



How Did Jesus Prepare His Disciples for His Death?

John 16:33: (NASB) *These things I have spoken to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation but take courage; I have overcome the world.*



If you were going to die tomorrow, how would you spend your day today? Jesus faced that very serious question 2,000 years ago. His answer was obvious. He would spend that entire evening with those to whom he was closest. He would prepare them, teach them and encourage them, because what was coming would be shocking and horrifying. The world of the disciples would be shattered and he wanted them to be as ready as their imperfect minds could allow them to be. What he taught them that night through his words and actions was extraordinary. Even though it is not possible for us to get our arms around the depth of compassion, wisdom, love and clarity of the mind of Jesus, we will attempt anyway. We find pure, spiritual inspiration.

We will begin with John 13 and summarize the lessons and guidance Jesus gave through John 16. Chapter 13 begins with Jesus and the disciples in the upper room. We will consider the preparation themes Jesus laid out for them.



John 13:1-2: (NASB) *¹Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that his hour had come that he would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray him.*

- Jesus KNEW his time was here and he knew he was going back to the Father.
- Jesus LOVED his disciples and would demonstrate that love in his final care for them.
- Jesus UNDERSTOOD the elements of his crucifixion and would soon face his betrayer.

How did Jesus know he would be resurrected back to the Father?

Jesus understood the plan of God. He knew he had been faithful, that his hour had come, and he would depart out of this world to return to the Father. We assume he had a constant connection to his Father until that last moment on the cross.

If Jesus knew when he accepted the assignment to go down to earth to ransom mankind, was it a sacrifice knowing death would be temporary and that he would be raised to heaven?

He still had to prove himself faithful. Hebrews 5:8 says *he learned obedience by the things which he suffered*. He had to be tested, but he got to a point where the testing was completed and he was crystallized.



Think about the world's best athletes preparing for an event. It requires incredible preparation and discipline. They are ready to compete; how could it be a sacrifice if their chance of winning is so good? Because it cost them everything to get to that point. This is how we have to look at Jesus. By this point his obedience was a foregone conclusion, but he had to walk through these last trials to help us understand the depths of his faithfulness.



When Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps trained, he and his coach tried to look at every scenario that could go wrong in any race so that nothing would take him by surprise. They had a plan for every possibility.



John 13:3-5: (NASB) ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come forth from God and was going back to God, ⁴got up from supper, and laid aside his garments; and taking a towel, he girded himself. ⁵Then he poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which he was girded.

What a humble difference this would have been from their experience with the Pharisees! It was a radical concept of hierarchy.

Because Jesus KNEW he was returning to God, he began the process of preparing Christianity to function without his physical presence. All of his teaching and examples were to show the apostles the foundation for their new faith. It would begin with the humility of feet washing.

- They needed the lesson that their upcoming leadership roles were to be founded in great humility.
- They would always remember the example of their Lord and Master humbly kneeling and washing their feet.
- They needed to understand that mutual service begins with each of them being first to serve.
- They needed to observe Jesus wash the feet of Judas as well as those who remained faithful.



Did anyone wash the feet of Jesus after he washed the disciples' feet?

It is not likely because it probably would have been written. Also, when Jesus was finished washing their feet, he began teaching them. Perhaps in looking back, they regretted not doing so.



John 13:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, he who eats my bread has lifted up his heel against me. ¹⁹From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he.



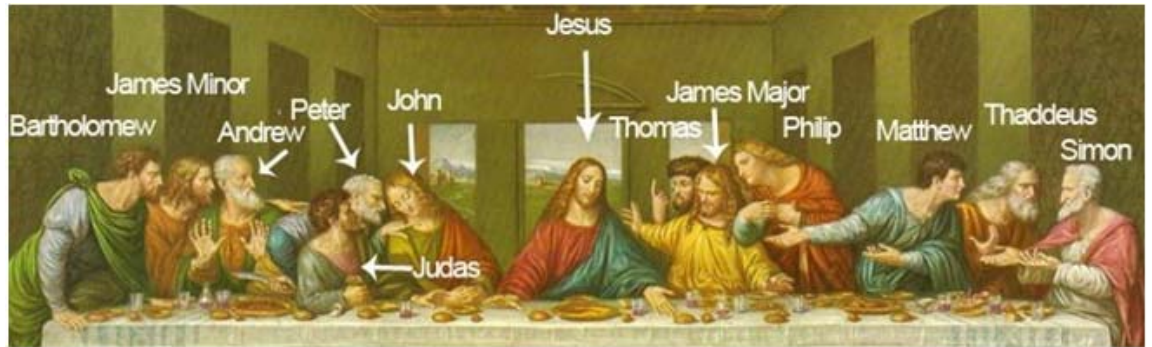
John 13:21: (NASB) *When Jesus had said this, he became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray me.*

His disciples did not yet have the holy spirit to fully understand all he said, but they were given lessons for the entire age of the gospel message. These are lessons for all of us.

Jesus boldly reveals that there is a betrayer in their midst before any evidence of betrayal is present. By doing this, Jesus is letting his apostles know that he knows many things before they occur. This is to instill faith in his messiahship and comfort them for the very near future events. In other words: I am giving you all the preparation I can so that you will look back and realize it was all true and going according to God's plan.

John 13:26-27: (NASB) ²⁶*Jesus then answered, that is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him. So when he had dipped the morsel, he took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, what you do, do quickly.*

There is no equivocation in this identification of the betrayer.



Jesus' immediate response to Judas leaving is surprising from a human perspective but powerful from a spiritual perspective:

John 13:31-33: (NASB) ³¹*Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him;*

How is Jesus and the Heavenly Father glorified by this betrayal?

They are glorified because God's plan is being completed. His plan has a permission of evil which will eventually end, and righteousness will be on the earth and God will be glorified. Jesus did not get in the way of that plan.

³²*if God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and will glorify him immediately.*

³³*Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, Where I am going, you cannot come.*

God would be glorified by the betrayer leaving to do his evil work!





The Bible does not explicitly say why Judas betrayed Jesus, but Judas had a long history of being just plain greedy. John 12:6 specifically says he was a thief who stole from the apostles' money bag. Maybe he wanted Jesus to be more of a showman with the miracles, charging money for demonstrations. We read previously how Satan had an evil influence over Judas at this supper, but that would not account for his bad character up to that point. Some say Judas might have been trying to bring about God's kingdom sooner. By delivering Jesus to the authorities, maybe Judas imagined Jesus would proclaim himself king and overthrow the Roman government. That might be giving him too much credit. There was disrespect in the heart of Judas.



Preparation Theme

KEEP REALITY REAL

for those with passion and good intentions

John 13:36-38: (NASB) ³⁶*Simon Peter said to him, Lord, where are you going? Jesus answered, where I go, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow later. ³⁷Peter said to him, Lord, why can I not follow you right now? I will lay down my life for you. ³⁸Jesus answered, Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny me three times.*

Jesus is also telling Peter of his faithfulness and that he will be with Jesus again. *...but you will follow later* - he knew Peter would be faithful even though Peter himself did not. This would give Peter confidence.

We are called upon to be humble and serve and we follow the greatest leader humanity has EVER seen.

**Humility is now in order and betrayal and denial are both exposed.
What does Jesus teach next?**

Even though his disciples are not really understanding all of what Jesus is saying, he now moves on to give them a strong dose of encouragement. There is precious little time and much to teach. John 14 focuses on being at peace, being obedient and receiving help.



Preparation Theme

BE NOT TROUBLED

for the future is beyond your capacity to grasp

John 14:1-3: (NASB) ¹*Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself, that where I am, there you may be also.*

Believe in God, believe also in me - the apostles already believed in God...

John 17:6: (NASB) *I have revealed Your name to the men whom You gave me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to me, and they have followed Your word.*

...but was this the promised Messiah? Had they been duped? Did they build false expectations based on the words and actions of Jesus? How is it possible that after three and a half years of ministry, his enemies would kill him and the promised kingdom was not going to be established? They needed to know that this was the plan of God Almighty and that Jesus was loyal to His plan.

Jesus was building up their confidence and telling them he is preparing a place for them, even though they could not understand at that moment.



Jesus is starting to explain the connections between God and himself, and soon how the apostles (and future followers) would be connected with them both as well.

There is great assurance when we can be shown our future is bright and significant while we are in a dark and unyielding corner. The key to this bright future is believing. Jesus reminds his disciples to believe in him because what will happen the next day will shake them to their core. He is planting the seeds of hope, accomplishment and God's will to try to help them cope.



 *Preparation Theme*
PERSPECTIVE & CONNECTION
 Jesus and the Father are irrevocably connected

John 14:8-10: (NASB) ⁸Philip said to him, Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us. ⁹Jesus said to him, have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; how can you say, Show us the Father? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own initiative, but the Father abiding in me does His works.

These words are powerful to understand the connection between God and Jesus.

Notice the gentleness with which Jesus answers Phillip's request. Jesus answers:

- I am a clear reflection of the Father - if you see me you can understand Him.
- I reflect him so thoroughly because I am completely intertwined in doing His will.
- It is the Father's influence in me that guides my words and actions.

Later in John 17:21-23, Jesus will complete that connection picture by praying that his followers could all be one. *That they may be all one, just as You, Father, are in me and I in You, that they also may be in Us.* Meaning those followers would also be a clear reflection of the Father and all are unified with God and Jesus.

The end result Jesus is laying out: there are many *dwelling places* in the heavenlies I am preparing for you. I am custom making them for you. There is going to be a calling to something beyond what you can imagine. There is a connectivity between God, myself and the true disciples.

 *Preparation Theme*
LOVING OBEDIENCE
 and help along the way

Once his connection with the Father is clear, Jesus opens a door of spiritual abundance:

John 14:14-17: (NASB) ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. ¹⁵If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶I will ask the Father, and He will give you another helper, that he may be with you forever; ¹⁷that is the spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see him (it) or know him (it), but you know him (it) because he (it) abides with you and will be in you.



Jesus had this power to do things and to follow directions in a spiritual way that he could not normally do on his own. Jesus was the first person to have God's power and influence dwelling within him. The true church of Jesus' followers also has that holy spirit dwelling within it.



- *If you ask anything in my name, I will do it* - meaning you will receive what is in your highest spiritual welfare, so ask correctly.
- There is a work to be done. Do what I command out of your love for me.
- Because I must leave you, I will advocate for you with the Father to send you His spirit, which is God's power and influence.

Jesus personally advocated for another helper. We have had this connection looking out for our best spiritual interests for the last 2,000 years.



Jesus next assures us the gospel message will be preserved down through the ages. We could not know this without God's spirit:

John 14:25-26: (NASB) ²⁵*These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you.* ²⁶*But the helper, the holy spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he (it) will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.*

Many years later, the Apostle John wrote down all Jesus told them. How did he remember or recall what happened in such clarity? How did John know the entire prayer of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane if he was asleep? It was through the holy spirit - God's power and influence - that told John what to write. This gives us confidence that all we are shown in the gospel is true.

Jesus assures them:

- his going away is necessary
- his second coming is certain, and
- there would be everlasting fellowship in these *mansions* being prepared.



Why could the holy spirit not come before Jesus' death?
Why was the power and influence not given while he was still alive?

Because the ransom price had not been paid. Jesus had to sacrifice his life for Adam. The point of the followers of Jesus receiving the holy spirit was to become ministers of reconciliation - to be part of reconciling the world to God later in the resurrection. There could not be reconciliation without the payment of the ransom for Adam. No ransom? Then no reconciliation. No reconciliation? Then no holy spirit.





For more about why the ransom was necessary:



Check out our CQ Kids video: **WHY DID JESUS COME TO EARTH?**
christianquestions.com/youtube



Preparation Theme **THE PEACE OF JESUS**

Next, Jesus introduces them to a kind of peace they would not be able to attain anywhere else:

John 14:27-31: (NASB) ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

This legacy of peace is given to all of Jesus' disciples up to this day. It is our special inheritance and is not available any other way. It is the assurance that no matter what, "it's all good" because our life is under God's providence.

Jesus now gently reminds them of what his journey of faithfulness will bring:

²⁸You heard that I said to you, I go away, and I will come to you. If you loved me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

How can they rejoice if Jesus goes away? Their expectations about Messiah do not match with what he is telling them. Jesus assures them that even though it is not what was expected, it is better than their expectations, as it is an eternal plan.

Jesus reminds them that he is, by God's grace, telling them these things before they happen so their faith can find a foothold of strength in the coming turmoil:

²⁹Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe. ³⁰I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world (Satan) is coming, and he has nothing in me; ³¹but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded me. Get up, let us go from here.

For the ruler of the world is coming - Judas is delivering Satan's betrayal package, but we are seeing Satan ultimately betraying the Father, trying to upend His plan.



The Peace of Jesus



- is unique
- stabilizes during change and unrest
- is based on God's providence
- is unfazed by Satan

This is all possible because Jesus does EXACTLY what the Father commands him to do. This is what faithfulness looks like.

It is amazing to see the tender care of Jesus so aptly expressed right after he dealt with his betrayer.

**Jesus has assured us of his connection to God.
How does he explain our connection in this whole thing?**

Jesus is being very methodical as he unfolds how God's plan will work for his disciples once he is gone. The next piece of encouragement is perhaps the most moving explanation in all of Scripture of how disciples of Jesus are intrinsically connected to God through him.

 *Preparation Theme*
**CONNECTING GOD, JESUS
and all true disciples**



John 15:1-2,4-5,7-8: (NASB) ¹*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, He ~~takes away~~ (takes up); and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.*

**John 15:2: Every branch in me
that does not bear fruit, He takes away**

Takes away: Strongs #142 – take up or away
1) to raise up, elevate, lift up
1a) to raise from the ground, take up: stones
1b) to raise upwards, elevate, lift up: the hand
1c) to draw up: a fish
2) to take upon one's self and carry what has been raised up, to bear
3) to bear away what has been raised, carry off

The word can mean "to take up" OR it can mean "to take away."

Matthew 11:29: *Take <142> my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

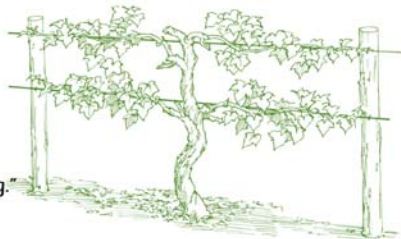
Mark 8:34: And when he had called the people *unto him* with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and **take up <142>** his cross, and follow me.



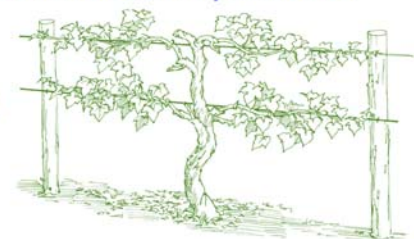
"New branches have a natural tendency to trail down and grow along the ground. But they don't bear fruit down there. When branches grow along the ground the leaves get coated in dust. When it rains they get muddied and mildewed. The branch becomes sick and useless.

...These branches are much too valuable to cut off. We go through the vineyard with a bucket of water looking for these branches.

We lift them up and wash them off. Then we wrap them around the trellis or tie them up. Pretty soon they're thriving."
[Source: "The Secrets of the Vine," page 34, Bruce Wilkinson]



So, if we are **in Jesus** and not bearing fruit, we must be **picked up out of the mud, cleansed and repositioned for growth.** In short, we must be **disciplined** at the loving hand of the Vinedresser.





Jesus' faithfulness made this close connection with the Father possible. This vine is a picture of how Christianity was meant to work.

- Abiding in his faithfulness is the way we bear fruit.
- Having his words abiding in us opens opportunities.
- All of this brings glory to God.

The Vinedresser/vine/branches/fruit picture helps us to understand that interconnectedness between God, Jesus and the disciples.

Jesus is about to be crucified and his friends will be shocked. He is preparing them with what they will remember later in their Christian walk.



Preparation Theme **JOY**

from being loved and being obedient

John 15:9-11: (NASB) ⁹*Just as the Father has loved me, I have also loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love; just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.*

The interconnectedness with God and Jesus is the basis for our obedience. This relationship gives great joy to Jesus, and he wants us to share his joy with us. The world in general does not know this kind of joy. As with his special kind of peace, this is only found in God through Christ.



Abide in my love - when we "abide" somewhere, it is our address. This is where we live. We abide, we are supposed to bear fruit, we are connected and we have the personal attention of the Vinedresser (God Almighty) pruning to help us grow.



Preparation Theme **LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

John 15:12-17: (NASB) ¹²*This is my commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this that one lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you... ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in my name He may give to you. ¹⁷This I command you, that you love one another.*

How do we love one another? The same way Jesus loves us!



Our "job description" is to be a fruit-bearer!



Part of bearing fruit is to *love one another, just as I have loved you. Why does it take so long to get to love one another? Jesus began this time by washing the feet of his apostles, humbly serving them. He then walked them through service, betrayal, knowing truth, heavenly places, his peace, trials, the comforter, the vine and the branches and the gardener picture. All of this brings us to loving one another: Greater love has no one than this that one lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.*



Preparation Theme

IMPENDING PERSECUTION

John 15:18-21: (NASB) ¹⁸If the world hates you, you know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. ²⁰Remember the word that I said to you, a slave is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. ²¹But all these things they will do to you for my name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent me.

There would be no way around persecution. Jesus informs his disciples of coming persecution only after he has given them ALL of the tools necessary to be faithful through such difficulty. Loving one another must be in place to endure persecution so we can bind ourselves together in the unity of our faith.



Preparation Theme
UNDERSTANDING
the spirit of truth

John 15:26-27: (NASB) ²⁶When the helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the spirit of truth who (which) proceeds from the Father, he (it) will testify about me, ²⁷and you will testify also, because you have been with me from the beginning.

Now the *helper* introduced as the *spirit of truth* back in John 14:16,17 is explained. This function of God's spirit enabled his disciples to truthfully testify about the life of Jesus and the entire gospel message.



Episode 804:
How Does God's Spirit Work?

How does God's spirit "testify," if it is His power and influence?



Episode 595:
Does the Holy Spirit Speak?

At Pentecost (Acts 2) when Peter is begotten by the spirit, the spirit spoke through Peter. It is not an extra voice; it speaks through the humanity it is influencing.

This spirit not only comforts, but it gives truth and the depth of knowledge necessary to know and preach the gospel. The apostles would carry the true gospel throughout the world, and Jesus made sure they were fully equipped to do so. The power and privilege of being connected to God through Jesus gives us the ability to handle persecution. Amazing!





**Jesus' time with his followers is growing short.
How does he bring this final time of teaching to a close?**

We would expect Jesus to bring them to as prepared a state of mind as possible. In a matter of hours, their lives would be turned upside down and their expectations would be shattered. While Jesus knows they will all falter temporarily, he also knows they will not only recover but will eventually flourish.

Jesus gives them all of this information, encouragement and direction, knowing they will fall. They would have this to come back to, as do we, 2,000 years later as the plan of God continues to unfold.



Preparation Theme

HARSH REALITY IS COMING

John 16:1-2: (NASB) ¹*These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. ²They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God.*

Jesus pulls no punches here! Remember Saul of Tarsus? He was one of several Pharisees who hunted Christians to persecute and kill them because he thought he was serving God.



Preparation Theme

HARDSHIP & LOSS

will bring greater strength and ability

John 16:5-7: (NASB) ⁵*But now I am going to Him who sent me; and none of you asks me, where are you going? ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him (it) to you.*

In other words: To be able to cope with all of that which is coming, I have to leave. My leaving brings you the spirit. If I do not go, the spirit does not come because I have to pay the price, the Father has to raise me from the dead, I have to advocate for you and then the spirit comes.

Jesus observed that his disciples were not asking questions and were unsure what was going on. He read their hearts and saw mounting sorrow. His response to this was not some shallow, "Oh, don't worry." Instead, he gives a powerful assurance that what is happening will make them stronger and better equipped than they could ever imagine! But such equipping would only come with Jesus' absence, which they were not used to.



Preparation Theme

REALIZE YOU ARE AT THE BEGINNING

be patient and you will understand in time

John 16:12-15: (NASB) ¹²*I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³But when he (it), the spirit of truth, comes, he (it) will guide you into all the truth... ¹⁴He (It) will glorify me, for he (it) will take of mine and will disclose it to you. ¹⁵All things that the Father has are mine; therefore I said that he (it) takes of mine and will disclose it to you.*

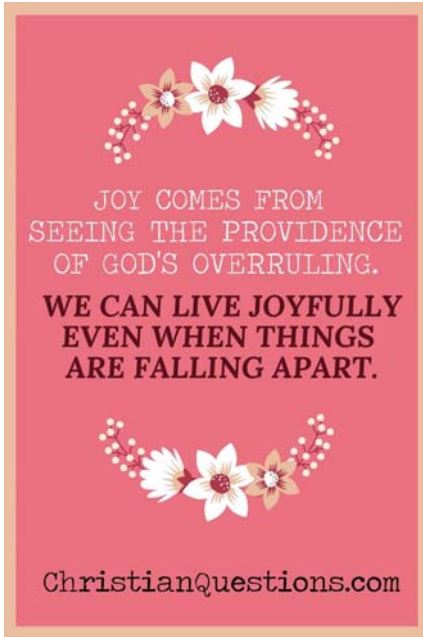
Jesus is disclosing great news. Once they have God's spirit working in them, it will give a deep and profound meaning to all of Jesus' teachings. They would have the ability of recall and to understand Jesus' parables. This means the very plan of God Himself would be clearly understandable! They would go on to be the foundation of Christianity. Jesus was preparing them for the development of the ministry of reconciling all of the resurrected world back to God in the future kingdom.



John 16:20-22: (NASB) ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy. ²¹Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world. ²²Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.



Preparation Theme
NEW LIFE COMES THROUGH PAIN & SUFFERING
Joy is greatest after trial



Their joy will not be able to be taken from them. Living with joy is not a feeling; it is a way we approach our lives. It is a choice to see through the lens of God's providence.

Jesus lived and died with joy:

Hebrews 12:2: (NASB) *looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Jesus has established a pattern of revealing and repeating their coming hardships and then reminding them of the more than compensating blessings that will follow.



He is teaching them to recognize that trial and tribulation will always bring blessing because he is faithful and because they follow him!

Preparation Theme
REMEMBER THE SIMPLICITY
of the most important facts

John 16:27-28: (NASB) ²⁷for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came forth from the Father. ²⁸I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again and going to the Father.

Restated simply: God loves you because you love me and believe that I am His son. I came into the world, did His will, paid the price and now I go back to Him. This was to help them understand the path ahead would not be easy, but here are the most important facts of the matter.

Preparation Theme
BELIEVE THAT NOTHING CAN STOP
GOD'S GLORIOUS PLAN
inner peace comes from belief

Inner peace does not come from hoping or wishing:

John 16:32-33: (NASB) ³²Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. ³³These things I have spoken to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

These are Jesus' final words of uninterrupted teaching to his disciples before his crucifixion. After this, they are going to go to the Garden of Gethsemane from where Jesus will be taken away. This is his final farewell.

Jesus is leaving them with the most powerful and positive point he could possibly leave with them: *I have overcome the world* - he has put things back in order. These words are exactly what the Apostle John described about the



surety of Jesus when these teachings began in John 13. The message is abundantly clear - Jesus HAD overcome the world. What would come next would be the ultimate example of crystalized obedience the world would ever see.

There is such comfort when you have a leader who is so completely sure of the way forward, without a shred of doubt. Jesus showed incredible leadership we can rely on.

The price Jesus paid and the way he cared for his followers showed us what Christianity is about. We are to be his representatives but will get the needed help because *I have overcome the world*. We have nothing to fear!

*So, how did Jesus prepare his disciples for his death?
For Jonathan, Rick and Julie and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between, the leader is a servant. —Max DePree

Christian Questions Weekly Newsletter

CQ Rewind Show Notes and Study Questions

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Study Questions follow

Study QUESTIONS

Ep. 1171: How did Jesus Prepare His Disciples for His Death?

<https://christianquestions.com/character/inspiration/how-did-jesus-prepare-his-disciples-for-his-death/>

See:  CQ Rewind
SHOW NOTES

1. What is the first Preparation Theme" quoted in the podcast? List the context points that lead to this point. (See John 13:1-2) What was the purpose of all of these preparations? When were these lessons given?
2. How did Jesus know he was returning to the Father? How did he have the surety that he had been faithful? Was his death a sacrifice if he knew he would not stay dead? (See Luke 18:31-34, Matthew 26:32, 16:21-23, 17:22-23)
3. What was so striking about the next Preparation Theme of humility to the disciples? These preparations were the basis of what? (See John 13:3-5)
4. What is the third Preparation Theme? Where was the assurance in this lesson? How are Jesus and the Heavenly Father glorified by the betrayal of Jesus? What are the possible motives for Judas' betrayal? (See John 13:18-20-21,26-27,31-33, 12:6)
5. Judas had passion with bad intentions. Who, in the next Preparation Theme, had passion with good intentions? What assurance did Jesus give to this person? (See John 13:36-38)
6. What would trouble the disciples in this next Preparation lesson? What did Jesus tell them that might undermine the disciples' belief in him as their Messiah? What did he say to reassure them? How does this also reassure us? What is the *key* to this reassurance? (See John 14:1-3, 17:6)
7. How does knowing Jesus help us to know the Father? How does Jesus going to prepare for the true church comfort us? (See John 14:8-10, 17:21-23)
8. What *spiritual abundance* does Jesus open up in this next Preparation Theme? What are we given that will look out for our best spiritual interests? What is available to us to train us in how we should live? How can we be sure it is an accurate record? What will our job be should we choose to faithfully follow Jesus in this life? (See John 14:14-17,25-26)
9. How do we find the peace of Jesus in the next Preparation Theme? Why is the plan of God better than what the disciples expected? What will give the disciples a "foothold of strength in the coming turmoil" surrounding Jesus' death? How does Judas deliver Satan's betrayal of God? (See John 14:27-31)
10. How does the beautiful picture of the Vinedresser/vine/branches/fruit illustrate the interconnectedness between God, Jesus and the disciples in the next Preparation Theme"? (See John 15:1-2,4-5,7-8)
11. How do we abide in Jesus' love? What does this give us? (See John 15:9-11) What does Jesus tell us to do, over and over? How can we do this effectively? (See John 15:12-14,16-17)
12. Jesus told the disciples about impending persecution only after he did what? How does the spirit of truth help all of us to handle persecution? (See John 15:18-21,26-27)
13. Explain the connection of the next four Preparation Themes. (See John 16:1-2,5-7,12-15,20-22)
14. The final two Preparation Themes revolve around the reassurance that *the Father Himself loves us* and gave us His son. What does this mean to you? (See John 16:27-28,32-33)