

The Last Christian Retreat

Chapter 12: Audio Lesson: New Testament #30



Objective: To understand the “Upper Room Discourse” of Jesus and to explore the deep truths He shared with His disciples on the night before His crucifixion.



“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

—John 13:34-35

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

—John 14:6

“The Counselor, 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. 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.”

—John 14:26-27

Chapters 13-17 of the Gospel of John tell us about the last night that Jesus was with His disciples before His crucifixion. In His longest recorded discourse, He spoke with His disciples in an “upper room” about many very important truths. He had begun His ministry with “the first Christian retreat”—His Sermon on the Mount in Matthew—and in John He ended it with “the last Christian retreat.” This meeting began with Jesus—their Lord and teacher—washing His disciples’ feet. During His conversation with them, He gave them a new commandment to love each other, promised that their relationship with Him would continue even after He was gone because of the Holy Spirit He would send, and told them that they would be fruitful if they were properly related to Him. He compared Himself to a vine and His disciples to branches—branches that bear fruit because of the life that is in the vine.

Then in chapter 17, at the end of the time with his disciples, Jesus prayed a lengthy prayer for His followers. Jesus prayed for His “branches”—for His 12 disciples, for the work they would do, and for all who would believe in Him throughout history. Jesus prayed for His church to live in unity with Him and with each other and to know and demonstrate His love.

1. True or false? The “upper room discourse” is the longest recorded discourse of Jesus.
2. True or false? When Jesus told the disciples He was going away, He invited them to come with Him.



3. True or false? Jesus said every true disciple of His will be fruitful.
4. True or false? When it was time to go to the cross, Jesus did not try to avoid pain and death, but simply asked that God glorify Himself.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. Which of the following questions does the Gospel of John most clearly seek to answer?
(choose all that apply)
 - a. Who is Jesus?
 - b. What is faith?
 - c. What is life?
 - d. When is Jesus coming again?
6. Why did Jesus wash His disciples' feet?
 - a. They had just come from a long journey and were dirty.
 - b. He wanted to demonstrate His love for them and be an example of how they were to love one another.
 - c. He wanted to establish a new ritual for churches to observe.
 - d. No one knows—the Bible never explains this strange act.
7. What “new commandment” did Jesus give His disciples?
 - a. To love God—even though that commandment had been given centuries earlier
 - b. To love their families and friends—just as the rest of the world does
 - c. To love each other—even though they were very different and not natural friends
 - d. To go on an annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem

8. Which of the following credentials of a disciple does Jesus give us in chapters 8, 13, and 15 of the Gospel of John? (*choose all that apply*)

- a. Continuing in His Word
- b. Giving away all possessions to the poor
- c. Attaining a higher consciousness
- d. Loving one another
- e. Obeying God's laws perfectly
- f. Bearing His fruit

9. According to Jesus, how can we see God the Father?

- a. Only by dying and going to heaven
- b. Only by fasting and praying
- c. Only by being enlightened
- d. By looking at the life and ministry of Jesus

10. What must we do for the work of God to be done through us?

- a. Fast and pray for 40 days
- b. Be united by faith with Jesus and His Spirit
- c. Become sinless as Jesus was
- d. Work very, very hard

11. Why must Jesus followers be fruitful? (*choose all that apply*)

- a. Because we earn our salvation through fruitfulness
- b. Because there is no such thing as a fruitless disciple
- c. To show the world those who are His true disciples
- d. To glorify God
- e. To prove that God loves us more than He loves other people
- f. To provide real joy
- g. Because He chose the disciples to be fruitful
- h. Because He is the Vine and the disciples are the branches, the branches bear fruit when they are united with the Vine.

12. What does fruitfulness accomplish in our lives? (*choose all that apply*)

- a. It gives us a feeling of superiority over other people.
- b. It causes joy.
- c. It demonstrates that we are Jesus' disciples.
- d. It causes us to become complacent and stop working.



In what ways has Jesus shown His message of love to you? In what ways can you show His message of love to other people? What can you do to "wash the feet" of others?

Is the Lord producing fruit in your life? What fruit do others see in your life?



Thank God for the love He has shown us, for the promise that we can spend eternity with Him, and for the Holy Spirit He sends to be with us and in us. Ask Him to continually fill you with His Spirit, to help you show His love to one another, and to bear His fruitfulness in your life. Ask God to help you deeply know the peace that comes from knowing and following Him.



Going Deeper

1. How are we to personally apply what Jesus told the apostles about His relationship to them being more intimate after He left them than it had been while He was with them in bodily form? (Consider the question of Jude and the answer of Jesus in 14: 22-23) _____

2. How are we to relate and apply the explanation of Jesus for His washing the feet of the apostles in 13: 12-15, to the New Commandment He gave them in 13: 34-35? _____

3. Based upon the first 16 verses of chapter 15, how are we to personally apply the six reasons why Jesus told the apostles they simply must be fruitful? _____

4. How are we to personally apply the four separate dimensions of the Vine and the branches metaphor of Jesus? (The Vine, the branches, the fruit, and the Vine Dresser Who cuts back or prunes the branches) _____

5. What is your own application of John 15:16 to your personal life and ministry for Christ?

6. According to chapter 16, what are the specific roles and functions of the Holy Spirit? _____

7. What is the personal application we should all make of John 17:4? (Consider also John 4:34; 9:4; 19:30) _____
