

# The need to be washed

John 13 vs 1-30

## Introduction

In the final days before His death on the cross, Jesus gives His followers specific instructions.

This is all part of the main theme of the second half of John's Gospel.

Chapters 11,12 showed us that life comes through Jesus' death... and chapters 18-20 return to this theme.

Chapters 13-17 explain how Jesus' death and resurrection will impact life now...

As we'll see, for the disciples, living life right now is shaped by the death and resurrection of Jesus.

## Chapter 13

- <sup>1</sup> It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.
- <sup>2</sup> The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.
- <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;

4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel round his waist.

5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped round him.

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?'

7 Jesus replied, 'You do not realise now what I am doing, but later you will understand.'

What are the two time periods in v 1?

- **The Passover Festival** – the annual feast at which the Jews remembered God's rescue from the Egyptians and His judgement. Rescued – through the sacrificial death of the Passover Lamb.
- **His hour had come** – this is all part of the plan that Jesus has been speaking about since chapter 2!

Why is it so shocking that Jesus washes the disciples' feet?

It would be like the Queen volunteering to be the loo attendant at a really bad public toilet!

What did Jesus know?

∇ 1: 'The hour had come ...' to go back to His Father, via the cross.

∇ 2: the devil... 'had already prompted Judas ... to betray Jesus.'

Do the disciples understand what He is doing?

No – but they will later, after His death on the cross.

8 'No,' said Peter, 'you shall never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.'

9 'Then, Lord,' Simon Peter replied, 'not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!'

10 Jesus answered, 'Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.'

11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

So what is this act of washing really about?

It's a picture of what Jesus will do on the cross by washing away our sins.

This helps us understand even better what goes on between Peter and Jesus in **v 8**

Expressed differently: **'If I do not wash you (save you) you have no future with me.'**

Why doesn't Peter want Jesus to wash his feet?

Because Peter knows who Jesus is! See John chapter 6 v 68: **'You have the words of eternal life.'**

Peter has seen Jesus:

- walk on water!
- heal the sick!
- raise the dead!

● How can the One described as being 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... Through him all things were made... In him was life' (John 1 vs 1,3,4)... now wash Peter's feet?!

What does Peter not yet understand?

- He hasn't yet realized what Jesus has come to do!

## what does this scene show us?

The reality is... I can't be right with Jesus until He has 'washed' me!

- It's not about what I do - it's about what Jesus has done!
- We all start helpless - bringing nothing... except our sin! But Peter didn't realize this yet!
- Grace is a free gift!

Once Peter does begin to understand, he wants much more of this 'washing'!! v 9

## Jesus extends the picture...

- Once you have come to Jesus for forgiveness, you have been completely washed.
- When we sin again, we don't need to be completely washed again... as in - we don't go back to 'square one' like in the childhood game of snakes and ladders!
- We are declared right with God once and for all - permanently.
- But it is right that we continue to confess our sin, each day acknowledging that we need Jesus' death to forgive us our sins.

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' he asked them.

13 'You call me "Teacher" and "Lord", and rightly so, for that is what I am.

14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.

15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

**What is Jesus telling the disciples?**

Jesus moves from talking about what He has done for us, to saying how we should act towards each other.

Once 'washed' and 'served' by Jesus – we are now to serve one another. **v 14**

**Why does Jesus say this?**

Jesus has set an example that is to be followed **v 15**, and 'no servant is greater than his Master'. **v 16**

**What's the outcome of following Jesus' example?**

They will be blessed. **v 17**

18 'I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfil this passage of Scripture: "He who shared my bread has turned against me."

19 'I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am.

20 Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.'

How does Jesus show He is in total control?

He tells them that one of them will betray Him. v 18

Why does He tell them now?

So that they will know He is the great 'I AM' (God). v 19

- Receiving Jesus = receiving God: '... whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.' v 20
- Receiving Jesus' messengers and message = receiving Jesus Himself!

If we trust in Jesus, we are in a hugely privileged position...

- We have been washed by Him!
- We are now sent out by Him to serve others!
- We do this by going as His messengers.

<sup>21</sup> After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, 'Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.'

<sup>22</sup> His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant.

<sup>23</sup> One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him.\*

<sup>24</sup> Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, 'Ask him which one he means.'

<sup>25</sup> Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, 'Lord, who is it?'

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, 'It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.' Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.

John the writer wants us to be very clear that Jesus is in total control.

#### Who will betray Jesus?

Judas. **v 26**

\* It is thought that the disciple mentioned is John the Gospel writer.

#### Who is clearly in charge?

Jesus – what Judas does is part of Jesus' plan. Judas is still responsible, and is always held accountable for the decision he took. **v 26**

<sup>27</sup> As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, 'What you are about to do, do quickly.'

<sup>28</sup> But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him.

<sup>29</sup> Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor.

<sup>30</sup> As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

- Having said what it means to be in 'the light', Jesus shows us how bad it is to be in the dark.

### Who is in the dark?

Judas – because He rejects the light of Jesus.

### What does this teach us?

- Either we will be disciples of Jesus – 'washed' by Him and sent out to serve others

Or

- We will be like Judas - rejecting Jesus and His offer of being right with God.

The picture John paints is very dark. Judas leaves the light, and goes out into the dark.

If we are a disciple/follower of Jesus, we will need to take time to think about how we serve others in the way Jesus has served us:

- At home
- At work
- With friends and family



## John 13 vs 1-30

<sup>1</sup> It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup> so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel round his waist. <sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped round him. <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' <sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, 'You do not realise now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' <sup>8</sup> 'No,' said Peter, 'you shall never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.' <sup>9</sup> 'Then, Lord,' Simon Peter replied, 'not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!' <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered, 'Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.' <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. <sup>12</sup> When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' he asked them. <sup>13</sup> 'You call me "Teacher" and "Lord", and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly I

tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. <sup>18</sup> 'I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfil this passage of Scripture: "He who shared my bread has turned against me." <sup>19</sup> 'I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. <sup>20</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.' <sup>21</sup> After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, 'Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.' <sup>22</sup> His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. <sup>23</sup> One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. <sup>24</sup> Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, 'Ask him which one he means.' <sup>25</sup> Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, 'Lord, who is it?' <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, 'It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.' Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. <sup>27</sup> As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, 'What you are about to do, do quickly.' <sup>28</sup> But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. <sup>29</sup> Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. <sup>30</sup> As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

**What's next..?**

Then there were eleven...

what's going to happen to them?

# True glory

John 13 vs 31-35

These five verses show us what it looks like to live as people who trust in the death of Jesus.

<sup>31</sup> When he was gone, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him.

<sup>32</sup> If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him **at once**.

**Who has gone?**

It's Judas... he has left to betray Jesus.

**Jesus says, 'the Son of Man is glorified'**

**– what does this mean and why does He say it?**

Jesus' hour has come – He is about to go to the cross and die for our sin.

**What have we learned**

**will happen at the cross?**

Both the Son and the Father will be glorified. **v 31**

*This is a remarkable claim – God's glory is to be revealed even as Jesus is nailed to the cross.*

*This glory fits exactly with what the prophet Daniel prophesied hundreds of years before:*

**Daniel 7 v 14**

*'He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.'*



Jesus talks about how the cross will lead to glory.

Let's break this down - it's like a sandwich:

### Now

The Son of Man is glorified  
God is glorified in Him

If God is glorified in Him  
God will glorify the Son in Himself

### At once

• The Timing: 'at once' - This refers to the event of Jesus' death which is about to happen.

• The Unity: Both 'The Son of Man' and 'God' are working together for the same purpose.

'the Son of Man is glorified'. There is absolute unity between them - they are as one.

• The Purpose: God is glorified in Him...

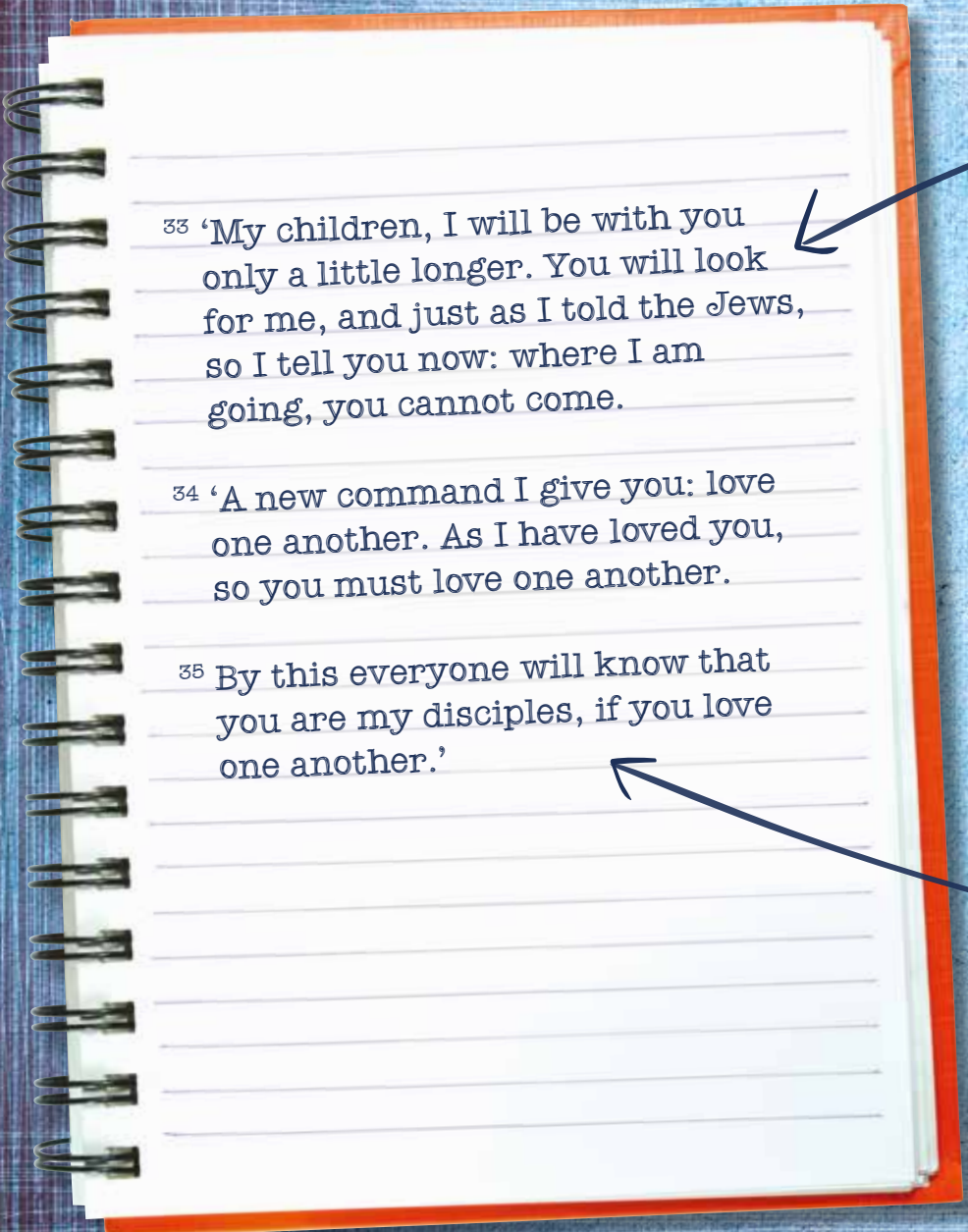
## The Glory of God

How can it possibly be that Jesus' humble, shameful, weak and apparently tragic death on the cross could be the moment of God's glory?!

At the cross we see:

- the selfless sacrifice of Jesus - carrying God's anger at our sin
- the deep love of God - giving His only Son so that we might not perish
- the right justice of God - insisting that sin be punished
- the perfect obedience of Jesus - willingly submitting Himself for God's glory
- the faithfulness of God - to His people and His promises
- the loving, faithful, just, selfless, obedient, pure, strong, kindness of God!!

So God is glorified in the cross!



33 'My 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.'

**What does Jesus remind His disciples?**

- He is going to His Father.
- They will be unable to follow Him.

**How are they to live once He is gone?**

The command in verse 34 is just like the command given in the Old Testament book of Leviticus ch 19 v 18: **'love your neighbour as yourself.'**

But Jesus describes His command as **'A new command'**.

**What has Jesus added?**

**'As I have loved you'**.

**So how has Jesus loved us?**

By giving His life for us at the cross.

**As Christians love one another, what will happen?**

The world should be able to 'look on' and see the love of Jesus in action.

**How do vs 34,35 relate to vs 31,32?**

- God is glorified through the sacrificial love of Jesus dying on the cross.
- Our love for one another makes God known to the world.



Once Jesus has gone to His Father - where will people see the glory of God?

In Christians... loving others selflessly, just like Jesus did on the cross.

How has Jesus loved me?

- By dying on the cross for me!

When did Jesus love me?

- Long ago - before I even began to think of Him!

Who took the initiative and made the first move?

- JESUS!

What had I done to make myself 'lovable'?

- Nothing!

So then - Jesus' love for us on the cross is 'the engine' that makes our love for each other possible.

- The more I trust in His love for me, the more I will be able to love others!

How does this differ from the advice below that might be given by someone like a marriage counsellor?

- 'Look back to what you once had'
- 'Rekindle the good'
- 'Spend time together'
- 'Look within yourself... look for the good and loving within the other person'

In contrast - what does Jesus say?

- 'Look at me!'

It's Jesus that transforms our love for others.

## Summary

We've seen that because Jesus has loved us, we are to love others. He enables us to love others even when it costs us to do it.

## John 13 vs 31-35

<sup>31</sup> When he was gone, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> 'My 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. <sup>34</sup> 'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'

## Next time...

Jesus' new commandment raises some questions...

## Question time

John ch 13 v 36 - ch 14 v 7

Jesus is teaching his disciples in the upper room. He's explaining what life will look like after he has returned to his Father, for anyone who believes and trusts in him.

Peter, then Thomas, then Philip, and finally Judas (not the one who betrayed him), ask Jesus questions about following him. Judas (the betrayer) has left.

Let's look at  
the first two  
questions the  
disciples ask...





<sup>36</sup> Simon Peter asked him, 'Lord, where are you going?' Jesus replied, 'Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.'

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

What question does Peter ask?

Do you remember seeing this answer before?

John chapter 7 v 34:

'You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come.'

Why does Jesus' answer puzzle Peter?

Peter thinks he can lay down his life for Jesus.

He knows that Jesus is going to Jerusalem to die... but why can't Peter go with Him... and show his love for Jesus by dying with Him?

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus answered, 'Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the cock crows, you will disown me three times!

Chapter 14

<sup>1</sup> 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.'

### What has Peter failed to understand?

He cannot serve God until he has first been served by God... at the cross.

It is *Jesus* that needs to lay down His life for *Peter*! Remember the foot washing earlier in chapter 13.

#### Chapter 13 vs 7,8:

Jesus replied, 'You do not realise now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' 'No,' said Peter, 'you shall never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.'

- Peter is still trying to serve Jesus in his own strength! We too can be arrogant like this – when we think we can offer God something.
- We are weak like Peter – we are sinful.

#### What has Jesus said to Peter?

- 1) Jesus will be leaving the disciples and they cannot follow (remember v 36)
- 2) Peter will disown Jesus three times! (v 38)

Jesus then speaks words designed to comfort them, because He is departing.

<sup>2</sup> 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?

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going.'

### What three things is Jesus going to do?

- He is going to prepare a new home for them. ▽ 2
- He has to go in order to do this... but will one day come back for them. ▽ 3
- He will go... via 'the way' of the cross. ▽ 4

### Why couldn't Peter go with Jesus?

Because Jesus needs to do the very thing that we cannot do... pay the penalty of our sin.

### Thinking it through...

Have you found yourself in Peter's shoes?

Thinking you can be OK with God, based on how you live...  
... when actually you need the grace of Jesus...  
... and His forgiveness!

Here is question two:

- Don't worry if you haven't yet understood who Jesus is - Thomas was still trying to work it out too, after three years with Jesus!

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.'

Jesus

life now and for eternity

**How does Jesus answer them?**

His answer is one of the most famous verses in the Bible.

**What is startling about how Jesus begins His answer?**

'I am the way'... to God the Father  
v 6

- This isn't the kind of answer you would get from the various world religions - they would all give a list of things to do... wouldn't they?

Jesus tells us that the way to God is not through a method or a manual, but rather through the Man, Jesus Christ.

Not 'do this or that', but rather:

**'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'**

## Who does Jesus show?

God the Father. v 7

7 'If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'

### How can Jesus say this?

- Only He is the way to God... because only He has died on the cross to deal with the great problem of our sin.
- Only He is the truth from God... because only He is God; has come from God; has seen God; and known God from eternity:

**John 1 v 18:** No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in the closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

- Only He is the life from God... because only He has conquered death.

The last part of chapter 14 v 6 is the most challenging of the lot!

- These words were as politically offensive then (to the Jews) as they are today.
- Remember Jesus said them in Jerusalem to committed Jewish pilgrims, on the eve of the Passover.

It's so exclusive! Let's be clear - Jesus is condemning the multi-faith / inter-faith / 'all roads lead to God' approach of religion as rubbish!



Let me give you an example by introducing you to my Aunt – let's call her 'Molly'.

Imagine I stood in a classroom and said to the children:

- 'Who thinks Aunt Molly is really tall?'

25% of the children run to the corner I have pointed them to if they agree.

- 'Who thinks my Aunt Molly is really tiny?'

25% of the children run to the opposite corner I have pointed them to if they agree with that.

- 'Who thinks Aunt Molly is an average height?'

25% of the children run to a third corner.

- 'Who thinks I don't actually have an Aunt Molly!!?'

The remaining children run to the last corner!

What would you think if I told the children they were all correct?!

You instantly know that that could not be right! Molly either exists or she doesn't, and she can only be one height!!

Yet the BBC's 'Thought for the Day' includes speakers from all religions, as if all roads lead to the same God... even though:

- Buddhism says that God does not exist!
- Hinduism say there are millions of gods!
- In Islam – Muslims don't believe there is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit!

In contrast – while the world doesn't like the answer, Jesus says:

**'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'**

There is only one correct answer! Just as Aunt Molly has only one height!

## John 13 v 36 - 14 v 7

<sup>36</sup> Simon Peter asked him, 'Lord, where are you going?' Jesus replied, 'Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.' <sup>37</sup> Peter asked, 'Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.' <sup>38</sup> Then Jesus answered, 'Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the cock crows, you will disown me three times! <sup>1</sup> 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> 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? <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going.' <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' <sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'

## What comes next?

Philip wants to see Jesus if he's going to believe!

# Believing changes everything!

John 14 vs 8-21

In this section we see the third question that the disciples ask Jesus...this one is asked by Philip.

Let's start by reading the first couple of verses of this section.



## If only...

<sup>8</sup> Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.'

<sup>9</sup> 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"?' ←

Philip is an 'if only' believer!

In other words he says, 'If you would only give me a glimpse of God, I would believe!'

We can be like this when we say, 'If only I had more proof!' ... or 'If only I had more experiences!'

So this study is going to be all about 'seeing' God and 'experiencing' Him!

There are four different parts to Jesus' answer:

### Part 1: 'Don't you know that already?!'

#### How does Jesus respond?

He makes Philip think about what he already knows.

With these words, Jesus reminds us of what we read back in John 1 v 18:

**'... the one and only Son [Jesus] ... has made him [God] known.'**\*

\*Note this is past tense – it's an action that is complete!

## In what ways have we seen God in Jesus, and in John's Gospel so far?

Philip should have remembered what he has seen of Jesus:

- Nathanael being seen under the fig tree before he could be physically seen by Jesus (ch 1)
- Turning the water into wine (ch 2)
- Knowing all about the woman at the well and her six men! (ch 4)
- The healing of the official's son (ch 4)
- The man born paralyzed – leaping up after thirty-eight years! (ch 5)
- The feeding of 5,000 men (ch 6)
- Jesus walking on water – and rescuing everybody in the boat (ch 6)
- The repeated inability of the Jews to arrest or stone Jesus (e.g. ch 8)
- A man born blind is healed (ch 9)
- Lazarus is raised from the dead! (ch 11)

And Philip is about to see the resurrection of his Saviour, Jesus!

He has heard Jesus' teaching:

- The powerful teaching that shows Jesus is LORD!
- The clarity of His conversation with Nicodemus (ch 3)
- The talk with the woman at the well (ch 4)
- The teaching of the crowd of 5,000 men (ch 6)
- Jesus with the Pharisees and religious leaders
- The constant fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy

He has witnessed the claims of Jesus:

- Jesus calling Himself, 'I AM' – the very name of God!

And finally:

- The way that Jesus exposes us all for what we truly are (chs 7-9)... and which side we are really on!

No wonder Jesus says to us:  
'Want to see God?

Look at me!

But Jesus' response to Philip is more than just 'Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father'...

What do Jesus' words in vs 10,11 suggest about Philip?

He was effectively saying: 'If you don't understand that I am God, then you don't have faith! All the evidence you need is found in me.' vs 10a, 11a

This leads us on to...

Part 2: 'Which part of this don't you understand?'

What evidence does Jesus point Philip to, showing him why he should believe?

- Jesus' words **are** God's words. So that, as Jesus speaks – God works!

So, in short – what is Jesus' answer to Philip's question?

- 'Every time I open my mouth – God works!'
- 'Want to see God?! Listen to me!'
- 'Want to experience God more?! Hear my words!'

If we want to see God work in our lives – where do we go?

Not to a 'spiritual experience' of some kind, but to the Words of Jesus.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

Remember: John 5 v 24

'Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.'

Where does this lead us...

### Part 3: Asking for the impossible...

12 Very 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.

13 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.

So what happens next if we believe in Jesus...?

We'll want to do what Jesus would do.

But how do we do this?

What does it mean to 'ask in my name'?

Asking = prayer.

In my name = we ask in line with what Jesus has shown to be His work, priorities and agenda.

What does Jesus promise for those who 'ask in my name'?

Greater works than these.  
v 12

What are these works?

The work of Jesus is, ultimately, to give eternal life.

● John 5 vs 21 '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.'

After Jesus' death and resurrection, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, the disciples will see massive numbers come to have 'eternal life'. This is the 'greater things' Jesus is talking about.

What will be the result of the disciples praying like this?

The Father is glorified.



It is helpful to know that at the time the Bible was written, names were often chosen to reflect the character of the person. Hence:

- God - 'I AM'
- Jesus - 'God rescues'...

Praying 'in Jesus' name' is therefore not a blank cheque!

- NOT - 'Name it and claim it!'
- NOT - 'Please give me what I want, and now!'
- But rather - pray that more people will come to have eternal life through Jesus so that the Father will be glorified.

Does Jesus say He will answer these prayers?

- Of course - that is what Jesus' name means - 'God rescues'

So far - this section has show three ways of 'experiencing God' today:

- 1) Look at what He has done.
- 2) Listen to what He has said.
- 3) Pray to Him (in line with His will).

## Part 4: 'How could the impossible be done?'

- Believing in Jesus changes everything. Verse 15 describes the Christian life. We will love Jesus, and so want to keep God's commandments!

15 'If you love me, keep my commands.

**What will happen to the person who loves Jesus?**

The Holy Spirit will come as our helper.

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever -

God the Holy Spirit is not some impersonal 'force' - like the force in Star Wars!!

- He is 'another advocate' (this means helper) v 16.
- He is the 'the Spirit of truth' v 17.

17 the 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.

The Holy Spirit is the third person of what we call 'The Trinity' - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He comes as Jesus goes to the Father. He 'lives with you and will be in you'.

**What is special for the Christian?**

The Holy Spirit living inside of us - but the world cannot accept Him.

We enter into an empowered relationship.

**So what does this mean?**

- We want to love Jesus.
- We want to obey Jesus' commands.
- We can do this through His power within us (the Holy Spirit).

18 I will not leave you as orphans;  
I will come to you.

19 Before long, the world will not  
see me any more, but you will  
see me. Because I live, you  
also will live.

20 On that day you will realise  
that I am in my Father, and you  
are in me, and I am in you.

21 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.'

So, what has Philip failed  
to understand?

When Jesus goes to be with His  
Father, Philip will not be left alone.

What else does Jesus  
promise to His followers?

- 'you will see me'
- 'you ... will live'

So how close is our relationship  
going to be with God  
the Father and the Son?

Jesus will be within us... bringing  
understanding of God and life from  
God! **v 20**

If we love Jesus what will we do?

We will obey His commands **v 21a**

If we love Jesus what will  
Jesus and the Father do?

They will love us **v 21b**

### So... in summary:

Philip is asking for a fresh or 'greater' experience of God.

Jesus' answer goes like this:

- 'Look at me - you will see the Father walking on earth.'
- 'Listen to me - you will see the Father working on earth.'
- 'Pray in my name - you will experience the Father.'
- 'Love and obey me - I will be with you by the Spirit of truth.'

### John 14 vs 8-21

<sup>8</sup> Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.' <sup>9</sup> 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"? <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> Very 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. <sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. <sup>15</sup> 'If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever - <sup>17</sup> the 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. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> 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.'

### What next?

But what about everyone else...?!



# Global impact

John 14 vs 22-31

In this study we look at the last of the four questions put to Jesus by his disciples – this one comes from Judas (not Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus)...

<sup>22</sup> Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, 'But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?'



Let's look more closely at Judas' question in v 22.

### Why does he ask this question?

Look at what Jesus has just said in v 19:

**'Before long, the word will not see me any more, but you will see me.'**

To put Judas' question in other words: 'How come you are going to show yourself to us, but still keep the world in the dark?!'

This section is all about how Jesus is going to make his truth known to the world.  
There are three parts to Jesus' answer...



Part 1: The loving, obedient community - living by Jesus' word

<sup>23</sup> 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.'

<sup>24</sup> 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.

What do these verses tell us about those who love Jesus?

- They keep Jesus' word – and are loved by the Father.
- The Father and Son will make their home with them.

What do these verses mean for those who don't love Him?

They don't obey Him, and God the Spirit doesn't live with them. v 24

Therefore in Part 1, Jesus is effectively saying: 'I show myself to my people – who love me.'

Just look how this compares with what He said in chapter 13 v 34

'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.'

## Part 2: The community filled with God's Spirit - at peace with God

<sup>25</sup> 'All this I have spoken while still with you.

<sup>26</sup> 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.

<sup>27</sup> 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.

<sup>28</sup> '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.

Who is the 'you' in verse 25?

Jesus' eleven Apostles – His core group of specially chosen eyewitnesses.

Jesus has been speaking to them while He is with them (v 25). But how will He speak to them when He has gone?

By the Holy Spirit – His advocate/helper. v 26

What will the Holy Spirit do for these eleven Apostles?

- He will teach them 'all things' – everything! v 26
- Jesus emphasizes this by saying that the Holy Spirit 'will remind you of everything I have said to you.' v 26
- Peace – in relationship with God! v 27

The truth that Jesus has taught His Apostles will continue to be taught to them with absolute accuracy by God the Holy Spirit... and this truth is the key to a relationship with God.

This explains why Jesus says what He does in verse 28. The Apostles should know where Jesus is going because as He goes to the Father He accomplishes everything He came to do!

### Part 3: The believing community - convinced by the cross

What is going to take place?

- The 'prince of this world' is coming (Satan). **v 30**
- He has no hold over Jesus. **v 30**
- But Jesus will give Himself over to Satan (as Jesus dies on the cross).
- This will show His absolute love for the Father. **v 31**
- As the world sees Jesus' love on the cross – so the world will come to know that He loves the Father.

<sup>29</sup> I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

<sup>30</sup> I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me,

<sup>31</sup> 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.'

Part 3, then, tells us that Jesus' love is shown when He dies on the cross.

So how do the three parts of Jesus' response provide an answer to Judas' question?

Judas' question (v 22): 'But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?'

Jesus' response:

Part 1: 'I will show myself to my people who love me' v 23

Part 2: The eleven Apostles will be given ability (by the Holy Spirit) to write down everything that Jesus has said and done. v26

Part 3: 'It is at the cross that you will see my love.' v 31

So - how does the world come to love Jesus?

How does the world come into the community of God's family?

- Through hearing the truth of the cross.
- Through accepting God's gift of grace, at the cross.

Can you now see what it is about the cross that makes someone love Jesus?

### John 14 vs 22-31

<sup>22</sup> Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, 'But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?' <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> 'All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> '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. <sup>29</sup> I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. <sup>30</sup> I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, <sup>31</sup> 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.

### What next?

How to be productive in life...

# the Word

one to one

The Word One to One

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