

The Word

one to one

*A guided read through
John's Gospel
Chapters 13-14*

Unless otherwise stated,
Scripture quotations taken from
The Holy Bible, New International
Version® NIV® Copyright ©
1973 1978 1984 2011 by Biblica,
Inc.™ Used by permission.
All rights reserved worldwide.

Copyright © 2013 by William
Taylor, Richard Borgonon,
10Publishing

First published in Great Britain
in 2013

This edition 2021

All rights reserved. No part of this
publication may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system or
transmitted in any form or by any
means, electronic, mechanical,
photocopying, recording or
otherwise, without the prior
permission of the publisher or
the Copyright Licensing Agency.

Designed and typeset by
Something More Creative®

10Publishing, a division of
10ofthose.com
Unit C, Tomlinson Road, Leyland,
PR25 2DY, England
Email: info@10ofthose.com
Website: www.10ofthose.com

ISBN: 978-1-913896-93-5
Printed in the United Kingdom

1 3 5 7 10 8 6 4 2

The Word

one to one

10 Publishing
a division of **10** of those.com

Episode 26

The need to be washed

JOHN 13:1-30

JOHN 11	Life (Lazarus is raised by Jesus)
JOHN 12	Death (Jesus predicts His death)
JOHN 13 – 17	Life for His disciples (in the time between Jesus' departure and His return)
JOHN 18 – 19	Death (Jesus' crucifixion)
JOHN 20	Life (Jesus is raised)

*In the previous episode:
Stubborn unbelief.*

*In this episode:
The love of Jesus
transforms lives.*

¹ 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.

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;

Made clean by Jesus

We are in the final days before the cross and John slows the action right down. Chapters 13 to 16 record a private conversation between Jesus and His closest followers, explaining how His death and resurrection will transform their lives.

Notice that the Passover, remembering God's rescue from judgement through the sacrificial death of a lamb, is drawing ever closer. (v. 1)

Jesus loves His followers, even to the point of dying for them. (v. 1)

Look at what we're told Jesus knows.

- He knows He will soon complete His work and return to His Father. His 'hour' has come; the cross is near. (v. 1)
- He knows He is in control - the Father has put Him in charge of everything. (v. 3)
- He knows that God had sent Him and God will welcome Him home. (v. 3)

Now what will this knowledge lead Jesus to do?

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.'

In the middle of dinner, Jesus gets up, takes off His robe, takes a towel, bends down and starts to wash His followers' feet.

Why is this so shocking?

- This was the lowest servant's job. It is like a queen or president rolling up their sleeves and washing someone's filthy feet.

Peter finds this unthinkable! How can the one described as having all things under His power now strip and bend down to wash his dirty feet?

The disciples don't understand what Jesus is doing. But they will later, after His death on the cross. **(v. 7)**

⁸ ‘No,’ said Peter, ‘you shall never wash my feet.’

Jesus answered, ‘Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.’

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

- Peter knows who Jesus is. As far back as chapter 6 he had already said, ‘*We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God!*’ (6:69)

But Jesus says that Peter cannot be right with Him unless He is washed. **(v. 8)**

What is this act of washing really about?

- It's a picture of what Jesus will do on the cross by washing away the sins of all who put their trust in Him.
- This helps us understand what goes on between Peter and Jesus. Expressed differently: ‘If I do not wash you (save you) you have no future with me!’

We can't be right with Jesus until He makes us clean. It's not about what we do, it's about what He has done. We all start helpless, bringing only our sin. His grace is a free gift.

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.

Once Peter does begin to understand, he wants much more of this ‘washing’! (v. 9)

But how does Jesus help Peter better understand what He is doing?

- Once we have come to Jesus for forgiveness we have been made completely clean. (v. 10)
- When we sin again, we don’t need to be completely washed clean again. (v. 10)
- But we do need to confess our sins to God, which reminds us of Jesus’ death to forgive us. (v. 10)

People who are made clean by Jesus are declared right with God once and for all.

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.

Responding to Jesus

Jesus’ foot washing isn’t only a picture of His sacrificial, cleansing love on the cross. It’s also the example for how His followers should act towards each other.

Once ‘washed’ and ‘served’ by Jesus, how should Christians now behave?

- Christians are to serve one another. **(v. 14)**

Why does Jesus say this?

- Jesus has set an example that is to be followed. As He reminds His disciples, no servant is greater than his master. **(v. 16)**
- Their service will include being His messengers. **(v. 16)**

Jesus explains that those who follow His example will be blessed as they serve. **(v. 17)**

Blessed: to be joyful despite our circumstances, because of God’s love for those that put their trust in Him..

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 His followers that He is in total control?

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

Why does Jesus tell them now?

- So that when it does happen they will know that He is God, the great 'I AM!' (v. 19)
- So that they may know they have a vital message to share.
- In fact, those who accept their message accept Jesus. Those who accept Jesus, accept God. (v. 20)

Those who trust in Jesus are in a hugely privileged position: made clean and sent out by Him to love and serve others by sharing His message.

²¹ 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.'

Again, Jesus tells His disciples that one of them will betray Him. (v. 21)

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

The disciples are stunned; who would betray Jesus? (v. 22)

²³ One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him.

Those nearest ask Him and He is in no doubt as to who it is. (v. 26)

Jesus knows exactly what is about to happen: what Judas does is part of God's plan.

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

²⁵ Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, 'Lord, who is it?'

The disciple whom Jesus loved: it is thought that the disciple mentioned in verse 23 is John the Gospel writer.

²⁶ 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.

²⁷ As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, 'What you are about to do, do quickly.'

²⁸ But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him.

²⁹ 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.

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

How bad are things for Judas?

- As he turns on Jesus, Satan takes control of his life. (v. 27)

Not all who claim to be Christians are in fact followers of Jesus. A life of putting Jesus first is what marks His followers.

What does Judas' betrayal 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.

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

*The light has gone out for Judas.
It's a big, dramatic moment...
'And it was night.'*

Summary

As His betrayal and death draw near, Jesus shows just how much He loves His disciples... and sets them an example to follow.

- Jesus knows He is soon to die and that Judas is about to betray Him. (v. 1)
- So in the middle of dinner, He strips and bends down to wash their feet. (v. 5)
- Peter is shocked: this is unthinkable! (v. 8)
- But this is about more than clean feet. Jesus is showing them that His death on the cross will cleanse them from sin. (v. 8)
- He says that this humble service should be His disciples' example as they serve one another. (v. 15)
- As He faces Judas' betrayal, Jesus wants them to know that He is still in control, even in His death. (v. 18)
- They can be sure Jesus is 'I AM,' God Himself, trusting fully in Him as they become His messengers. (v. 19)
- Then in the face of Jesus' loving service, Judas leaves, stepping into the darkness of the night to betray Jesus. (v. 30)

¹ Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world...

⁵ [He] began to wash his disciples' feet...

⁸ '...you shall never wash my feet.'

⁸ 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.'

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

¹⁸ "He who shared my bread has turned against me."

¹⁹ '...you will believe that I am who I am.'

³⁰ [Judas] went out. And it was night.

Why not take a moment to re-read what we've looked at in this episode?

John 13:1–30

¹ 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.

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ 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.'

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.

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.

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.’

²¹ 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.’

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

²³ One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him.

²⁴ Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, ‘Ask him which one he means.’

²⁵ Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, ‘Lord, who is it?’

²⁶ 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.

²⁷ As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, ‘What you are about to do, do quickly.’ ²⁸ But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him.

²⁹ 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. ³⁰ As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

*What comes next?
Glory and transforming love.*

Episode 27

JOHN 11	Life (Lazarus is raised by Jesus)
JOHN 12	Death (Jesus predicts His death)
JOHN 13 – 17	Life for His disciples (in the time between Jesus' departure and His return)
JOHN 18 – 19	Death (Jesus' crucifixion)
JOHN 20	Life (Jesus is raised)

True glory

JOHN 13:31–35

*In the previous episode:
Lives transformed by
Jesus' death*

*In this episode:
Glory that leads to love.*

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.

The glory of the cross

Judas has gone out to betray Jesus. It's a very surprising moment for Jesus to announce that He is glorified.

How does Jesus explain what is about to happen?

- He says that He (the Son of Man) will be glorified and God glorified in Him. **(v. 31)**
- That is, Jesus will be shown to be God's appointed, everlasting ruler... at the cross.
- It's going to happen at once, the time has come. **(v. 32)**

The title Jesus gives Himself, Son of Man, comes from the Old Testament book of Daniel. *'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.'* (Daniel 7:13-14)

What a surprise! The glory that Daniel prophesied hundreds of years before is going to come through the horror of the cross.

Let's stop and think

Jesus talks about how the cross will lead to glory - glory for Him, and through that, glory for the Father. Look how beautifully the sentences are structured:

*The Son of Man is glorified
God is glorified in Him*

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

Notice the unity between Jesus and His Father. Both the Son of Man and God are working together for the same purpose, they are as one. The purpose? God is to be glorified in Jesus.

But 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.

This is how God is glorified by the cross!

This is a remarkable claim. God's glory is to be revealed as Jesus goes through the cruellest kind of death: nailed to a cross like a common criminal. Two thousand years later, Jesus is worshipped around the world, just as Daniel predicted.

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.’

Transforming love

As Jesus faces the cross, He reminds His disciples that He is going back to His Father and that they cannot follow Him yet.

How are they to live once Jesus is gone?

- The command in verse 34 is like that given in the Old Testament book of Leviticus: *'love your neighbour as yourself.'* (Leviticus 19:18)
- But Jesus describes what He says as *'A new command'.* (v. 34)

What does Jesus add that makes this new?

- *'As I have loved you.'* Jesus is talking about giving His life for us at the cross. (v. 34)

Jesus' followers are to love one another sacrificially, as Jesus has loved them. As they do, people will catch a glimpse of what God's love is like. (v. 35)

This love is the essential mark of Jesus' followers; it is how the world can know they are true disciples of Christ.

Let's stop and think

Once Jesus has gone to His Father, people will see the glory of God as Christians are changed to love others selflessly, just like Jesus, even when it is costly.

How has Jesus loved us?

- By dying on the cross
 - long before we even began to think of Him!

Who took the initiative and made the first move?

- Jesus!

What had we done to make ourselves lovable?

- Nothing.

Jesus' love for us on the cross is the engine that makes Christian love for each other possible.

Think about some of the relationship advice we hear:

- 'Try to remember what you once had'
- 'Look for the good in each other'

Rather than looking backwards, Jesus offers a love that transforms our love for others. His advice? 'Look at me!'

The more we trust in His love for us, the more we will be able to love others.

What does this look like in our world today?

- Where you find groups of people who trust in the cross of Christ and are serious about obeying this command to love, you will find evidence of God being actively at work.

It may be that you are beginning to take Jesus' words seriously. The important thing is to link up with other Christians who love Jesus, love His word and love one another. There you will be loved too.

Summary

The glory of the cross leads to transforming love.

- With Judas gone, Jesus knows that the time has come when He will be glorified. The surprise? This will happen at the cross. (v. 32)
- Jesus also knows that He must prepare His disciples for the time when He will leave them. (v. 33)
- His command? To love one another... with a love that is rooted in and powered by Jesus' love for us. (v. 34)
- And this love for others, enabled by Jesus, will clearly identify those who are following Him. (v. 35)

³² 'If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.'

³³ 'My children, I will be with you only a little longer.'

³⁴ '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.'

Why not take a moment to re-read what we've looked at in this episode?

John 13:31–35

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 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 comes next?
Questions, questions!*

Episode 28

JOHN 11	Life (Lazarus is raised by Jesus)
JOHN 12	Death (Jesus predicts His death)
JOHN 13 – 17	Life for His disciples (in the time between Jesus' departure and His return)
JOHN 18 – 19	Death (Jesus' crucifixion)
JOHN 20	Life (Jesus is raised)

Question time

JOHN 13:36 – 14:7

*In the previous episode:
Jesus' glory and His
transforming love.*

*In this episode:
Questions from
the disciples.*

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.’

Where are you going?

Jesus is teaching His disciples in an upper room. He is explaining what life will look like for those who believe and trust in Him, once He has returned to be with His Father.

This part is organised around four questions from the disciples, starting with Peter. Despite all their time with Jesus, His closest followers still don't fully understand.

What does Peter ask?

- Peter wants to know where Jesus is going. **(v. 36)**

Why does Jesus' answer puzzle Peter?

- Peter knows that Jesus is going to Jerusalem and that His life will be in danger.
- Peter thinks he can also go and show his love for Jesus by dying with Him. **(v. 37)**

³⁸ 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!

What has Peter not understood?

- Jesus knows that Peter won't be able to keep his promise. When the pressure is on, Peter will deny that he even knew Jesus.

Peter is still trying to serve Jesus in his own strength. But Peter cannot serve Jesus until he has first been served by Jesus at the cross.

This was Jesus' point at the foot washing earlier in chapter 13, '*Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.*' (John 13:8)

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

Have you ever found yourself in Peter's shoes? Thinking you can be right with God or useful to Him because of what you do for Him, when actually you need the forgiveness that only Jesus can give.

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.’

Jesus’ words to Peter must have been a big shock.

Jesus now comforts His disciples, because He is about to leave.

It’s like Jesus says, ‘Trust me like you trust God!’

Why should the disciples trust Jesus?

- He is going away to prepare a new, eternal home for them (the Father’s house). (v. 2)
- He promises to come back for them. (v. 3)
- He is willing to go by the way of the cross. (v. 4)

As the disciples face the prospect of Jesus’ death, they need to know that this is not the end.

Jesus promises that He will come to take them to their eternal home with God.

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.

How can we know the way?

Thomas now adds his question. If you feel you haven’t yet understood what Jesus is saying, you are not alone. Thomas was still trying to work it out after three years with Jesus!

He doesn’t know where Jesus is going, or how to get there. (v. 5)

What follows is one of the most famous verses in the Bible.

- Jesus says that He is the only way to God. There is no other way to the Father. (v. 6)

Jesus’ answer is plain. Anyone who trusts Him knows the way to God. But what a challenge to those who don’t yet believe.

According to Jesus, the way to God is not through any other way but through Him, and only Him.

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 that He is the only way to the Father?

- Only He is the way to God, because only He will die on the cross to deal with the universal problem of our sin.
- Only He is the truth from God... only He is God; has come from God and known God from eternity. Only He has perfectly revealed God to us.
- Only He can offer eternal life from God... because only He will make us right with God and send the Holy Spirit to give us life.

John 1:18 says, *'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.'*

If we know Jesus, we know God personally today. And if we trust in Jesus, He will give us life with God.

Let's stop and think

In today's world we're often told, 'surely, all religion leads to the same God?'

Even though:

- Buddhism says that God does not exist.
- Hinduism says that there are thousands of gods.
- Muslims don't believe there is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

In contrast, Jesus says: *'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'* (John 14:6)

If you think that sounds explosive, these words were as politically offensive then as they are today.

Remember Jesus said this in Jerusalem, to committed Jewish pilgrims, on the eve of the Passover: it's why they executed Him!

It's so exclusive! Let's be clear: Jesus is dismissing the inter-faith, 'all roads lead to God' approach to religion.

All other religions give us a list of things to do. But Jesus tells us that the way to God is not through a method or a manual but through trusting Him. It's not about what we must do but about what Jesus has done for us.

Summary

Two questions from the disciples.

- Jesus is about to leave and Peter wants to know where He is going. (v. 36)
- Jesus says that Peter can't follow Him there now. (v. 37)
- Peter is puzzled. He is prepared to die for Jesus. (v. 37)
- But Jesus needs to die for Peter. Jesus knows Peter will even deny knowing Him three times that very night. (v. 38)
- Jesus urges His disciples not to be anxious. He is going to prepare their new home with God. (v. 2)
- Thomas wants to know the way there. (v. 5)
- Jesus' answer is explosive. He says that He is the only way to God. (v. 6)
- He says that anyone who knows Him knows God the Father. (v. 7)

³⁶ 'Lord, where are you going?'

³⁶ 'Where I am going, you cannot follow...'

³⁷ 'I will lay down my life for you.'

³⁸ '...before the cock crows, you will disown me three times!'

² '...I am going there to prepare a place for you...'

⁵ '...how can we know the way?'

⁶ '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.'

John 13:36 – 14:7

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 cock crows, you will disown me three times!’

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.’

*What comes next?
Philip’s question.
He wants to see
God Himself if he’s
going to believe.* 59

Episode 29

JOHN 11	Life (Lazarus is raised by Jesus)
JOHN 12	Death (Jesus predicts His death)
JOHN 13 – 17	Life for His disciples (in the time between Jesus' departure and His return)
JOHN 18 – 19	Death (Jesus' crucifixion)
JOHN 20	Life (Jesus is raised)

Believing is seeing!

JOHN 14:8–21

*In the previous episode:
Where is Jesus going, and
how do we get there?*

*In this episode:
How can we see God?*

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"?

Jesus says, 'Look at me!'

Now it's Philip who has a question:

- Philip wants to see God. **(v. 8)**
- It's like he says, 'If you would only give me a glimpse of God, I would believe!'

Philip is an 'if only' believer! 'If only you would do this or that, God, then I would believe! We can be like this when we say, 'If only I had more proof,' or 'If only I had a direct experience of God.'

How does Jesus respond?

- It's as if He says, 'You've already seen God because you've seen me!' **(v. 9)**
- Philip hasn't realised who he has spent the last three years with.
- Jesus says that those who know Him see God 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.

'Listen to me'

What do Jesus' words suggest about Philip?

- Jesus is effectively saying, 'If you don't believe that I am God, after all you've seen and heard, then you don't have faith!' (v. 10)

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

- Jesus' words are God's words. (v. 10)
- As Jesus speaks, God works. (vv. 10, 11)

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, we don't need to look to some kind of 'spiritual experience' but to respond to the words of Jesus.

Jesus' words are God's power at work.

Let's stop and think

Philip should have remembered what he had seen of Jesus:

- Turning water into wine (chapter 2).
- The healing of the official's son (chapter 4).
- The paralysed man leaping up after thirty-eight years (chapter 5).
- The feeding of 5,000 men (chapter 6).
- Jesus walking on water (chapter 6).
- The healing of the man born blind (chapter 9).
- Lazarus being raised from the dead (chapter 11).

And Philip should have remembered what he had heard:

- Jesus constantly explaining how every miracle reveals who He is and what He has come for.
- - Jesus time and again fulfilling Old Testament prophecy.
- Jesus even calling Himself 'I AM' - the very name of God.

No wonder it's as if Jesus says to us, 'Want to see God? Look at me and listen to me!'

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.

'Ask in my name'

What happens next for those who believe in Jesus?

- Jesus' followers will do what Jesus is doing. **(v. 12)**
- In fact, they'll do even bigger things than we've seen Jesus doing! **(v. 12)**

After Jesus' death and resurrection, the disciples will see huge numbers come to have eternal life. These are the 'greater things' Jesus is talking about.

How is this possible?

- Jesus invites His followers to *'ask in my name'* **(v. 13)**
- Asking simply means praying.
- 'In my name' means asking in line with Jesus' priorities.

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

- They will do God's work.
- Through this, the Father will be known (glorified). **(v. 13)**

Let's stop and think

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

- God: 'I AM!'
- Jesus: 'God rescues!'

Praying 'in Jesus' name' is therefore not, 'Please give me what I want, and now!'

But rather, Christians pray in line with Jesus' name: His priorities and character. This means Christians will often pray that people will come to have eternal life...

Does Jesus say He will answer these types of prayers?

- Yes! That is what Jesus' name means: 'God rescues!'

¹⁵ 'If you love me,
keep my commands.

¹⁶ And I will ask the
Father, and he will give you
another advocate to help
you and be with you for
ever – 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: the third person of the Trinity:
God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

The world: humanity in rebellion against God;
people whose sin needs to be forgiven.

'I will send another helper'

Believing in Jesus changes everything.
Christians love Jesus, and so want
to keep God's commands. (v. 15)

What will happen to the person who
loves Jesus?

- The Holy Spirit will come as a
helper, more literally 'one who
walks alongside' (advocate). (v. 16)
- He is not some kind of impersonal
'force' but a divine person, the
Spirit of truth. (vv. 16, 17)

How does the world react to the Holy
Spirit?

- It cannot accept what it cannot
see or know. (v. 17)

But what is so special for the Christian?

- The Holy Spirit, God Himself,
lives within them. (v. 17)

*What a promise. God Himself
comes into a Christian's life to
help them love and obey Jesus.*

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.'

How does Jesus encourage Philip?

- The disciples will not be left alone. (v. 18)
- They will see Jesus again. (v. 19)
- They will live, because He is alive. (v. 19)

How close is the relationship between Christians, God the Son and God the Father?

- It couldn't be closer! (v. 20)
- Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus lives in those who believe, bringing understanding of God and life from God. (v. 20)

If we love Jesus what will we do?

- We will do what pleases Him. (v. 21)

Today, we are offered the closest possible, loving relationship with Jesus and the Father through the Spirit, so we and others can come to 'see' the Father.

Summary

A third question, this time from Philip.

- Philip asks for a fresh experience of God. (v. 8)
- Jesus challenges Philip. Surely he should know that if he has seen Jesus he has already seen God? (v. 9)

Jesus gives the detail of His answer in four parts:

- Look at me and you see the Father walking on earth. (v. 9)
- Listen to me and you see the Father working on earth. (v. 10)
- Believe in me and ask in my name and I will be at work through you. (v. 12)
- If you love me, you'll obey me and I will send the Spirit to help you. (v. 16)

The outcome? Jesus's followers are drawn into the closest possible relationship of love with the Father. What more could Philip want? (v. 21)

⁸ 'Lord, show us the Father...'

⁹ 'Don't you know me, Philip...?'

⁹ 'Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.'

¹⁰ 'Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.'

¹² '...whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing...'

¹⁶ 'And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate...'

²¹ 'The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.'

Why not take a moment to re-read what we've looked at in this episode?

John 14:8-21

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.

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.

¹⁵ 'If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever – 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.

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.'

*What comes next?
What about
everyone else?!*

Episode 30

JOHN 11	Life (Lazarus is raised by Jesus)
JOHN 12	Death (Jesus predicts His death)
JOHN 13 – 17	Life for His disciples (in the time between Jesus' departure and His return)
JOHN 18 – 19	Death (Jesus' crucifixion)
JOHN 20	Life (Jesus is raised)

Global impact

JOHN 14:22–31

*In the previous episode:
Do we need a fresh
experience of God?*

*In this episode:
How the world comes
to know Jesus.*

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

What about the world?

This last question comes from Judas (not Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus).

Why does Judas ask his question?

- It is in response to something Jesus said in the last episode. '*Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me!*' (John 14:19)

What is Judas asking?

- In other words, 'How come you are going to show yourself to us, but still keep the world in the dark?!' (v. 22)

This episode is all about how Jesus is going to make Himself known to the world.

Jesus' answer
has three steps

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.

His followers' loving obedience

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

- They keep Jesus' word and are loved by the Father. (v. 23)
- The Father and Son will make their home with them. (v. 23)

What do these verses tell us about those who don't love Jesus?

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

Jesus is open to all, but on His terms. It's not possible to say that we love Jesus but live ignoring His teaching.

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.

Do not let your hearts be troubled: did you notice Jesus’ tenderness to His followers? Jesus is about to die but He is the one comforting the disciples.

The apostles’ teaching

Who is the ‘you’ in verse 25?

- Jesus’ eleven closest disciples (also known as His apostles); His core group of specially chosen eyewitnesses. (v. 25)

What will the Holy Spirit do for the apostles?

- He will teach them all things about Jesus. Everything they need to know to teach others. (v. 26)
- He will give them peace, in relationship with God. (v. 27)

Jesus promises His apostles the power of the Holy Spirit as they teach the world about Him...

God the Holy Spirit will teach the apostles the truth with absolute accuracy... and this truth is the key to a relationship with God.

To answer Judas' question: Jesus will indeed show Himself to the world, but through the teaching of the apostles, which has come by the Holy Spirit.

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.

Convinced by the cross

What is going to take place?

- Satan, the ‘*prince of this world*’ is coming. (v. 30)
- Satan cannot control Jesus... (v. 30)
- ...but Jesus will give Himself over to Satan (as He dies on the cross).
- This will show His total love for the Father. (v. 31)
- As the world sees Jesus’ love on the cross, so the world will learn that He loves the Father. (v. 31)

How does this develop the answer to Judas’ question about others coming to know Jesus?

- Jesus will continue to show Himself to His people...
- ...as they listen to the Holy Spirit-inspired teaching of the apostles, which is all about Jesus’ death on the cross...
- ...then as Christians share this message, others can come to know Jesus for themselves by accepting God’s gift of grace.

And this is still the way Jesus makes Himself known to the world more than 2,000 years later.

The Father is greater than I: Jesus is fully God but there is order in the Trinity. The Father sends the Son; the Son obeys the Father.

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

Summary

Judas' question.

- Judas asks Jesus how others are going to come to know Him. (v. 22)
- Jesus will show Himself to those who love Him, who obey His teaching. (v. 23)
- The Holy Spirit will teach the apostles everything they need to know to teach the world about Jesus. (v. 26)
- As the world sees Jesus' obedience on the cross, so the world will come to know that He loves the Father. (v. 31)

The truth of the cross, God's gift of grace, enables people from all over the world to come to know Jesus for themselves.

²² '...why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?'

²³ 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching.'

²⁶ '[The Advocate] will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.'

³¹ '...I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.'

Why not take a moment to re-read what we've looked at in this episode?

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.

*What comes next?
Vine and branches*



theword121.com