

# **The Ultimate LOVE STORY**

## **John 13-17**

### **“The Final Hours Before the Cross”**

#### **Study Number Three – Love Communicating – John 13:36-14:31**

John 13-17 is “The Love Story.” We have divided it into eight chapters. This is Christ’s last address and it’s to His men in the Upper Room.

Within the next 12-24 hours Christ will be hanging on a cross. Within 24 hours He’ll be lying in a grave. So it’s really kind of a swan song. It’s a farewell to men that He’s committed Himself to for three years.

In study #1, we called it LOVE SERVING. We saw Christ washing the feet of the disciples.

In study #2, we saw LOVE HURT. He was grieved. He was betrayed.

No matter what Christ did, Judas never responded. For all three years the Lord watched him act and pretend, but he never gave the Lord his heart. He never really opened himself up and let the Lord love him. What a tragedy.

A man who had all the opportunities. He was with Him, but he was never in Christ.

There's ASSOCIATION without ACCEPTANCE—it was RELIGION without a RELATIONSHIP.

Love was really hurt. Remember Christ said, “Whatever you do, do it in a hurry. Do it quickly.” He was saying that with pain in His heart and tears in His eyes—“Hurry, it hurts. You know you’ve made your decision, you’ve made your choice, now leave.”

Having left the Upper Room, Christ said, “Now the Father is going to be glorified in Me.” Then He gave a COMMAND that closed the study:

### John 13:34

A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another...

Christ probably had in His mind the thought there must be some better way. Proud hearts and dirty feet and the cross tomorrow, and a betrayal and a denial soon to come, there has to be some better way to love. But Christ says, “No, that you love even as I have loved you.”

### John 13:35

And all the world's going to know that you're my followers, if you have love one for another.

And that's where the study ended. Now we have called this study LOVE COMMUNICATING.

It was Paul Tournier in his book *To Understand Each Other* who said:

(To Understand Each Other by Paul Tournier)

We must be reminded that the first condition for mutual understanding is the desire for, the seeking after and the willingness of that understanding. Such a statement may appear very commonplace. Nevertheless, this basic attitude toward understanding others is far rarer than we think. Listen to all the conversations of our world, those between nations as well as those between couples. They are for the most part dialogues of the deaf. Each one speaks primarily in order to set forth his own ideas; in order to justify himself; in order to enhance himself and to accuse others. Exceedingly few exchanges of viewpoints manifest a real desire to understand the other person.

(source unknown)

It was Voltaire who said:

The way to the heart is through the ear.

(source unknown)

We must learn to give ourselves in conversation—give and take before and with one another. With a listening ear we express this love.

Christ is going to demonstrate that. He's dying tomorrow.

Here's the dying parent answering the questions of his kids. If there's any time that He ought to be selfish, it would have been right now. He's still answering their questions.

The outline of this passage is so simple. It's four guys that have four questions. The Lord just takes time to answer each one of their questions.

1. Peter has a question,
2. Thomas has a question,
3. Phillip has a question, and then
4. Judas Thaddaeus Lebbaeus has a question.

Then we'll wrap it up with them getting ready to leave the Upper Room.

And that's the outline of the study. Isn't that easy?

It's LOVE COMMUNICATING. It's love taking time, in view of separation, that's going to minister to their needs by answering questions that they have. Let's begin at John 13:36.

**v. 36 Simon Peter is saying to Him: “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered, “Where I am going you are not able to follow me now; but you shall follow later.”**

“Simon Peter is saying to Him: ‘Lord, where are you going?’ Jesus answered, ‘Where I am going you are not able to follow me now; but you shall follow later.’”

His question is:

“Lord, where are you going?”

Now what was the previous verse?

John 13:35

By this all the world will know that you’re My disciples if you have love, one for another.

What has Peter done? He threw it into neutral from the announcement when the Lord said, “Little children,” back in 33, “I’m going to leave you. And where I’m going you can’t come.” He missed all this teaching on love.

The reason that Peter wants to know where He’s going is he doesn’t want to talk about love, because he hasn’t learned much about that yet.

A person who is proud and ego-centered and self-sufficient has a hard time when people start talking about love. Basically, they're selfish.

Judas was the epitome of that. He never really did learn what it was to love. And it's probably just a tad bit tough for Peter, president of the organization, always having it all together and able to handle everything—even though everybody's laughing at him—to have to face a statement like that. The teaching on love just flew over his head!

And he's ready to confront the Lord with where He's going rather than a commandment to love. And so he says, "Lord, where are you going?" That's his question.

And the Lord says:

"Where I am going you are not able to follow me now; but you shall later."

Remember his last question?

John 13:6

"Lord, are you washing my feet?"

Remember that? And the Lord said, "What I'm doing to you, you're not understanding but you will understand later."

In essence that's the answer to this question.

“Now Peter, you don't understand where I'm going, you don't understand what I'm doing in this time of separation, but can you just trust Me? Just let Me handle it.”

John Powell wrote a book called *Unconditional Love* and in it he says:

(Unconditional Love by John Powell)

Obviously, the commitment to love will involve me in much careful and active listening. I truly want to be whatever you need me to be, to do whatever you need done; and I want to say whatever will promote our happiness, security and well-being. To discover your needs, I must be attentive, caring, open; both to what you say and to what you cannot say. However the final decision about the loving thing must be mine.

(source unknown)

He's coming across with the fact—and we see Christ doing it here—and that is careful listening and trying to carry Peter along.

Isn't it interesting that He doesn't embarrass Peter any more than He did Judas? He could have said, “Well, you don't even need to bother about that because before the rooster crows tomorrow morning you're going to deny that you ever knew

Me.” But He doesn’t do that until Peter’s pride pushes Him just a little further.

**v. 37 Peter is saying to Him, “Lord, why am I not able to follow you right now? My life on your behalf I will lay down.”**

“Peter is saying to Him, ‘Lord, why am I not able to follow you right now? My life on your behalf I will lay down.’”

First the question is “WHERE,” isn’t it?

The second question is “WHY.”

Now when a person asks WHY, it always tells us that they’re stubborn. It always tells us they’re resisting. Kids do that all the time.

“Take out the garbage.” WHY?

“Make your bed.” WHY?

“Do the dishes.” WHY?

They’re just saying, “Explain it to me. Give me some good reasons why I need to do this and why I have to do it right now, why it can’t wait till later.”

To Peter it’s not enough to say, “Where I’m going you can’t go,” and trust the Lord that He knows what’s best and in His time

He'll make it all work out.

No! It's, "why can't I go?" And then he punctuates it with a great COMMITMENT.

Aren't we like this? Lots of talk and little walk—lots of lip and little life—big blasé commitments. "I'll go to the mission field Lord and I'll serve You till I die!" What are we doing sitting here in America? We forgot about our commitment.

Ecclesiastes warned us on that in chapter 5: "Don't be hasty with your mouth to make vows to God. And then come back and say my vow was a mistake." (see Ecclesiastes 5:2-6)

Peter has a problem. He said, "Lord, even if it means that You're going to die, which You keep talking about, I'll lay down my life so I can go with You."

And so the Lord has to say, "You aren't going to die. You're going to deny. You aren't a rock yet, Peter. There are some problems. What you really need to do is trust Me and submit to My way of doing things right now."

**v. 38 Jesus answers: "Your life on behalf of me you will lay down? Truly, truly I am saying to you, A rooster shall positively not crow, until you deny me three times.**

"Jesus answers: 'Your life on behalf of me you will lay down?'"

He takes his question, just turns it right around on him. And he raises another one.

“Your life you will lay down on my behalf? Truly, truly”

When He says, “Truly, truly,” that’s authority. Now the buck stops. Now the truth comes out.

“Truly, truly I am saying to you, A rooster shall positively not crow, until you deny me three times.”

“First Judas and now me. What is the world coming to?!”

We can almost feel his hurt. “Before tomorrow morning I’m going to deny You three times?!”

What’s the difference between Peter’s denial and Judas’ betrayal?

The KEY is back in John 13:10 when the Lord says, “You’re clean, but not all of you.”

Judas never had a bath. Peter had a bath, but he had dirty feet. And his denial was not a premeditated denial. The betrayal was. It was a deliberate act to betray the Christ.

As believers we do get our feet dirty by accidents and mistakes in our lives. And His love will take us through those kinds of circumstances, and bring glory ultimately to His name.

David wasn't warned about his temptation and he fell. Peter was warned about his and he fell. That just tells us that everybody falls.

“Take heed lest you fall. Know there's no temptation that's taken you, but such is common to man. God's faithful...” (ref. 1 Corinthians 10:12-13)

Now did He cast Peter off? Did He give up on him? No. That's MERCY.

In John 21 He says, “Feed my sheep.” In Acts 2 He's preaching to thousands.

What about Abraham? “Abraham, you go on up from Ur of the Chaldees and you go to the land of Canaan.” And then he ends up at Heron. Does the Lord forget him? Comes right back after his father dies in Heron and gives him the same covenant again and says, “Go for it man!”

What about Moses? Moses went down there and just slew one Egyptian and got put in the backside of the desert with a little post-graduate work. But he eventually became the one beside the burning bush who was called by God to go and do it the right way! And that is, let God do it through you.

What about Jonah? He left. He deliberately went down into a ship, and went off in the opposite direction. God put him through a whale of an experience and brought him back and put him going the right direction and led a revival in Nineveh!

God will come to us. Once, twice, hundred times, two hundred times, three hundred times.

God's love is persistent. And it pursues us. It's like the hound of heaven. And we'll always notice that His love points us to the future.

We can tell when Satan's doing something in our life by pointing us to the past. Satan will always get us to look over our shoulder and think about what we've done that disqualifies us for a blessing, as far as the future's concerned.

That's why Paul said, "Forgetting those things which are behind, we press toward those things which are in front." (ref. Philippians 3:13)

He's got to get us looking back and buried in guilt then he has us blown out of the water! And the Lord never does that. How faithful He is. We're unfaithful, but He abides faithfully.

These verses are a flowing communication of a heart filled with love to Peter. Each one of these questions is asked by an individual and the Lord talks to him until the next guy interrupts and the rest of the guys are just listening in on a conversation. So we won't make a mess out of this.

The thing that makes us realize how much God does love us and how much He does pursue, how much He does persist in His love toward us, and He always points to the future!

**14:v. 1 Stop being troubled in your heart; be putting your trust in God. Also be putting your trust in Me.**

“Stop being troubled in your heart; be putting your trust in Me! Be putting your trust in God and be putting your trust in Me.”

“Peter, you don’t need to know why! And you really don’t need to know where! And you’re in trouble because now you’re going to deny Me. Just put your trust in Me!”

One of the obvious manifestations of love is TRUST. And out of trust will always flow PEACE, and we’ll see that at the end of the study.

He gives him a COMMAND. He says:

NEGATIVELY—“Stop being troubled,”

POSITIVELY—“be believing in Me.”

**Psalm 42:5**

Why are you cast down, O my soul?  
Why art thou troubled?

“Peter, can you just believe Me, that I’m going away for a purpose? Can you trust Me in the midst of all of this?”

The reason that we know that's what the Lord had in mind is because of that word "troubled."

That word "troubled" is the word for when water blows up and makes big waves.

Now does that communicate anything about the life of Peter?

Remember the night that the Lord came walking to him on the water? Peter, he's so cool, "Lord, if that's You, let me come!" He sticks his big toe over the side of the boat and we have the first water skiing experience. Now he's just walking out here so cool to the Lord.

But the wind blows up the waves around him and he gets scared and he starts looking at the waves, and what happened? He just drops in the water.

"Lord, save me!" And he gets his eyes back on the Lord and up he comes again.

That's the very word that's used right here. "Peter, you're going to deny me! I know it! The waves are going to get big and you're going to get your eyes off Me and on yourself and so you're going to get selfish and deny that you ever knew Me. But I understand it! And I'm not throwing you out with the bath water! I'm not leaving you in this situation!"

Look what He says in verse 2.

**v. 2 In the house of my Father there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, I would have told you; for I am going to prepare a place for you.**

“In the house of my Father there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, I would have told you; for I am going to prepare a place for you.”

“Peter, I know you’re going to deny Me, but I’m getting a place ready for you, because you’re coming back. And this ain’t the last chapter!”

“Now love’s going to pursue you and you’re going to be the most effective servant that the Lord has ever had! We’re going to get it together on the shores of the Sea of Galilee and the Spirit is going to fill your life and you’re going to preach the gospel till you die! And then you’re going to lay down your life! And when you do it, instead of denying Me, I’ve got a place prepared for you! You’re going to come and be with Me.”

What’s the Lord saying?

“Peter, I’m just going to get this ready and I don’t need your help any more than I did in putting this thing together in seven days, and you’re loving it.”

He’s taking two-thousand years to get the place ready. He’s getting it prepared for all of us. What a fantastic place it’s going to be and we’re getting close to the end of the preparation.

Wetherell Johnson, the founder of Bible Study Fellowship, has this to say on John 14:

(Created for Commitment by Wetherell Johnson)

When our Lord Jesus was preparing to leave His disciples, He spoke of their future permanent abode. There are many homes up there where My Father lives and I'm going to prepare them for your coming. When everything is ready, then I will come and get you so that you can always be with me where I am. If this weren't so, I would have told you plainly. Like a child who is promised the wonders of a vacation far away and longs for details, so do we Christians long for more details concerning our permanent abode, living with God and His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ forever and ever.

The next time you are given a reserved place for example, on a plane, remember that reserved place the Lord Jesus is keeping for you in heaven and in the New Jerusalem. As I studied the Bible, I envision a world of indescribable beauty, glorious trees with fruit as in Eden, and glorious rivers and lakes. I see myself making friends with lions and tigers and all of God's new creation.

We shall also live with thousands upon thousands of angels. Yet, we for whom Christ died have a unique position forever and ever with our Lord as we reign with Him. There will be music, fellowship with all the saints and all the time, we will be looking with undiminished joy at the Almighty God, creator of the universe, who is our own Father.

Whatever new purpose God may have for the future ages,

we shall be working with Him forever and ever and ever.  
What could be a more glorious prospect?  
(source unknown)

There's a phrase in verse 3 that just blows us away.

**v. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and will receive you to myself; in order that where I am, you may be also.**

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and will receive you to myself; in order that where I am, you may be also.”

When somebody comes knocking on our door, what oftentimes do we say? Especially if we're on the phone or we have something going on and they interrupt us by knocking on the door? We say, “Come in! Make yourself at home!” Right?

That's for them to kind of fiddle and read a magazine and make themselves at home because our attention's been diverted.

This little phrase where He says, “receive you unto myself,” means that we're so special He's going to come right to us and put His arms around us and say, “Welcome home! I love you and I died for you and I'm glad you're here.”

Remember Stephen when he was stoned, he looked up and saw heaven open and Jesus standing at the right hand of God

the Father? He was getting ready to receive Stephen home, because He usually sat there, and He got up to give him a welcome to the Father's house.

What an incredible picture of love. His love wants to hold us. Isn't it good to be held? The Lord is going to hold us. We're so special to Him. And when it comes time to go home, He's not going to say, "Come in and make yourself at home till I get through with preparing your place!" It's all ready. He's going to hold us, then He's going to show us what He's been doing to get it all ready.

Beth Jameson in her book *Hold Me Tight*, when she's talking about her little daughter Kim dying of leukemia, speaks of her last conversation with Kim:

(Hold Me Tight by Beth Jameson)

"Mom, I want to tell you something and I don't want you to feel bad or anything, but I think I want God to take me to heaven. I just can't stand this pain any longer. I've just been lying here thinking and that's what I've decided. No one can feel this bad and be the least bit well. I believe I'm on the home stretch to heaven. Let's pray, Mom, I love you."

Fear sweeps over my parched soul like a prairie fire on a windy day, devouring every seedling of hope that has struggled to survive. Tears stream softly down my face and I fight to keep my voice steady. Staring at the ceiling, I embroider memories around each of the words that Kim speaks. Smiling, Kim reaches out to me with faltering arms

pressing my face gently to hers. “Mom, when God is ready for me, I’m going, O.K.?”

My mind zig-zags through the mine fields of hours that remain of this day. It is a race to reach tomorrow without my heart being totally blown to bits.

(source unknown)

“When you lay down your life, I’ve got a place for you. And even though you’re going to deny Me by tomorrow morning, My arms of love are still going to be out there to receive you in the place that I’ve prepared.”

And the reason He gives these words to Peter is so that he’ll realize that he’s going to get it together and he’s going to finish strong and He means those words right now! To go through the trauma of the next three days, for the fact that he’s going to fail the Lord in denying Him.

He comes back, having given this comfort to Peter with the statement that answers his question in verse 4.

**v. 4 And where I am going you are knowing the way.”**

“And where I am going you are knowing the way.”

His question: “Where are you going?”

Now we see it all came together. And as He ends, He says, “where I am going you are knowing the way.”

Thomas the pessimist happens to be sitting there too and he's listening and he always thinks from a negative point of view. He's the doubter. He's the one in John 11 who said, "Let's go die with Him. I mean it's a one-way ticket to eternity so let's get on it and go on down there."

**v. 5 Thomas is saying to Him: "Lord, we are not knowing where you are going; how are we knowing the way?"**

"Thomas is saying to Him: 'Lord, we are not knowing where you are going; how are we knowing the way?'"

He says, "We don't know where You're going! How then can we know the way?"

His question is "HOW."

For Peter it's "WHERE are you going and WHY can't I go?"

For Thomas it's "HOW can we know the way?"

One writer put it this way:

Do you remember when you were back in school and they characterized the four classes in the following way—some of you students will really relate to this. The freshmen we're told are those who know not and know not that they know not. The sophomores are those having advanced a little, who know not but know that they know not. The juniors on the other hand

are those who know and know not that they know. And the seniors are supposed to be those who know and know that they know.

Now if we categorize the disciples and Thomas at this point, he's a junior in the school of faith.  
(source unknown)

He knows but he knows not that he knows, because that's what the Lord's going to say in the next verse.

This is the most incredible verse, probably in all of the statements of Christ.

**v. 6 Jesus is saying to him: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one is coming to the Father, except through Me.**

“Jesus is saying to him: ‘I am the way, the truth and the life. No one is coming to the Father, except through Me.’”

### 1 Timothy 2:5

There is one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.

That statement is a dead-end street for every cult and “ism” in the world today.

Isaiah says, “I, even I am the Lord, and beside me there is no Savior.” (ref. Isaiah 43:11)

Truth is like that. A math teacher is dogmatic. Two plus two equaled four, no matter what it was—apples, pears, chickens or whatever. Two plus two equals four.

Why when we come to the realm of religion, the One who created us would speak dogmatically that:

He is **THE WAY**—not a way,

He is **THE TRUTH** and

He is **THE LIFE**.

He is the **WAY**, so the **WILL** of man will choose Him,

He is the **TRUTH**, so the **MIND** of man can grasp Him, and

He is the **LIFE**, so the **HEART** of man can enjoy Him.

It was Thomas á Kempis who said:

Without the way there is no going.

Without the truth there is no knowing.

Without the life there is no growing.

(source unknown)

John 14:6: He is that way, He is that truth, He is that life. No man comes unto the Father but by Him.

**v. 7 If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you are knowing Him, and have seen Him.”**

“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also from now on you are knowing Him, and have seen Him.”

That gets Philip going. Philip was the only one the Lord had to go find. The rest of them came to Him.

Philip is one of the nutty-buddies. He and Andrew always had fun going. He’s a phlegmatic so he’s funny.

Philip was in charge of food service. He had to have a sense of humor to do that.

Philip is a very astute individual. Just because he’s a little bit slow-witted and a country boy in his thoughts, he hung around the intellects.

Remember as soon as he finds the Lord, who he goes and gets? Nathaniel’s sitting out there studying the books under the fig tree and there’s where he got all of his information anyway. Nathaniel did it for him, he took it by osmosis from his buddy.

“Come, we found Him of whom the scriptures speak!” And of course Nathaniel comes.

The Lord says, “There is an Israelite in whom there is no guile.” (ref. John 1:47)

He's a genuine individual. He just refreshes others by his transparency of life.

Philip must have hurt the Lord a little bit here.

**v. 8 Philip is saying to Him: “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”**

“Philip is saying to Him: ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’”

**v. 9 Jesus is saying to him: “Such a long time I am with you and you have not come to know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; how is it that you are saying, ‘Show us the Father’?”**

“Jesus is saying to him: ‘Such a long time I am with you and you have not come to know me, Philip?’”

Notice He asks Philip three questions—one right after another:

“He who has seen me has seen the Father; how is it that you are saying, “Show us the Father”?”

**v. 10 Are you not believing that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I am saying to you, I am not speaking from myself, but the Father who is abiding in me, He is doing His works.**

“Are you not believing that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?”—question number three—“The words that I am saying to you, I am not speaking from myself, but the Father who is abiding in me, He is doing His works.”

Hang onto that statement, because in our next study, as the Father functions through the Son, so the Son functions through us in the vine and the branches. What a precious section we’re going to get into as we milk that part of the scripture.

Ever asked the question:

What is my greatest ambition in life? What is my goal?

There could be no higher goal and ambition than to ask Christ to show us the Father. Enable us to see Him.

But it’s not SEEING, it’s BELIEVING.

**v. 11 Be believing me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me. But if not, because of the works themselves be believing.**

“Be believing me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. But if not, because of the works themselves be believing.”

Now this next verse is going to be a little troublesome.

**v. 12 Truly, truly I am saying to you, the one who is believing in me, the works which I am doing, that one shall do also; and greater than these shall he do; because I am going to the Father.**

“Truly, truly I am saying to you, the one who is believing in me, the works which I am doing, that one shall do also; and greater than these shall he do; because I am going to the Father.”

What are we thinking about?

Greater works—He raised the dead.

Greater works—He calmed the sea.

Greater works—He opened blind eyes.

As individuals, a lot of times we’re strictly human and we think in terms of the human, the natural as being the miraculous, as though that has to happen.

From the divine perspective the greatest miracle in all of the world is the sinner born again through the blood of Christ! And being made righteous in the Son.

Luke tells us there’s more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance. (see Luke 15:7)

Jesus Christ, when He finished His ministry here on earth, said goodbye to five-hundred disciples.

Peter, when he opens his mouth and preaches the first one, he has three thousand converts to step out of darkness into light.

It's the SPIRITUAL MIRACLE that is the greater works that's going to be done by these.

**v. 13 And whatever you may ask in my name, this I will do, in order that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

“And whatever you may ask in my name, this I will do, in order that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

**v. 14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.**

“If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

Notice it says, “whatever...in my name”? Where's He going right now? He's going to Calvary. What are those guys praying? Anything to prevent it! Anything to keep Him from going to Calvary! But Jesus knows that He must go to Calvary. Jesus knows that He's got to die.

Whenever we ask something in His name, that lets the Lord let it fall apart if necessary to bring about His ultimate objective. And just because somebody dies, just because something traumatic happens in our life, just remember God

writes the last chapter. And sometimes He just has to let it all fall apart so that we'll glorify Him when we see the end result. And we'll magnify His name.

So yes, whatever we will ask in His name He's going to do it.

James says:

### James 4:3

You have not, because you ask not. When you ask, you ask amiss so you can spend it on your own desires.

That's why we don't have it.

“Delight yourself in the Lord and He'll give you the desires of your heart.” (ref. Psalm 37:4)

“This is the confidence we have in Him, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears, we know we have the petition we ask of Him.” (ref. 1 John 5:14, 15)

He goes on to say in the next verse:

**v. 15 If you are loving me, you will keep my commandments.**

“If you are loving me, you will keep my commandments.”

That's the KEY. If we're loving Him and obedient to His Word, when we pray in His name, He's going to do whatever we ask.

Ralph Keiper was an individual who was used mightily by God. He had very limited vision. He could hardly see at all. This is the record of an encounter he had with the Spirit of God, which illustrates the truth:

One Saturday afternoon when as a young theological student he was idling over his books, the Holy Spirit began to speak to him and ask him several questions

What is the chief end of man? "To glorify God and enjoy Him forever" Ralph replied.

Do you wish to glorify God? the Holy Spirit countered. "Of course," the young student hastened to assure Him.

If you had the choice, what would you rather do, glorify God or have perfect vision? Ralph paused for a long time. He of course began to weaken. For as he points out, sight was very precious to him, especially to those who don't have it. He had to be honest because the Holy Spirit was watching and knew his heart.

He knew that sight was far more precious to Ralph than God's glory. The struggle within was bitter but Ralph was a victim of grace. "There's only one answer," he said finally, "and that choice is to glorify God."

The Holy Spirit insisted on continuing His probe. Do you really believe that God's glory is more important than your vision? He did not push for an answer but waited quietly. At last, Ralph surrendered, "My vision or lack of it is not worthy to be compared to the glory of God."

Do you really wish to glorify God? the Holy Spirit asked again. “Yes, I do.”

If you do, why worry about the method which God chooses to glory Himself?”  
(source unknown)

Invariably that kind of conversation and dialogue with the Lord frees us from bitterness and resentment with the answers we get! Because if our real purpose is to glorify God, it doesn't make any difference how we glorify Him, right? As long as it's His will! And the expression of that will!

It's submitting ourselves to Him.

“If you are loving me, keep my commandments.”

**v. 16 And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper, in order that He may be with you forever;**

“And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper, in order that He may be with you forever;”

He's continuing to answer the question here that has been asked by Philip. And He promises them that the helper, the Holy Spirit, is going to come even though He's leaving.

**v. 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world is not able to receive, because it is not beholding Him or knowing Him, but you are knowing Him, because He is**

**abiding with you and shall be in you.**

“the Spirit of truth, whom the world is not able to receive, because it is not beholding Him or knowing Him, but you are knowing Him, because He is abiding with you and shall be in you.”

That’s a KEY PHRASE. Whenever we run into a key phrase in the text, we always want to look at it for a minute. The Holy Spirit is with us, but He will be in us.

In the Old Testament, remember David says, “I prayed that you’ll take not your Holy Spirit from me.” (ref. Psalm 51:11)

The Spirit of God in the Old Testament came upon people for service and then He left. But in the New Testament, as a result of what took place on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit at the moment we are born again, comes to indwell us permanently. He is a person. He comes to indwell our heart.

Now we can quench Him by our resistance, and we can grieve Him by sin, but He’s still there. He is a person who affirms the regenerating work. He’s the Spirit of Truth and He’s going to have some functions, as we’ll see in just a minute.

**v. 18 I shall not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.**

“I shall not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.”

Of course He's coming to them in the presence of the Holy Spirit. He comes in those dark and lowly hours when we need Him the most. He's there to meet our needs.

**v. 19 Yet a little while, and the world no longer is seeing me; but you are seeing me; because I am living, also you shall live.**

“Yet a little while, and the world no longer is seeing me; but you are seeing me; because I am living, also you shall live.”

Remember when He talked to Martha He said, “I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in Me, though He were dead, yet shall He live.”

Do we believe that? Yes! She says, “I do.”

Christ is promising them the resurrection, because “I live.”

Beyond this He's going to be raised in three days from the dead. And because He lives, the triumphant son of God, they too are going to live.

**v. 20 In that day you shall know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.**

“In that day you shall know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.”

And we're going to get that in chapter 15.

**v. 21 The one who is having my commandments, and is keeping them; that is the one who is loving me. And the one who is loving me shall be loved by my Father, and I shall love him, and I shall reveal myself to him.”**

“The one who is having my commandments, and is keeping them; that is the one who is loving me. And the one who is loving me shall be loved by my Father, and I shall love him, and I shall reveal myself to him.”

Now that word “reveal” got Judas Thaddaeus Lebbaeus excited.

Judas Thaddaeus Lebbaeus is the youngest among the twelve. He never says a word. He’s always been told to sit down, shut up and listen. And he’d never said a word in all three years that’s recorded in the text until here.

Here is his shining moment! Here’s his one question in all of the text of scripture.

**v. 22 Judas is saying to Him (not Iscariot): “Lord, what then has come to pass that you are about to be revealing yourself to us, and not to the world?”**

“Judas is saying to Him (not Iscariot): ‘Lord, what then has come to pass that you are about to be revealing yourself to us, and not to the world?’”

Here's the fourth question:

1. Peter—"where are you going and why can't I go?"
2. Thomas—"how can we know the way?"
3. Philip—"show us the Father?"
4. Judas Thaddaeus Lebbaeus—"how are you going to come and reveal yourself to us in a secret way and not to the rest of the world?"

Of course there are TWO ANSWERS to that:

1. in the RAPTURE of the church He's going to descend from heaven with a shout and the dead in Christ arise first and we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with Him to meet the Lord in the air. Fantastic! We better be ready because it's coming.

And it also can be:

2. that the SPIRIT OF GOD will reveal the person of Christ to us while we're studying His Word. We have a real sense of His presence with us. Precious moments of fellowship.

**v. 23 Jesus answered and said to him: "If anyone is loving me, he will keep my word; and my father will love him, and We shall come to him and We shall**

**make our abode with him.**

“Jesus answered and said to him: ‘If anyone is loving me, he will keep my word; and my father will love him, and We shall come to him and We shall make our abode with him.’”

**v. 24 The one who is not loving me is not keeping my words; and the word which you are hearing is not mine, but the Father’s who sent Me.**

“The one who is not loving me is not keeping my words; and the word which you are hearing is not mine, but the Father’s who sent Me.”

**v. 25 These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you.**

“These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you.”

**v. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, that One will teach you all things, and recall to your mind all that I said to you.**

“But the Helper,”—here He comes back to—“the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name,”

What’s He going to do? TWO THINGS:

1. “that One will teach you all things, and”

2. He will “recall to your mind all that I said to you.”

The Spirit is the one who teaches us truth.

The Spirit is the one who recalls to our mind the things that have been said.

Isn't it amazing when we're witnessing to someone and the Spirit of God recalls to our mind an exact verse of scripture? Just the exact situation for someone?

**v. 27 Peace I am leaving with you; my peace I am giving to you; not as the world gives, am I giving to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.**

“Peace I am leaving with you; my peace I am giving to you; not as the world gives, am I giving to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”

Isaiah 41:10

Fear thou not for I am with thee. Be not dismayed for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee, yea, I will help thee...

Isaiah 26:3

Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee...

Notice He says, “Peace I am leaving with you,” and then He says, “my peace I am giving to you.”

Those are two different types of “peace.”

The first one is the “peace” that comes at the minute we receive Christ.

Romans 5:1 says: “Therefore being made right with God, we have peace...”

“We have peace through the blood of His cross.” (Colossians 1:20)

That’s “peace.”

But He also comes to give the gift of “peace” to the child of God who has learned to trust Him, who has learned to wait upon Him.

He can sing:

Be still, my soul, the Lord is on thy side.  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain  
Leave to thy God to order and provide.  
(source unknown)

This kind of “peace” is the peace that can come to us when the world’s falling apart! When the wind’s blowing and the trees are falling and the storm has come, and the waves are high!

This “peace” can be perfect rest because the Lord’s in control and we trust Him to work out the circumstances in our life.

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man brings a snare, but whoso puts his trust in the Lord shall be safe.

**v. 28** You heard that I said to you, ‘I am going, and I am coming to you.’ If you were loving me, you would have rejoiced, that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I.

“You heard that I said to you, “I am going, and I am coming to you.’ If you were loving me, you would have rejoiced, that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I.”

**v. 29** And now I have told you before it comes to pass, in order that when it comes to pass, you may believe.

“And now I have told you before it comes to pass, in order that when it comes to pass, you may believe.”

He said that back in verse 13.

**v. 30** I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he is having nothing in Me.

“I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the

world is coming, and he is having nothing in Me.”

That’s Satan. He’s aware of the fact that Satan is about to bring Judas back and there is a meeting down in Gethsemane. Satan can’t find anything in Him to get to answer to temptation. He’d tried that in the wilderness on three accounts and lost on all three fronts. Satan can’t find anything. He’s the god of this world.

**v. 31 But in order that the world may come to know that I am loving the Father, and even as the Father commanded me, even so I am doing. Arise, let us be going from here.”**

“But in order that the world may come to know that I am loving the Father, and even as the Father commanded me, even so I am doing. Arise, let us be going from here.”

And thus He ends.

What is this? This is LOVE COMMUNICATING—meeting some troubled hearts right where they are and answering their questions before He takes His final assignment to go in to die.

We have several lessons that come out of our study.

Lesson #1: Communication flows freely when love is present.

Lesson #2: Pride often blinds our vulnerability.

Peter is proud here. He doesn't realize he's vulnerable.

Lesson #3: Christ has gone to prepare a place for us and He is coming again.

Lesson #4: Love keeps its promises.

He's going to come and meet us face-to-face and throw His arms around us and hold us for a while, and tell us how glad He is to have us home.

Having loved us, He's going to take us to the place that He's prepared for us. Precious anticipation.

Lesson #5: Without Christ, there is no way, no truth, and no life.

Lesson #6: Christ and the Father are One.

Lesson #7: The expression of our love for Christ is our obedience to His Word.

Lesson #8: The Helper will come to teach us and to call to remembrance the words of Christ.

Realize that's His function in our life.

We should have a real problem with those who make the Holy Spirit the focus of the tension because He always points to

Christ. When He magnifies the Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit is functioning properly. He's bringing glory to Christ by calling to remembrance, by teaching the things of Christ.

Lesson #9: Peace will result in your life, on the vertical and the horizontal, as a result of Christ coming into your life.

Fénelon in his book *Let Go* has some very pointed remarks:

(Let Go by Fénelon)

Satan is the one who torments us with trivialities. And he often transforms himself into an angel of light, and bothers us with endless self-examinations and an over-sensitive conscience which allows us no peace.

(source unknown)

Are we there? Do we think it's so spiritual to be so guilty and to be so sensitive and to be so introverted that we're not effective? Satan delights in that. Constantly searching and probing and blaming ourselves, and God can't continue to love us because we're so crummy. That's satanic.

Fénelon goes on to say:

(Let Go by Fénelon)

Learn to cultivate peace and you can do this by learning to turn a deaf ear to your own ambitious thoughts. Or haven't you yet learned that the strivings of the human mind not only

impair the health of your body, but also bring dryness to your soul. You can actually consume yourself by too much inner striving. And to no purpose at all! Your peace and inner sweetness can be destroyed by a restless mind.  
(source unknown)

And then he says:

(Let Go by Fénelon)

Live in peace. But understand that peace does not depend upon the fervor of your devotion. The only thing you need to be concerned about is the direction of your will.  
(source unknown)

Father, we realize that if we really love You, we're going to trust You to do it Your way and in Your time. And as a result of our love and trust in You, we're going to have peace. Lord, we know that the breakdown comes at the point of trust. It's hard when we're so used to calling the shots and doing it our way, to trust somebody else to handle it. We want to pilot our own ship. We want to get it off the ground and do our thing. We're just like Peter. We want to be devoted to You and want everybody to know it so we've got to ask where You're going and why we can't go with You, and we're always resisting Your way of doing it instead of trusting You to know and to understand. Lord, then we pray as believers, if we're anxious and upset about a lot of things and we've been searching inwardly and we're filled with guilt because we're always looking back and we feel like real spiritual rejects, that Your

Holy Spirit would transform that to realize that by the blood of Christ we've been made very precious in Your sight. We're sons and daughters and You loved us so much that even in the face of our denial of You, You've gone to get a place ready for us. And we've got our eyes on the winds and the waves and we're all troubled and upset and we're starting to sink instead of looking to You. Thank You that soon You're going to reach out Your hand and You're going to receive us unto Yourself. Then You're going to show us what You've been preparing for us, because You love us so. Thank You that thus far we've seen love serving, as it got down on its knees to wash dirty feet. And we've seen love hurt by the fact that it was betrayed in the face of no response at all. And now we've seen love communicating, even in the final hours. Unselfishly giving of oneself for the comfort of these whom Jesus was temporarily leaving behind. Thank You for being such a compassionate and loving God and demonstrating what it is to really love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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# The Ultimate LOVE STORY

## John 13-17

### “The Final Hours Before the Cross”

#### Study Number Three – Love Communicating – John 13:36-14:31

#### NOTES

v. 36 Simon Peter is saying to Him: “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered, “Where I am going you are not able to follow me now; but you shall follow later.”

v. 37 Peter is saying to Him, “Lord, why am I not able to follow you right now? My life on your behalf I will lay down.”

v. 38 Jesus answers: “Your life on behalf of me you will lay down? Truly, truly I am saying to you, A rooster shall positively not crow, until you deny me three times.

14:v. 1 Stop being troubled in your heart; be putting your trust in God. Also be putting your trust in Me.

v. 2 In the house of my Father there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, I would have told you; for I am going to prepare a place for you.

v. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and will receive you to myself; in order that where I am, you may be also.

v. 4 And where I am going you are knowing the way.”

v. 5 Thomas is saying to Him: “Lord, we are not knowing where you are going; how are we knowing the way?”

v. 6 Jesus is saying to him: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one is coming to the Father, except through Me.

v. 7 If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you are knowing Him, and have seen Him.”

v. 8 Philip is saying to Him: “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”

## NOTES

v. 9 Jesus is saying to him: “Such a long time I am with you and you have not come to know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; how is it that you are saying, ‘Show us the Father’?”

v. 10 Are you not believing that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I am saying to you, I am not speaking from myself, but the Father who is abiding in me, He is doing His works.

v. 11 Be believing me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me. But if not, because of the works themselves be believing.

v. 12 Truly, truly I am saying to you, the one who is believing in me, the works which I am doing, that one shall do also; and greater than these shall he do; because I am going to the Father.

v. 13 And whatever you may ask in my name, this I will do, in order that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

v. 14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

v. 15 If you are loving me, you will keep my commandments.

v. 16 And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper, in order that He may be with you forever;

v. 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world is not able to receive, because it is not beholding Him or knowing Him, but you are knowing Him, because He is abiding with you and shall be in you.

v. 18 I shall not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.

v. 19 Yet a little while, and the world no longer is seeing me; but you are seeing me; because I am living, also you shall live.

v. 20 In that day you shall know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

v. 21 The one who is having my commandments, and is keeping them; that is the one who is loving me. And the one who is loving me shall be loved by my Father, and I shall love him, and I shall reveal myself to him.”

v. 22 Judas is saying to Him (not Iscariot): “Lord, what then has come to pass that you are about to be revealing yourself to us, and not to the world?”

v. 23 Jesus answered and said to him: “If anyone is loving me, he will keep my word; and my father will love him, and We shall come to him and We shall make our abode with him.

v. 24 The one who is not loving me is not keeping my words; and the word which you are hearing is not mine, but the Father’s who sent Me.

## NOTES

v. 25 These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you.  
v. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, that One will teach you all things, and recall to your mind all that I said to you.  
v. 27 Peace I am leaving with you; my peace I am giving to you; not as the world gives, am I giving to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.  
v. 28 You heard that I said to you, 'I am going, and I am coming to you.' If you were loving me, you would have rejoiced, that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I.  
v. 29 And now I have told you before it comes to pass, in order that when it comes to pass, you may believe.  
v. 30 I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he is having nothing in Me.  
v. 31 But in order that the world may come to know that I am loving the Father, and even as the Father commanded me, even so I am doing. Arise, let us be going from here."

## QUESTIONS:

1. Read John 13:36-14:31 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. How does Jesus respond to Peter's commitment of a willingness to lay down his life, according to verse 38?

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3. Summarize Jesus' promises in 14:1-3.

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4. What is Jesus' response to Thomas' question, according to verse 6?

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5. How does Jesus respond to Philip's question, according to verse 9?

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6. What does Jesus promise in verses 12-14?

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7. How does Jesus respond to Judas's question, according to verse 23?

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8. What is the Spirit of God going to do, according to verse 26?

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9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

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10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

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**LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:**

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Communication flows freely when love is present.

LESSON #2: Pride oftentimes blinds us to our vulnerability.

LESSON #3: Christ has gone to prepare a place for us and He is coming again.

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LESSON #4: Love keeps its promises.

LESSON #5: Without Christ, there is no way, no truth, and no life.

LESSON #6: Christ and the Father are One.

LESSON #7: The expression of our love for Christ is our obedience to His Word.

LESSON #8: The Helper, the Holy Spirit, will come to teach us and to call to remembrance the words of Christ.

LESSON #9: Peace will result on the vertical and horizontal levels as a result of Christ coming into our lives.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

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