 19:9 The Marriage Banquet with God.

God has a place prepared for you! What do you think it is like? Super Nintendo?

Amazing kitchen with all the amenities? A tool room with all the latest gizmos?

The most amazing view of mountains in back and a beach in front?

Take some time to imagine what the room God has prepared for you in his mansion.

1 Cor 2:9 “No eye has seen, nor ear has heard, nor mind conceived what God has prepared for those who live him!!!

Whatever you imagine, is only a pale version of what God has for you.

John 14:5-14

Thomas: How do we get there? Jesus must have been SO frustrated. I AM the way. Follow me.

v. 6 In fact, I, I am the way, the truth and the life. I AM statement #6.

I AM the way. Jesus is the way to where? In the context I AM the way to heaven, but he keeps it unstated on purpose.

In fact, the early church was called “The Way.” Acts 24:14 Felix was well acquainted with the Way. (also Acts 9:2, 19:9,23, 22:4) I am the way of living. I am the way to God.

No one comes to the Father except through Jesus. Jesus is THE ONLY WAY.

Seems pretty exclusivistic. You Christians are really judgmental. How can you deny the equality of all religions? You are guilty of religious intolerance.

Hindus are going to hell?

“Good” people are not going to make it?

Muslims are all lost?

Unless, of course, that it is true.

If there were only one way to be saved from a disease…

If there was only one way to get a job…

If there was only one way to drive down a street. Closed-minded?

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO GOD AND TO ETERNAL LIFE. JESUS. PERIOD. FULL STOP.

Also, I AM the truth.

Not, I am a source of truth.

Not, I have truth

Not I offer truth

I AM the truth. The truth comes from Jesus—from what he said, but it is embodied in him. He came full of grace and truth. He is truth.

This is a large part of why I became a Christian. I am attracted to truth.

For me: I AM the way is really great, but for me, I AM the truth. I became a Christian because I became convinced that it was true.

This give me great comfort. I do not have to wonder if what I believe is true. Jesus is the final answer to every single important question.

I AM the life. Arguably, he is repeating I AM the resurrection and the life. Eternal life is found in him. Abundant life is found in him (John 10). Meaningful life is found in him. He is life.

Question: Which is most comforting to you? I AM the Way, I AM the truth or I AM the life?

v. 8 Philip: Show us the Father Again, Jesus must have been VERY frustrated. Phillip. Were’nt you paying attention??? You have seen the Father. I have revealed him to you. John 1:18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God, has made him known.

What is Philip really asking for? Philip wants a sign. He wants a religious experience. Those who want or need a sign are not trusting in God. I need to see someone healed or a personal revelation, or a charismatic miracle. What did Jesus say to those who need a sign?

Trust in God. (not in religious experiences) Trust also in me.

Again, he claims deity. John 14:9 If you have seen me, you have seen the Father.

v. 10 Jesus: I do not speak on my own authority. (note, it was not until he was resurrected that he claimed to have been given all authority Matthew 28:18)

A little theology: In heaven’s court Jesus is equal in authority and majesty to the Father, but while he was on earth he accepted a more submissive role.

v. 12 You will do greater works than I have done. Miracles? NO. He is talking about the work of bringing salvation to Jews and Gentiles.

That’s right!!! You, humble disciple, will do greater, weightier works, than Jesus Christ himself!!! (which will bring us to the topic of the Holy Spirit next) What a thought!!!

v. 14 Ask anything in my name… In the authority of Jesus. This is one of the reasons we can be comforted. That we can “Trust in God, trust also in me.”

Even if we ask thing that are not according to his will? If you ask for something which is against his will, then, by definition, you are not asking in his name.

If you ask [me] anything in my name. {Oldest manuscripts have ask [me]} This is one of the more clear examples showing we can pray to Jesus (also Stephen in Acts 7 and Rev 22:20.

We can pray through Jesus (in his name) or we can pray to Jesus. Comfort.

John 14:15-31

14:15-18 First promise to send the Holy Spirit. (of three 1. 14:15-18, 26 2. 15:26, 3. 16:7-15) But… It starts with a commandment to love.

v. 15 Sending of the Holy Spirit is based on love (shown by obeying him)

If you love me. How do we know we live God? Is it those warm fuzzy feelings?

Maybe… But maybe not. It is because we obey him. How do you know you love your spouse?

v. 16 Jesus: I will not leave you alone. Jesus is comforting his disciples and us. (in fact, in John 16:7 he tells them it is better for them if he goes away and sends the Holy Spirit, than if he stays with them in the flesh..)

v. 16 Another (*allon*) another of the same kind. Like, I will send you another book. (the implication is that the Holy Spirit is deity).

Advocate, Counselor (*parakletos*) literal meaning: the called-alongside one. Used of a defense attorney, esp. in the UK.

Jesus, in the Holy Spirit, is called alongside of you. He is RIGHT THERE with you.

Who would you like advocating for you? The greatest lawyer of all time?

v. 17 Now he is with you, but soon he will be in you.

v. 18 “orphaned” When a Jewish Rabbi died, their disciples were said to have been orphaned.

Jesus has not orphaned/abandoned us by dying. He is comforting us.

v. 20 equates The Father in Jesus, Jesus in us and us in Jesus. I thought it was the Holy Spirit who is “in” us. Yes! That means Jesus is in us. This is an intimate thing.

v. 21 love = keep commands again!

v. 22 The other Judas: Jesus, why show yourself just to us. You should do some sort of flashy thing to convict the world!!! (Like Jesus’ brothers before he came at Tabernacles) He is still expecting an earthly kingdom!

Jesus: I already did that. I raised Lazarus from the dead, did I not? That time is now passed.

Now I will manifest myself in those who believe in me by living in them.

v. 23. Love = obedience for the third time! (v. 15, 21, 23) “we” will make our home with him equating the Holy Spirit with Jesus and the Father. In other words, God will live within us.

Talking about coming home!!!! Becoming a Christian is the ultimate coming home.

v. 26 The Holy Spirit is an Advocate. He speaks on our behalf to God.

v. 26 He also helps us to understand Scripture.

v. 27 I leave my Shalom with you. This word is bigger than English word peace. It is fullness, satisfaction, fulfillment, rightness of relationships. We are back to the reassurance theme here. Do not be troubled or afraid.

The theme of this sermon. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid.

Memory verse for the week!

Comfort.

v. 28 used (falsely) by Arians and JWs to claim that Jesus is not deity. This is about lesser in the sense of submission, not in the sense of nature.

Satan has no power over me. Why? because I obey the Father. (message for us?)

[v. 31 Arise, let us go. A bit strange here. Where did they go? Away from the table, preparing to leave? Might they have left the upper room at that time? Not clear.]

Summary: Jesus comforts us

I Am preparing a place.

I AM the way to that place.

I AM truth and life.

You will do greater things than me.

Ask anything in my name

I am sending the Counselor/Comforter to you

I will make my home with you

**John Chapter 15 The Vine and the Branches.**

A common metaphor. ***Psalm 80:8-18***, ***Isaiah 5:1-7***, Jeremiah 2:21 Ezekiel 15:1-8 also Ezekiel 19:10 and Hoseah 10:1.

John 15:1 Jesus is the vine. He is the connection to the Father, to the Holy Spirit, to the life-giving essence.

God is a gardener.

We are the branches? This is the part that bears fruit.

In the sense that our purpose, in this metaphor, is to bear fruit.

15:2a He cuts off every branch which bears no fruit. Is this a threat that if we do not bear fruit, we will be cut off?

Answer: Maybe, but the stronger sense of John 15 is a promise that, if we are attached to the vine, we will bear fruit that will last.

It is more like, those parts of us which are not going to be fruitful, he cuts off so that we can bear more fruit. If this passage is a warning, it is more a warning that we will be pruned than that we will be cut off.

Is 15:2a (he cuts off every branch…) connected to 15:6 (a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned) and therefore to Matthew 7:15-20 (every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire)?

15:3 You are already made clean = you have already been pruned. Pruned = cleaned.

15:4 The key teaching in John 15: We should abide (remain) in Jesus.

Note: Abiding is commanded. It is something we do.

OK, so how do we abide in Christ? (Jesus’ answer is not what we would expect)

15:8 As Jesus glorified the Father by doing the work given to him, so we glorify Jesus by doing the work he gave us. What is that work? Bearing fruit.

How? 15:9-10 by keeping his commands. That is fairly simple. That is (one of the ways) we abide in Christ.

What is this fruit? 15:7-8 It is the things we ask for. Interesting. The fruit is the product of our vision. (also v. 16-17 (see below))

15:9-17 **The key to abiding is loving and obeying** (esp. v. 10).

Q: What is the connection between loving and bearing fruit?

v. 11 The result: Joy. Sounds like John 10 Life and life to the full.

v. 12-15 Again, the key to abiding is love. Jesus even calls us friend (2 Chron 20:7, Isaiah 41:8, James 2:23 Abraham as a friend of God) . He even dies for us. That’s love! Our obedience is that of a friend who willingly obeys rather than as a slave who is forced to obey. In that sense, we also “lay down” our lives to him.

v. 16-17 bearing fruit again. In this context, he is talking about preaching and sharing the gospel. But even here, it is connected with accomplishing the things we ask for (16b my Father will give whatever you ask for). It involves fulfilling our purpose as we desire it.