

Jesus' Farewell Message

Prepared by Leigh Harkness drawing from D.A. Carson's commentary on *The Gospel According to John*
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Introduction

This is a series of six studies for lent covering John 13:31 - 15:16. This passage gives part of Jesus' farewell message to the disciples after Judas left the upper room. The studies are divided as follows:

Study 1: John 13:31-38 My Glory	Study 2: John 14:1-11 My Place
Study 3: John 14:12 – 21 My Commands	Study 4: John 14:22 – 31 My Peace
Study 5: John 15:1 – 8 My Words	Study 6: John 15:9 – 16 My Love

To gain the most from the study, it is recommended that you prepare your own responses to the questions beforehand.

Study 1 : My Glory

At the point where Judas goes into the night [darkness], Jesus begins to address those disciples who will in the long term be faithful to him [remain in the light].

John 13: 31-38

³¹ When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

³³ "My [dear] children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

³⁶ Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?"

Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."

³⁷ Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you."

³⁸ Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

The Glory of the Father and the Son

1.1 The departure of Judas sets in motion the process of Jesus' arrest, trial and execution. How does Jesus perceive his imminent execution? (John 13:31-32)

1.2 Why does Jesus' execution glorify God the Father? (v 31-32; John 1:18¹, 17:4-8²)

1.3 Why does God the Father glorify the Son? (v 31-32; John 1:14³, 16:28⁴, 17:5², 24⁵; Is 49:3⁶)

¹ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

² I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. ⁶ "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

³ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

⁴ I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

⁵ "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

⁶ He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendour."

1.4 How does the impending event reveal the saving sovereignty of God and his new Kingdom? (John 1:12-13⁷; 3:14-15⁸; 4:23⁹; 5:25¹⁰; 6:32-33¹¹, 51¹²; 8:28¹³; 17:2¹⁴)

A New Commandment Mandatum Novum (*from which we derive Maunday Thursday*)

Having announced his imminent departure and insisted that his disciples cannot come with him, Jesus begins to lay out what he expects of them while he is away.

1.5 How does Jesus' new commandment (v 34) differ from the second greatest commandment? (Love your neighbour as yourself. Mark 12:31¹⁵)

1.6 Who is to be loved? (John 13:34)

1.7 What is the standard of love? (v 34; 8:28-29¹⁶; 10:17-18¹⁷; 15:9-10¹⁸)

1.8 Why is this love important to God's message? (v 35; 1 Jn 3:10¹⁹, 16²⁰)

Peter and the disciples are less interested in the New Commandment than the threatened departure of their leader. Peter is more interested in Jesus' imminent plans than in obedience and so asks him "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus tries to discourage his impetuous claims. Only Jesus, the lamb of God, can offer the sacrifice that deals with the world's sins. But Peter will follow Jesus later in the sense that he will follow Jesus to death, and join him in glory.

⁷ Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

⁸ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

⁹ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

¹⁰ Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.

¹¹ Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

¹² I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

¹³ So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.

¹⁴ For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

¹⁵ The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.

¹⁶ So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. ²⁹The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him."

¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

¹⁸ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

¹⁹ This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

²⁰ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

Study 2: My Place

John 14: 1-11

¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.”

⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

⁹ Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ 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 works themselves.

The Promise of a Place where Jesus is going

Jesus consoles the disciples although he is the one about to be crucified. He asks them “*Do you believe in God? Then believe, also, in me.*” He then spells out why they should not worry. It is true that he is going away, but he is going away to prepare a place for them so that they may be where he is. What more could they ask for?

The place already exists before Jesus gets there. It is the going itself via the cross and resurrection that prepares the place for Jesus’ disciples. And if he takes such trouble to prepare a place for his own, it is inconceivable that the rest should not follow: *I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*

Jesus tells the disciples that they know the way to the place where he is going. Thomas replies that they don’t even know the destination, so how can they know the way. The fact that Jesus had just told them his destination means that the he (and the other disciples) have not come to grips with what he just said about the destination. So Jesus goes into a more detailed explanation.

2.1. What is the destination? (v 2; Mk 4:26-27²¹; 1 Thes 4:15-18²²)

2.2 Only because Jesus is “the truth” of God and “the life” of God can he be the way for others to come to God. In what ways is Jesus “the truth” of God? (v 6; 1:1²³, 14²⁴, 18²⁵; 5:19ff²⁶; 8:29²⁷; 20:28²⁸)

²¹ At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²² According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

²³ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

²⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

²⁵ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

²⁶ Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. . . .

²⁷ The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.

²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

2.3 In what ways is Jesus “the life” of God? (v 6, 1:4²⁹; 3:15³⁰; 5:21³¹, 26³²; 11:25-26³³; 1 Jn 5:20³⁴)

Jesus exclusively mediates and delivers God’s truth and God’s life so that he alone can insist that he is the only way: *No-one comes to the Father except through me*. Discuss.

Knowing God

2.4 In what ways is Jesus more than an envoy of God? (vs 9-11; 5:19ff²⁶; 8:28³⁵; 10:30³⁶)

2.5 What do the miracles signify about Jesus? (v 11; 2:11³⁷; 5:36³⁸; 10:37-38³⁹)

2.6 Who is Jesus? (8:23-25⁴⁰)

²⁹ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

³⁰ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

³¹ For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.

³² For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

³³ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

³⁴ We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

³⁵ So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.

³⁶ I and the Father are one.

³⁷ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

³⁸ I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me.

³⁹ Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. ³⁸ But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.

⁴⁰ But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.” ²⁵ “Who are you?” they asked. “Just what I have been telling you from the beginning,” Jesus replied.

Study 3: My Commands

John 14: 12-21

¹²Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

¹⁵"If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

Appeal for Faith

3.1 Why will anyone who has faith in Jesus be able to do even greater things than he did? (v 12-13; 5:20⁴¹; 15:26-27⁴²; 17:20⁴³; 20:21⁴⁴, 29⁴⁵)

One of the reasons why the works the disciples perform after the resurrection would be greater than those done by Jesus before his death is because they now belong to the age of clarity and power introduced by Jesus' sacrifice and exaltation. The signs and works Jesus performed during his ministry could not fully accomplish their true purpose until after Jesus had risen from the dead and been exalted. Many more converts joined the messiah's community after Jesus time of ministry than during it.

3.2 What are the implications of Jesus going to the Father? (vs 13-14)

3.3 Why would Jesus do what his disciples ask in his name? (v 13)

3.4 The prospect of doing 'greater things' comes to whom? (v 15; 1 Jn 5:2-3a⁴⁶)

3.5 From whom comes the enabling power to do greater things? (v 16)

The circle of love, obedience and Spirit

Jesus is describing a set of essential relationships, not a set of conditions. His true followers will love him; they will obey him; and he will secure for them another Counsellor.

⁴¹ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.

⁴² When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. ²⁷ And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

⁴³ My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message.

⁴⁴ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.

⁴⁵ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

⁴⁶ This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ³ In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands.

3.6 Who sends the Holy Spirit? (16, 26; 15:26⁴⁷; 16:7⁴⁸)

3.7 If the disciples are to be given another advocate, who was the first? (v 16, 18; 1 Jn 2:1⁴⁹)

3.8 How do, and will, the disciples know the Spirit? (v 17; 7:37-39⁵⁰)

Note: the Spirit is to be experienced, otherwise the disciples would continue to feel abandoned.

3.9 Why will the disciples live? (v 19; 16:20⁵¹, 22-23⁵²)

3.10 How are the disciples linked to the Father? (v 20; 23⁵³; 17:20-23⁵⁴)

3.11 What are the characteristics of the life that Jesus is presenting to his disciples? (v 21, 14:13-14⁵⁵; 16:20⁵⁶, 22-23⁵⁷)

3.12 Who initiates the love? (v 21; 6:70⁵⁸; 15:16⁵⁹)

Note: It is not the believer that initiates this relationship of love by demonstrating obedience, with Jesus and the Father simply responding. The ongoing relationship between Jesus and his disciples is characterised by love and obedience on their part. They love and obey Jesus, and he loves them, in exactly the same way that he loves and obeys the Father, and the Father loves him.

⁴⁷ When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.

⁴⁸ But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

⁴⁹ My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

⁵⁰ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

⁵¹ Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.

⁵² So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. ²³ In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

⁵³ Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

⁵⁴ My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

⁵⁵ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

⁵⁶ Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.

⁵⁷ So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. ²³ In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

⁵⁸ Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!"

⁵⁹ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

Study 4: My Peace

John 14:22-31

²² Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?"

²³ Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

²⁵ "All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

²⁸ "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. ³⁰ I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, ³¹ but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

"Come now; let us leave.

4.1 What ministry does Judas expect Jesus to do in future? (v 22)

4.2 What does Jesus infer about Judas from his question? (v 23-24,27)

4.3 For Judas's benefit, Jesus reiterates what he has been saying. What new insight do we gain from Jesus' explanation to Judas? (v 23-24; cf 2⁶⁰, 15⁶¹, 21⁶²; Rev 21:3⁶³; Ezk 37:26-27⁶⁴; Zc 2:10⁶⁵)

4.4 How did the Holy Spirit help the first disciples? (v 26; 2:19-22⁶⁶)

⁶⁰ My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

⁶¹ "If you love me, keep my commands.

⁶² Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.

⁶³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

⁶⁴ I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. ²⁷ My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.

⁶⁵ "Shout and be glad, Daughter Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you," declares the LORD.

⁶⁶ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." ²⁰ They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

4.5 How is Jesus' peace different from the peace that the world gives? (v 27; Num 6:26⁶⁷; Ps 29:11⁶⁸; Is 9:6-7⁶⁹, 52:6-7⁷⁰; Hg 2:9⁷¹; Rom 5:1⁷², 14:17⁷³)

4.6 Why should the disciples be assured? (v 27, 1⁷⁴)

4.7 Why should the disciples be glad that Jesus is going to his Father? (v28; 17:5⁷⁵)

4.8 How does Jesus reveal to the world his love for the Father? (v 31; 10:17-18⁷⁶; Phil 2:10-11⁷⁷)

4.9 How do we reveal our love for Jesus?

⁶⁷ the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.

⁶⁸ The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.

⁶⁹ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷⁰ How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

⁷¹ 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the LORD Almighty.'

⁷² Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

⁷³ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

⁷⁴ Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

⁷⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

⁷⁶ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

⁷⁷ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Study 5: My Words

John 15:1-8

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

5.1 In the Old Testament, the vine is a common symbol for Israel (Ps 80:8-11⁷⁸). Why would Jesus call himself the “true” vine? (v 1; Ps 80:16-17⁷⁹; Is 5:7⁸⁰; Je 2:21⁸¹, 12:10⁸²)

5.2 In what ways is God the Father the gardener? (v 1 -2; Ps 80:14-15⁸³)

5.3 What is the true mark of a Christian? (v 2; Mt 13:23⁸⁴)

5.4 What is the relationship between the branches and the vine? (v 4)

⁷⁸ You transplanted a vine from Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. ⁹You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land. ¹⁰The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches. ¹¹Its branches reached as far as the Sea, its shoots as far as the River.

⁷⁹ Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire; at your rebuke your people perish. ¹⁷Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself.

⁸⁰ The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

⁸¹ I had planted you like a choice vine of sound and reliable stock. How then did you turn against me into a corrupt, wild vine?

⁸² Many shepherds will ruin my vineyard and trample down my field; they will turn my pleasant field into a desolate wasteland.

⁸³ Return to us, God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see! Watch over this vine, ¹⁸the root your right hand has planted, the son you have raised up for yourself.

⁸⁴ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

- 5.5 How does Jesus interpret his own metaphor? (v 4, 14:23⁸⁵)
- 5.6 How do we remain in Jesus? (v 5-7, 10-12⁸⁶, 14:1⁸⁷)
- 5.7 What happens if we do not remain in Jesus? (v 5-6; Ezk 15:6-8⁸⁸)
- 5.8 What does it mean to bear fruit? (v 2-8, 10-12⁸⁶, 14:27⁸⁹; Gal 5:22-23⁹⁰)

Note: Jesus and his revelation are virtually interchangeable, for he is the incarnate revelation. Conformity in one area ensures conformity in the other; a test in the observable area of obedience to Christ is a test of the unseen area of genuine spiritual vitality. All this is equivalent to remaining in the vine; that is the union out of which fruit is produced. To cast this in terms of prayer, such a truly obedient believer proves effective in prayer, since all he or she asks for conforms to the will of God.

- 5.9 How does Jesus glorify his Father through believers? (v 8, 5:23⁹¹)

⁸⁵ Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."

⁸⁶ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

⁸⁷ Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

⁸⁸ "Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: As I have given the wood of the vine among the trees of the forest as fuel for the fire, so will I treat the people living in Jerusalem. ⁷I will set my face against them. Although they have come out of the fire, the fire will yet consume them. And when I set my face against them, you will know that I am the LORD.⁸I will make the land desolate because they have been unfaithful, declares the Sovereign LORD."

⁸⁹ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

⁹⁰ But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²²gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

⁹¹ that all may honour the Son just as they honour the Father. Whoever does not honour the Son does not honour the Father, who sent him.

Study 6: My Love

John 15:9-16

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

6.1 How much does Jesus love his disciples? (v 9,3:35⁹², 5:20-21⁹³;10:17⁹⁴; 17:24⁹⁵,26⁹⁶)

6.2 How are his disciples to remain in Jesus love? (v 10; 14:15⁹⁷,21⁹⁸)

6.3 In what ways is the relationship between the Father and the Son the model for the relationship between Jesus and his disciples? (10; 4:34⁹⁹; 5:19¹⁰⁰; 6:38¹⁰¹; 8:29¹⁰², 55¹⁰³; 12:27-28¹⁰⁴; 14:31¹⁰⁵)

⁹² The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands.

⁹³ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. ²⁴ For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.

⁹⁴ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again.

⁹⁵ Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

⁹⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

⁹⁷ If you love me, keep my commands.

⁹⁸ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.

⁹⁹ "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

¹⁰⁰ Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

¹⁰¹ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

¹⁰² The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.

¹⁰³ Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word.

¹⁰⁴ "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."

¹⁰⁵ but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

- 6.4 What accomplishment of the disciples would bring joy to Jesus? (9-11)
- 6.5 What accomplishment would bring complete joy to the disciples? (9-11)
- 6.6 What is Jesus' command to his disciples by which they are to show their love for him? (v 12)
- 6.7 How does Jesus show his great love for his disciples? (v 13)
- 6.8 Servants are required to do what their master commands them to do and Jesus' says that his disciples are his friends if they do what he commands. What makes Jesus' friends any different to slaves? (v 14-15; 14:26¹⁰⁶; 16:12-15¹⁰⁷)
- 6.9 To what mission are the disciples called? (v 16; Acts 13:47¹⁰⁸; Is 49:6¹⁰⁹; 1 Tim 1:12¹¹⁰)

¹⁰⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

¹⁰⁷ "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. ¹⁵All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

¹⁰⁸ For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

¹⁰⁹ he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

¹¹⁰ I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service.