

Life Group Notes 2/12/2023
Pastor Mark Warren John's Gospel Week 14

If you have observations or questions feel free send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. -Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.

(This is written to give you good things to enjoy, because look again at what Paul told Timothy (1 Tim 6:17-18) **17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be conceited and not to put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth, but in God, WHO RICHLY PROVIDES ALL THINGS TO ENJOY. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share...**)

Note: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP. The purpose is to unite, not divide; to proclaim fearlessly the freedom the gospel brings. Any part of these notes might be appropriate as a crowd breaker for your own group. The goal is to create memories from Sunday that will serve for a long time. BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study. This study is also a great devotion, taken slowly through the week.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions Pastor Mark Warren has raised this week, 2/12, on John 14. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** Do not be daunted by the number of pages. As an editorial decision, I include each of the passages mentioned in full to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes, rather than having you, the reader, look up each reference. If your Bible is open beside you, you can transfer and annotate from these pages with ease.

At the end of the message notes, pages 7 to 8, I have made rather extensive notes on the remainder of the chapter and footnotes (*) to help dig deeper into some of the principles, people and events in this passage. *These notes are offered to enhance understanding and are not designed to complicate discussions in life group.* This week I covered:

1. On Greek manuscripts (for Geeks only)
 2. On "you believe in God."
 3. On many mansions in my Father's house.
 4. On questions or statements, verses 2b-3.
 5. On a place prepared.
 6. On the *paraklete*/"advocate".
 7. On greater works.
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List the troubling circumstances that are recurring in the world today. How many can you match to Biblical prophecy? How accurate are your connections? Are you listening to YouTube videos or Rumble where “prophets” are making uncanny connections? Does that help you more or make you even more concerned? Mark says, “We need to know that we live in

challenging times. We’re here because we know that when we are steadfast with a body of believers we will not get taken out. We need to focus on Jesus and Jesus alone.” **How does that help? Look at Acts 2:16**No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17‘In the last days, God says,
I will pour out My Spirit on all people.

What can we expect? How does this verse apply to today? How can we KNOW we are in “the last days”?

In My Father’s House Are Many Rooms

1“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe in Me as well. **2**In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it 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 welcome you into My presence, so that you also may be where I am. **4**You know the way to the place where I am going.”

See footnotes below.

1. Is your heart troubled? What is most concerning?
2. How does steadfast belief in God help restore peace to the troubled heart? What does God know that we do not know?
3. Knowing that there is plenty of room for you in the house, does this help?
4. What exactly is Jesus doing as we wait? How welcomed will we be?
5. What exactly are you doing to get ready to meet Jesus face to face, knowing that “He ever lives to make intercession for us.”

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

5“Lord,” said Thomas, “we do not know where You are going, so how can we know the way?”

6Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. **7**If you had known Me, you would know My Father as well. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.”

8Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.”

9Jesus replied, “Philip, I have been with you all this time, and still you do not know Me? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **10**Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words I say to you, I do not speak on My own. Instead, it is the Father dwelling in Me, performing His works. **11**Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me—or at least believe on account of the works themselves.

12Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I am doing. He 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](#)If you ask Me [14](#) for anything in My name, I will do it.

1. Do you know the way Jesus is going? Explain.
2. Why did Thomas ask the question? Can you answer Thomas' question? Do you know where Jesus is going? Why didn't Thomas? How does a different perspective change things? What advantage do you have over Thomas?
3. When Jesus answers Thomas, is His answer helpful? Explain? What does, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life..." mean?
4. Explain, "No one comes to the Father but by me." What is the only way to come to know the Father? Is there any other way? Why not? Who alone knows the Father? How do we get to know Him then?
5. Jesus says, "If you have known me, you have known my Father also." What steps are necessary to get to know Jesus, then?
6. Look at verse 10...Jesus starts by saying His words reveal the Father, and ends by saying the works reveal the Father. Which is it? The Word or the Works? How do both works and words sustain the revelation?
7. When and where does Jesus ever "hear the Father's words?" When and where did He "...see the Father's works?" What happens when we pray? Whom do we hear when we pray? Whose works do we see when we read the Bible? How does that help us?
8. Look up James 2:18-26. [18](#)*But someone will say, "You have faith and I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.* [19](#)*You believe that God is one. Good for you! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.* [20](#)*O foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is worthless?* [21](#)*Was not our father Abraham justified by what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?* [22](#)*You see that his faith was working with his actions, and his faith was perfected by what he did.* [23](#)*And the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called a friend of God.* [24](#)*As you can see, a man is justified by his deeds and not by faith alone.* Explain this in the context of Jesus and the works we are going to also do. What are the works of faith, that are different from every day "good deeds?"
9. Look at the promise in verse 12: Paraphrase the promise in your own words. What "works" will we do and how much and in what way "greater?" See the footnote below on "greater works." How do we know that we SHALL do these works? What part of the promise in verse 12 has been fulfilled, to reassure us?
10. Have you seen "greater works?" Do you have a testimony?
11. Knowing Jesus' statement is true, and if we haven't seen or done "greater" works than His, what can we say that we get to look forward to?
12. Now look at verses 13 and 14. Pastor Mark asks, How can it be that we pray, and nothing happens? Explain. Remember Mark 11:[21](#)Peter remembered it and said, "Look, Rabbi! The fig tree You cursed has withered."

[22](#)“Have faith in God,” Jesus said to them. [23](#)“Truly I tell you that if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and has no doubt in his heart but believes that it will happen, it will be done for him. [24](#)Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

[25](#)And when you stand to pray, if you hold anything against another, forgive it, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your trespasses as well.” Paraphrase this promise in your own words. How strong is the promise? The Greek in verse 22 actually says, “Have God’s faith (godlike faith/divine faith).” (Like the faith Jesus demonstrated that withered the fig tree.) Whose faith are we imitating? How does this relate to what Jesus says to the apostles here in chapter 14? What role does forgiveness play in answers to prayer? Do works happen without prayer?

13. According to verse 13, when you pray, Who does the work? How does that help?
14. Look up Luke 11: [10](#)For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. [11](#) [What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?](#) [12](#)Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?...Answer Jesus? Who would do that?
15. Look at Luke 18: [1](#)Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray at all times and not lose heart: [2](#)“In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected men. [3](#)And there was a widow in that town who kept appealing to him, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ [4](#)For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect men, [5](#)yet because this widow keeps pestering me, I will give her justice. Then she will stop wearing me out with her perpetual requests.’” [6](#)And the Lord said, “Listen to the words of the unjust judge. [7](#)Will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry out to Him day and night? Will He continue to defer their help? [8](#)I tell you, He will promptly carry out justice on their behalf. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?” If the answer doesn’t come the first time, what should you do? When is it a good idea to stop praying? Answer Jesus’ final question in verse 8. What would prevent Jesus from finding the kind of faith the widow had with the judge? What is hindering our own faith?
16. Look at James 4: [2](#)*You crave what you do not have; you kill and covet, but are unable to obtain it. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask. [3](#)And when you do ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may squander it on your pleasures.* Pastor Mark shared how he tried to raise the dead when he was not “called” to raise the dead. What does James say can be pitfalls to our prayers?
17. How can one increase assurance in prayer? Where does faith come from?
18. Hebrews 5:13-14 says, “[13](#)For everyone who lives on milk is still an infant, inexperienced in the message of righteousness. [14](#)[But solid food is for the](#)

mature, who by constant use have trained their senses to distinguish good from evil.” How do we train our senses to this? Name benefits of knowing the Bible. Do you feel like you’re receiving milk? Or solid food?

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

(John 16:5–16)

15If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. **16**And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another *Advocate to be with you forever— **17**the Spirit of truth. The world cannot receive Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you do know Him, for He abides with you and will be in you.

18I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. **19**In a little while the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. **20**On that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you. **21**Whoever has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me. The one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him.”

1. Explain how this section relates to greater works? What is the proof of our love for Jesus? How are you doing?
2. How do the disciples already know the Spirit of Truth? Where did they encounter Him?
3. In what way will Jesus come to them? To us? How will they or we see Jesus when the world does not see Jesus? Has He come to us already then? How do you know? Do you have a testimony?
4. What is the reward for keeping the commandments? How will that help?
5. Jesus said in Matthew 24:12, “Because iniquity will abound the love of many will grow cold.” What does cold love produce? What must we do to love and not grow cold?
6. In Jesus’ letters to Ephesus and Laodicea, Revelation 2 and 3, the churches’ love grew cold. What happened to them?

22Judas (not Iscariot) asked Him, “Lord, why are You going to reveal Yourself to us and not to the world?”

23Jesus replied, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. **24**Whoever does not love Me does not keep My words. The word that you hear is not My own, but it is from the Father who sent Me.

25All this I have spoken to you while I am 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 told you.

1. “Keep” means to guard, to watch over, to hold in custody. How do you hold God’s word in custody?
2. See footnote number 3. Jesus is saying, “...we will come and make our *“mone”* with him.” It’s the same word from verse 2 above. He is proposing to make you and me Their “hang out/living room/place to abide.” For us, according to verse 2, there is plenty of room, how much room have you given

Them? Who has been sent to actually hang out with us? Does He have room?

3. Pastor Mark says, "It all comes together when we realize that we cannot do it in our own flesh. We can't do it on our own strength because we just don't have enough strength. We can't do it by our own power because the Holy Spirit gives us the power. It's the Spirit that initiates. It all comes together in a Spirit-filled, Spirit-led life. It's the Holy Spirit Who initiates. Our job is to spend time with the Father, to spend time with the Holy Spirit, to train our own senses how to hear from the Holy Spirit, and then when we are responding to Him, we can ask anything. **How does this imitate what Jesus did daily while with us on the earth?** Mark continues, "Jesus went away early, every morning to pray and be in communion with the Spirit and the Father, and He said, 'I only do what I see the Father do.'" **How does this encourage us all?**
4. For what purpose has the Spirit of Truth been sent? Who is your teacher? Is He doing a good job? How do you become a good student?

Peace I Leave with You

27Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled; 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 rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. **29**And now I have told you before it happens, so that when it does happen, you will believe.

30I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming, and he has no claim on Me. **31**But I do exactly what the Father has commanded Me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.

Get up! Let us go on from here.

1. What is the fruit of the coming of the Spirit?
2. Who else comes when the Spirit comes?
3. Why does Jesus repeat verse 1 here in verse 27? How important is the lesson when Jesus repeats it?
4. Look at verse 28. Why rejoice?
5. Look at verse 29. What is the purpose of prophecy? What else comes with faith born of prophecy?
6. Look at verse 31. What does obedience establish? Look again at verse 15. How is Jesus setting the standard according to His own words?
7. Compare verse 15 and verse 23. How is keeping/guarding/holding in custody His commandments and keeping/guarding/holding in custody His word different? How are they alike?
8. What is the difference between "Peace" and Jesus' Peace? Paul speaks of the "...peace of God which surpasses understanding..." that it guards your heart and mind in Christ. What are the benefits of Jesus' peace?
9. Who is the "...ruler of this world?" How did he gain rule? Who gives satan rule daily? To whom do you give rule? How do you overthrow Satan in your

own world? Who MUST be king if we are to enter the Kingdom? Whose commandments must you guard, watch over, hold in custody to establish Him as King? What can you expect to see from today on?

Scribe's notes:

1. **On Greek manuscripts (For the Geek only):** The earliest Greek manuscripts we have were written on vellum made most often of sheepskin, each page in four columns of 48 lines that were each column of twelve to fourteen capital Greek letters. There was little punctuation and no breaks between the words because Greek words had endings so consistent that one usually, easily recognized the end of the word without the aid of a break. Although convenient for the scribe who made the copies, this anomaly makes for interesting guesswork from time to time for the translator and subsequent scribes. That often explains the frequent alternate readings usually expressed in the footnotes of your Bible.
2. **On "You believe in God:"** These first verses present one of the exceptions to the above note. It is very rewarding to take the time to go word by word in this, one of the richest verses, so pregnant with promise: **1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled** (ταράσσω—To stir up or trouble. It's the ripples made when a stone is thrown into a placid pool). **You believe in God; believe in Me as well.** (The form of the verb here is an exception to my above note: The verb πιστεύετε (*pisteuete*), "believe" can be in both instances translated "Believe," the imperative, or the present active indicative "You do believe firmly"). The first time Jesus says, "Believe in God," or, "You believe steadfastly and constantly in God." In the second He says, "Believe also in me," or, "and you also believe steadfastly and constantly in me." It could be any combination of the two choices. "You do believe in God, so also believe in me." "You have firm faith in both God and me...therefore..."
3. **On many "mansions):** This verb translated in the KJV "In my father's house there are many mansions..." made no sense to me when I read it. How can you have a mansion in a house? Try to explain it. Southern evangelicals just wrote a song, "I've got a mansion..." and that was enough. The Berean Standard translation I've been enjoying lately on BibleHub.com says there are many "rooms." That makes better sense. The Greek, fortunately, is even a little more clear: **2 In My Father's house** (οἰκία—*oikia* "house or household) **are many** (πολύς—*polus* "many, plenteous, much) rooms. (μονή—*moné* "abode, lodging, place to stay") This verse actually says, "There is plenty of room [for you—implied] in my Father's house." When you grasp that, the rest is easier to understand.
4. **On questions or statements:** Because there is no punctuation in the original Greek manuscript, the translator sometimes has to decide if a statement is being made or a question asked. In this translation, Jesus asks a question: **If it were not**

so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? The King James and the New King James make this a statement: "If it were not so, I would have told you." What do you think? Is Jesus reassuring you? Or testing your faith?

5. **On a place prepared:** [3](#) **And if I go and prepare a place** (This word is a third word, neither house nor place to hang out. It is *τόπον* — *topon* a tract of land, a region, an assigned seat. Like the Israelites arriving in the promised land, their land was assigned to each by lot, and specified as belonging to them and their family forever. That is what Jesus is doing...laying out the map of the land for the inheritors thereof.) **for you, I will come back and welcome you into My presence, so that you also may be where I am.**
6. **On the *paraclete*/advocate:** Jesus promises to send us "the paraclete," a word so deep in meaning that translators are divided in its meaning. Bible dictionaries are very helpful. Look at this: **3875** *paráklētos* (from [3844](#) /*pará*, "from close-beside" and [2564](#) /*kaléō*, "make a call") – properly, a legal advocate who makes the right judgment-call because close enough to the situation. [3875](#) /*paráklētos* ("advocate, advisor-helper") is the regular term in NT times of an attorney (lawyer) – i.e. someone called to be *giving evidence that stands up in court*. The Holy Spirit becomes our "advocate/attorney for the defense" because he is sufficiently close to us to be able to answer for us in times of trial.
7. **On greater works:** Verse 14:12 promises that we will be doing greater works than He, after he showed that His works are the works of the Father. This verse has puzzled and troubled discussions for centuries. What works? What have we seen? Have we seen anything like what He is promising here? Maybe Jesus didn't mean "greater" as in "cooler." But then, what did He mean. The Greek word "greater" describing the works is *μέγας*, *meγas*, and it means "large, great, more important...in the largest sense" Whatever Jesus meant, we are to do "megaworks." Teachers who want that to be millions of salvations seem to be claiming that the salvation is *their* work, and not that of the Holy Spirit. Who is to see the works? Me personally? Or everyone who is looking to actually see Jesus today? Whatever the outcome, there is no doubt that Jesus is promising that we will be reflecting in greater measure both Him and the Father in each of our works.