

The Department of Church Growth and Development

Bible Study Outline

Scripture Lesson – John 13:1-17

Lesson One: Teaching Believers to Obey Christ's Commands

Theme: Christ's Lessons on Servant Leadership

Proposition: Our Lord Jesus has a people in the world that are his own; he has purchased them, and paid dear for them, and he has set them apart for himself; they devote themselves to him as a peculiar people learning to **obey** His commands by instruction, practice, and imitation for effective application.

1. Christ Demonstrates the Kind of Assurance Needed for Successful Ministry. John 13:1-3

- a. Christ understood His assignment V. 1
- b. Christ was reflection of God's love to the end. V. 1, 2
- c. Christ loved them all. Nothing can separate a true believer from the love of Christ. V. 2
- c. Christ knew who he was, where he came from, and where he was going. V.3

2. Christ Taught and Modeled True Servant Leadership John 13:4-8

- a. Christ laid aside every hindrance to perform this duty. V. 4
- b. Christ washed his disciples' feet that he might teach us to think nothing below us. V. 5
- c. Christ was willing to do all to promote God's glory and for the good of mankind. V. 6
- d. Christ teaches that only those who are spiritually washed by Christ have a part in Christ. V. 7, 8

3. Christ's Advance Teachings are Many Times Progressive Revelations. John 13:8-10

- a. Disciples do not now know perfectly any of His works, either of creation, providence, or grace.
- b. Disciples are called to love and obey now, and that they shall know clearer hereafter. V.8
- c. Disciples sometimes mean well, but are guilty of ignorant earnestness. V. 9, 10

4. Christ Teaches a Great Lesson on Humility, Love, and the Importance of Inward Purity. John 3:11-17

- a. Disciples, in every possible way are to assist each other in attaining purity. V. 11-15
- b. Disciples should be willing to perform all sorts of good deeds for each other, even those of the lowest kind, when opportunity serves, and the necessity of any calls for them. V. 16
- c. Our Lord here intimates unto His disciples and us these two things: V.17
 1. The necessity of knowledge in order unto practice.
 2. The necessity of practice in order to experience happiness.

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Lesson Two: Christ's Lessons on Faithful Obedience

Scripture Lesson: John 14:15-24

Proposition: When the disciples were showing their love to Christ by their grieving to think of his departure, and the sorrow which filled their hearts upon that knowledge, Jesus bids them, if they would show their love to him, do it, not by these weak and feminine passions, but by their conscientious care to perform their trust, and by faithful obedience to his commands. True love is shown by faith obedience.

1. Christ Call of Faithful Obedience is both an Exhortation to Duty and a Call to Comfort.

John 14:15

- a. Faithful obedience requires the practice of godliness in general.
- b. Faithful obedience requires carefulness to duty.
- c. Faithful obedience is following the conduct of the Spirit and receiving the comfort of the Spirit.

2. Christ Promises Great and Unspeakable Blessing to Those Who Faithfully Obey. John 14:16, 17

- a. Those who faithfully obey shall have another comforter. V.16
- b. Those who faithfully obey shall have an abiding comforter. (paraclete' - advocate)
- c. Those who faithfully obey shall have another master or teacher, another exhorter. V. 17
 - 1) One who comes in response to prayer.
 - 2) One who works in a spiritual way and manner, inwardly and invisibly.
 - 3) One who enlighten your minds, strengthen and confirm your belief, and increase your love.
 - 4) One who is the Spirit of truth, revealing and leading into all truth.
 - 5) One whom the world cannot receive; but you know him. Therefore he abideth with you.

3. Those Faithfully Obey Christ Will Not Be Abandon John 14:18-21

- a. He promises that he would continue his care of them. V. 18
 - 1) Not totally= Though I leave you without my bodily presence, not leave you without comfort.
 - 2) Not final- I will come to you, soon.
 - 3) Expect frequent visits of my Spirit; tokens of my love, and visits of my grace.
 - 4) Expect me to come again.
- b. He promises that they should continue their acquaintance with him and interest in him John 14:19-20
 - 1) You should see me, though I will not show myself to the world. (all the people) v. 19
 - 2) You shall live because I live. V. 19.
- c. He promises that those who know and keep His commands demonstrate their love. John 14:21
 - 1) They pass the only true test of love to Jesus. V. 22, 23
 - 2) They shall be loved of my Father. V. 23, 24
 - 3) They shall have my special love and manifestations in their lives.
 - 4) Those who do not hearken or obey my word, do not love me and cannot receive these promise. His word should lead to practical and universal holiness as one great end of His appearance.

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Lesson Three: Christ's Lessons on Productive Fruit Bearing Scripture Lesson John 15:1-17

Proposition: In Jesus, and all who are vitally joined to him, we find the only true Church, and in our heavenly Father, the great overseer and purifier of it, who inspects, prunes, dresses and expect productive fruit bearing of each abiding branch.

1. Jesus is the true Vine and His Father is the Husbandman, Certain Temptations Must be Avoided.

- a. Avoid the temptation to leave Christ, and return to Moses again (Judaism)
- b. Avoid the temptation to grow strange one to another (unity, togetherness)
- c. Avoid the temptation to shrink from their apostleship when they met with hardships.

2. There are four words to which his discourse in this chapter may be reduced. John 15

- a. Fruit, Jn 15:1-8. b. Love, Jn 15:9-17. c. Hatred, Jn 15:18-25. d. The Comforter, Jn 15:26-27.

3. Jesus is the True Vine and the Father is the Husbandman. John 15: 1

- a. He is the vine, planted in the vineyard, and not a spontaneous product; planted in the earth.
- b. The vine is a spreading plant, and Christ will be known as salvation to the ends of the earth.
- c. The fruit of the true vine honors God and cheers and blesses mankind.
- d. He is the (true vine), as truth is opposed to pretence and counterfeit.

4. Every Believer is a Branch of the true Vine. John 15:2

- a. Every believing branch must be accountable.
- b. Every believing branch is inspected, and fruit bearing is expected. V.2
 - 1) Our roots abide in Christ who causes our flourishing and fruitfulness.
 - 2) Our support system and supplies come from Christ.
 - 3) Believers, like the branches of the vine, are weak, and insufficient to stand of themselves
 - 4) We are God's husbandry; He has planted, and watered, and gives the increase.

5. Productive Fruit Bearing Requirements and Blessing John 15: 5-8

- a. Fruit bearing branches must abide in Christ and in the hands of the Vinedresser. V. 4
- b. Fruit bearing branches must produce the fruit of righteousness.
- c. Produce Christian temper and disposition.
- d. Produce Christian lifestyle and conversation.
- e. Practice Christian devotions and Christian designs.
- f. Honor God, do good, and exemplify the purity and power of the religion we profess.
- g. God is glorified by our fruitfulness, v. 8

6. The Doom of the Unfruitful Branches John 15:2

- a. Unfruitful Branches are given the treatment deserved.
- b. Unfruitful Branches are taken away.
- c. Unfruitful branches will wither; be gathered, cast into the fire and they are burned.

7. The Fruit of the Spirit in the Believer's Life is Love. John 15:9, 10

- a. The believer's pattern of love is demonstrated by the Father and the Son.
- b. The believer's duty is love others as God has demonstrated His love for them.
- c. The believer's Challenge is to Continue in that Love. V. 9, 10
- d. The believers Continue in Love by keeping His Commandments. V. 10
- e. The Believers prove themselves as friend of Jesus by faithful obedience. V11-14
- f. As friend of God, believers enjoy special privileges. V. 15
 - 1) Friends are made his table-companions
 - 2) Friends sit at the Communion feast and intimate conversation.
 - 3) Friends are more than servants
 - 4) Friends enjoy the privileges of the Chosen and ordain V. 16