

“Conclusion To The Gospel Of John”

John 21:18-25/Acts 1:1-11

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October 9, 2022

Teaching Aim: To examine the final verses of the Gospel of John. To explore the circumstances leading up to the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven in Acts chapter 1. To realize the Kingdom of God is a central motif within the teachings of Jesus. To recognize the importance of being empowered by the Holy Spirit as we minister to others today. To understand Jesus has called every Christian to be a missionary at home first, then to our community, our nation, and finally to the ends of the earth.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)

Part I: The death of Peter foretold by Jesus (John 21:18-25)

1. Today we conclude our study of the Gospel of John. In the first 17 verses of **John chapter 21**, we saw the Lord Jesus Christ restore Simon Peter and commission him to future ministry. As Peter had denied Jesus three times before a fire of coals and servants (See **John 18:18**), Jesus gave Peter three opportunities to repent and express his love for Him personally before another fire. Each time Jesus followed Peter’s confession with a commission to future ministry. Peter, along with the Apostle Paul, would become the two primary characters in the Book of Acts. What is meant by the expression, “*A leader among equals?*” How does this expression fit Peter in his relationship with the other apostles?

2. Whenever Jesus said the words, “*most assuredly,*” a major announcement was coming. What did Jesus tell Simon Peter in **verse 18**? Was this something Peter wanted to hear? Would you want to hear how you are going to die? Our duty is to follow Jesus no matter what the cost, even death (**vs. 19**). What can we learn about the death of Peter from **verses 18 & 19**? Do you think Peter understood what was coming? (See **1 Pet. 4:14-16; 2 Pet. 1:13-14**)

3. According to church historian Eusebius (A.D. 265-340) in his work “*Church History,*” Book II, Chapter 25, how did Peter die? How did the Apostle Paul die? Tradition tells us that Peter died this way upside down. Why? (Hint: Search online)

4. Who did Peter see as he turned around while he was talking to Jesus (**vs. 20**)? Peter, James, and John were known as *“the inner circle”* of Jesus Christ. Why? What three times in Scripture do we find them alone with Jesus? (See **Mark 9:2-3; Luke 8:49-56; Matt. 25:36-38**)

5. What was Peter’s response to seeing John (**vs. 21**)? Do you think there may have been a little competition here? (See **Matt. 20:20-24**) Why? Who were the two primary leaders among the apostles? What ever happened to James (the third member)? (See **Acts 12:1-2**)

6. In what way did Jesus rebuke Peter in **verse 22**? Why did He do so? What command did Jesus give to Peter in **verse 22** that applies to every believer today? According to **Matt. 20:26-28**, how should Christians live their lives today? What did Charles Spurgeon mean when he said, *“Train up a child in the way he should go, but be sure you go that way yourself?”* How does this quote relate to our family life?

7. Why did some brethren come to believe the Apostle John would not die (**vv. 22-23**)? After the ascension of Christ to heaven, when did the John get to see Him once again? (See **Rev. 1:12-18a**). John always refers to himself in the third person, how do we see this in **verse 24**? John uses the word *“witness”* 47x in his gospel, what makes this word so important? How have you witnessed your faith in Christ to others? How has it cost you?

8. In **John 20:30-31**, John reveals the purpose of his gospel. What can we learn from **verse 25**? What has Jesus done that could never be contained in a book?

Part II: The power of the Holy Spirit and His importance to ministry (Acts 1:3-8)

1. What was the central topic Jesus spoke about with His disciples in the 40 days following His resurrection (**vs. 3**)? The kingdom of God was a central theme throughout the teachings of Jesus. Why do you think the modern church doesn’t teach about the kingdom of God more often? Where can we especially find Jesus teaching about the kingdom in the New Testament? What is the meaning of the word *“parable”* and how do parables help us to better understand kingdom principles? (See **Matt. 13:1-58; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15**)

2. It is important to note, *“The goal of history is not the cross, but the crown.”* Why do so many Christians focus on the cross and not on the crown of Christ. Would it help us in our Christian walk today if we realized that future glory is coming? (See **Rom. 8:18**)

3. Have you noticed the number 40 is mentioned many times in Scripture? What examples come to mind? Note: The number 40 is used at least 146x in Scripture. What is the significance of this number and what can we learn from it? (Hint: Search online)

4. Who was assembled with Jesus in **verse 4**? Jerusalem was a dangerous place to be, Jesus had just been crucified there and the disciples had gone into hiding. What troubling command did Jesus give to His disciples in **verse 4**? Why did this require trust? What was the Promise of the Father? (See **Joel 2:28-29**) Jesus had been promising the coming ministry of the Holy Spirit. (See **John 14:15-18,26; 15:26-27; 16:7-8**) How would you state the orthodox doctrine of the Trinity? What is the Holy Spirit’s role within the Trinity?

5. What can we learn about the baptism of the Holy Spirit from **1 Cor. 12:12-14**? According to these Scriptures, is the baptism of the Holy Spirit something that every born-again believer already has or something they should be seeking? Rather than the baptism of the Spirit, what should every born-again believer continually seek? (See **Eph 5:17-21**)

6. What two baptisms are mentioned by Jesus in **verse 5**? What is the difference between the two? According to Jesus, when would this baptism take place? On what Jewish festival do we find the words of Jesus being fulfilled? (See **Acts 2:1-4**) How is the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church age different from that under the Old Covenant?

7. As Jesus was preparing to leave earth and ascend into heaven, what question was on the mind of His disciples (**vs. 6**)? Were the disciples looking for a political kingdom (like that of Kings David and Solomon) to overcome Roman oppression, or were they looking for a spiritual kingdom? What kind of kingdom would Jesus bring in the immediate future?

8. How did Jesus respond to the apostle's inquiry (**vs. 7**)? Had Jesus already addressed this issue with them before? (See **Mark 13:32-33**) If Jesus is Immanuel (God with us), how could He not know the day nor hour? What is the meaning of the theological term: "*the hypostatic union of Christ?*" (Hint: Search online)

9. With everything happening in the world today, do you think the return of Jesus Christ is getting close? What are you doing in preparation for His coming? On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your evangelism efforts? What are some ways you can improve?

10. What did Jesus promise would happen once the Holy Spirit came upon His disciples? (**vs. 8**) What mission did He give to his disciples in **verse 8**? What Greek word for "*witness*" is used in this verse? (See Commentaries) What English word does this sound like? What was Jesus actually saying to His disciples? How should this be a wakeup call for us today?

11. The culture is rapidly changing in America, a nation that was once friendly to Christianity is not so much anymore. What is the threat to Christianity as Marxism grows to greater prominence in our country? How do you see Marxism attacking our culture?

12. In "*the Great Commission*," Jesus called for every believer to be a missionary. (See **Matt. 28:18-20**) According to **verse 8**, what should the nature of our missionary outreach be? If people refuse to act as missionaries at home, should we be spending thousands of dollars to send them out to be missionaries in other parts of the world? Why? What should be a prerequisite for every missionary?

13. What kinds of missionary work are you doing today? What do you see as your strongest spiritual gifts? (See **Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 27-28; Eph. 4:11-13; 1 Pet. 4:10-11**) How are you using these gifts to serve the Lord? Should "*Christians*" who are "*senior citizens*" retire from ministry because they have put their time in? Why or why not?

Part III: The ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven (Acts 1:9-11)

1. What happened once Jesus finished giving the disciples their mission on the Mount of Olives (**vs. 9**)? How do we see **John 17:4-5** being fulfilled in this? Note: It is important to realize Jesus was ascending to His coronation as King of Kings and Lord of Lords in heaven. Jesus will remain enthroned in heaven until He returns as King at His Second Coming.

2. How did the disciples react as Jesus ascended into heaven (**vs. 10**)? Who appeared as they were looking upward? Why were these men dressed in white apparel? Is it possible these are the two angels who were at the empty tomb? How many women angels are there in the Bible?

3. What incredible promise do the angels give to the disciples of Christ in **verse 11**? What can we learn about the return of Christ from the following Bible verses? (See **Dan. 7:13; Zech. 14:4; Matt. 24:30; 26:64; Rev. 1:7; 14:14**) Why should every Christian be looking forward to Christ's return? Why should unbelievers dread the Second Coming?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Jesus informed Simon Peter that he too would die by crucifixion; but in Peter's case, tradition tells us he was crucified upside down in Rome because he didn't feel worthy to die in the same way that the Lord did.
- There may have been jealousy even among the disciples of our Lord.
- The Apostle John was the only disciple who did not die as a martyr.
- If you are walking closely with Jesus, you can expect to suffer persecution for your faith.
- **Acts chapter 1** addresses events that took place during the 40 days between the resurrection and the ascension of Jesus Christ.
- Every Christian is called to serve as a missionary in some sense.
- Our missionary work should start at home and spread out from there.
- Jesus ascended into heaven to His coronation as King of kings and Lord of lords; someday soon He will return to reign on earth during His millennial kingdom.