

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Feb 2016

John: Jesus is the Christ

Lesson #16: Promises, Promises...

INTRODUCTION

How does the world express its hate of followers of Jesus? What might it mean if you are not “hated?”

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: The Gospels are clear that before the resurrection, the disciples had incredible difficulty imagining that Jesus could truly have been a divine-human agent of God. Yet that should hardly surprise us because scholars and others even today continually debate the question of “Who is this Jesus?” Whether it was David Fredrich Strauss of the nineteenth century or the Jesus Seminar of the close of the twentieth century, the idea of Jesus being one with the Father is rationally a hard idea for humans to accept.¹ From this point on, Jesus does not minister to the public but to his disciples. The reason is emphasized in John 16:33. In view of His departure (John 14:2-3), Jesus gave the disciples several promises in John 14 to encourage them. At the end of today’s lesson and discussion, see how many promises you can identify.

Read John 14:1-14

1. What do we learn about the way to where Jesus is going?
2. What do you say to someone who believes there are many roads to God? 2 Cor 4:3-4, Col 1:19-20
3. Based on Jesus’ answer to Philip, how would you answer a person who says, “I can’t believe in something I can’t see”?
4. Jesus says we will do even greater things than He did. Greater in what sense?
5. When something is repeated it gets special notice, as with Jesus’ promise in verses 13-14. How do these verses relate to verse 12?
6. Many people add the words “in My name” or “in Jesus’ name” like magic formula at the end of a prayer? What does Jesus mean by this promise?

Read John 14:15-30

7. What does Jesus teach us about the Holy Spirit?

Note: Counselor in Greek is “paraclete,” one called alongside to advise, exhort, comfort. This is the word “Advocate” in 1 John 2:1.

8. How does the Holy Spirit relate to the peace Jesus promises?
9. How does Jesus know who really loves Him?
10. What difference does the Holy Spirit make in our ability to obey Jesus Christ?
11. How is the Holy Spirit “activated, turned loose or made effective” in a Christian’s life?

APPLICATION

Which promises of Jesus are significant and/or meaningful to you today?

Dr. Henry Brandt, a wise Christian psychologist, describes a peaceful state as follows: normal pulse and temperature; normal blood pressure and breathing; relaxed muscles; mentally at ease; emotionally calm. How would you be different if you were really at peace – for just one day?

¹ Borchert, G. L. (2002). *John 12–21* (Vol. 25B, p. 113). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.