

Gospel of John

Lesson 20 The Counselor and Consoler John 14

Memorize the TRUTH!

... I am the way and the truth
and the life. No one comes to the
Father except through me.
John 14:6

Exhortation and Encouragement – John 14:1-8

Day 1

1. What do the words in verse 1 mean to you?
2. What do the disciples' questions in verses 5 and 8 tell you about them?
3. What was significant about Jesus' claims in verse 6?
"I am the way" Acts 4:12
"I am the truth"
"I am the life"
4. How do we apply these claims in our own life?

Deuteronomy 5:32-33

Proverbs 6:23

Learn the TRUTH!

Jesus is now in His last hours with His disciples. He encourages them to remain faithful no matter what the future holds for them. Jesus tells us not to let our hearts be troubled as well, but instead to trust in Him. Is your heart troubled today? Begin to trust Jesus in all situations.

Power Through Faith in Jesus – John 14:9-14

Day 2

5. What do we learn about God from Jesus' words: "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father"?
6. a. How is it possible to do "even greater things" than Jesus did? What do you think this means?
b. What does it mean to pray "in [Jesus'] name"?
- c. Jesus said that He would do whatever we ask in His name. How does this get misinterpreted?

James 4:2-3

**Promise of the Holy Spirit
John 14:15-20**

Day 3

7. What do you learn about the nature of the Holy Spirit and His relationship to us as believers in Christ?

John 3:5

Acts 1:8

8. a. Who comes to live with us when we accept Christ? Compare verses 16-17 with verses 18-20.
- b. What does this say about the unity of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit?

**Our Counselor and Consoler
John 14 Review**

Day 5

12. List the phrases from John 14 in which Jesus expresses unity with God the Father and the Holy Spirit.

13. a. List the different ways that Jesus said He would care and provide for His disciples.

b. How do we receive that same care and provision?

14. What does this chapter say about Jesus' return?

**Love and Peace
John 14:21-31**

Day 4

9. How do we respond in love to God, and how does He respond to us?

10. a. What is the peace Jesus promises?

- b. How is this peace different than the peace that the world gives?

Philippians 4:6-7

11. If you were one of the twelve disciples, which truth from Jesus' teaching would have consoled you the most? Which truth means the most to you today? Why?

Live the TRUTH!

Jesus says if we love Him, we will keep His commandments. The only way that we are able to keep His commandments is by relying on the power of the Holy Spirit to work in us. This is the Spirit — the Counselor — that Jesus promised in John 14:16: "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever." Have you asked the Holy Spirit to help you obey God?

Commentary Gospel of John Lesson 20

Christ's prophecy about Peter's denial (John 13:38) may have shocked the disciples into a realization that their Master *was* going to die, even though He had foretold His death many times (2:19; 7:33; 8:14, 21; 10:17-18; 12:23-24; 13:33). Jesus knew the terror that would overwhelm them and trouble their hearts. He was able to offer comfort to them because He too, being fully human, had experienced a "troubled heart" (Mark 14:33; John 11:33; 12:27; 13:21). Scripture teaches that because Christ is our High Priest, who sympathizes with our weaknesses, we can go to Him without fear and know He will understand (Hebrews 4:15-16).

Our loving Master cares about the needs and the condition of each person who follows Him. He also had compassion for others who were not His followers when they first met Him: Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, the lame man at Bethesda, and the woman who touched the hem of His clothing to receive healing. Jesus had only three years to respond to the needs around Him; but, despite the crowds, He found time to serve individuals, regardless of their backgrounds or reputations.

Aware of the disciples' distress after they hear that one of them will betray Him and that Peter will deny Him, Jesus prescribes the remedy: "Trust in God; trust also in me" (John 14:1). He also reveals His purpose in leaving His disciples temporarily: "In my Father's house are many rooms I am going there to prepare a place for you I will come back and take you to be with me" (14:2-3). Jesus is speaking of His return (Second Coming) when He will gather His followers (14:16-18). Christ says believers will find joy in heaven, but He is the only way to get there: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (14:6). The phrase *I am* is an Old Testament name for God.

Note that Jesus does not say "I show you the way" but "I am the way." He does not just tell us how to approach God; He *is* the way, just as He *is* the light that lights our path to God. In addition, Jesus declares the truth and He *is* the truth who makes visible the nature and principles of God. An understanding of God's truth comes from a growing personal experience and knowledge of Jesus. God's truth is confirmed by *the* "Spirit of truth" (14:16-17) who teaches us all things and guides us into truth. Finally, Jesus *is* the life. He not only spoke of life, He demonstrated His power to regenerate life in the man of Nain, in Jairus' daughter, and in Lazarus (Luke 7:11-17; Luke 8:49-56; John 11:38-44).

The miracles Christ performed gave Him credibility as He both proclaimed that He and the Father were one and gave instructions to those who would follow Him.

"If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him" (14:7).

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me" (14:9-10)?

"The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work" (14:10).

**Check
It Out:**

Are you troubled by something — a broken relationship, a disappointment, a difficult decision, a family problem? Jesus understands and He asks you to trust *Him* instead of being troubled. Have your encounters with Him in this study helped you trust Him in the difficult situations in your life? Take your concerns to Him. He cares for you, and He has the power to make a difference in your life.

“Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves” (14:11).

“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father” (14:13).

The miracles Jesus performed were extraordinary — showing the supernatural power of God at work in His Son. Yet the Lord declares that “even greater things” (14:12) will come through His followers. Jesus may have meant greater quantity rather than greater quality. During the apostolic age and the time of the early church, thousands of people responded to the gospel (*good news*) of Christ, not only in Jerusalem and the surrounding areas but throughout the Roman Empire.

In verses 13-14, Jesus promises His followers He will do whatever they ask in His name. To pray in His name is to ask for His intercession and show our dependence on Him for the answer, to ask Him to act on our behalf. According to Colossians 3:17, whenever we do something in the name of Christ, we are actually bringing His Spirit into our action. Jesus then assures His disciples that He will send the “Counselor” (14:26), or “Comforter” (King James Version), to be with them after He leaves, meaning the Holy Spirit. (We will look more closely at the Holy Spirit in a later lesson.) The Last Supper and Jesus’ farewell talk occur on the same site where 120 believers would later receive the Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 1:15; 2:1-4).

In his first letter to the early Christians, John talks about the risen Christ as our Advocate: “If anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One” (1 John 2:1). Here John uses the same Greek term, *parakletos*, or *paraclete*, meaning *one who speaks in favor of*, or *advocate*. As our representative to the Father, Jesus prays for the Holy Spirit to live in our lives and, as the Paraclete, He serves as our Advocate and Counselor to settle the consequences of our sin and to guide us in living a holy life.

Jesus states what the results of our love for Him should be: “If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever” (14:15-16). This love is an act of our will in response to His love for us (1 John 4:19). The command Jesus refers to is the new commandment He gave in Matthew 22:37, 39-40: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind Love your neighbor as yourself.” This is divine, dynamic love that governs a person’s life and generates kind, giving behavior toward others. Our role as believers is to obey His commands so that the Holy Spirit may dwell in us forever.



What did Jesus want to share as He prepared the disciples for His departure from earth and His eternal presence with them through the Holy Spirit? He wanted them, as well as all of us, to depend on the Holy Spirit as our Counselor and Consoler. Are you depending on the Holy Spirit in this way? Are you experiencing His peace as you face life’s challenges? Are you living free of fear? Jesus tells us in John 14:1 that the key is to trust Him: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.”