

JOHN OVERVIEW

Introduction to John 13-17

What we are not going to do:

- ❑ Take 3 years to get through these 5 chapters.
- ❑ Answer all your questions from each text.
- ❑ Discuss all the theories about who wrote the book and when.
- ❑ Debate all the questionable parts for the book.

What we are going to do:

- ❑ Savor our Lord.
- ❑ Talk about what He is teaching to His disciples the night before He leaves them.
- ❑ Seek to apply that to our own lives.
- ❑ Remind ourselves why *we* believe in Him and why others should.

Why this section?

We are going to hone in on the last night before Jesus' crucifixion. We want to understand what Jesus thought was so important that He wanted to spend His last hours on the Earth explaining it to them. It is Scripture too and is helpful for teaching, etc.

What is the purpose of the Gospel of John?

John 20:30-31

Evangelism! He wants people to believe and to have eternal life. We know this and it is one of the reasons we have new believers turn to this gospel first. The fact is that this is not the easiest gospel to understand. Our culture is not like the one John was writing to. We don't have the same categories as he had.

- ❑ John is writing to tell them who the Messiah was. People today don't even know what a Messiah is, let alone who He might be.
- ❑ Still, this gospel gives wonderful proofs that are meant to lead people to believing in Jesus Christ. What a great way to spend our time—working through such a wonderful purpose!

An Example: John 8

- ❑ He is claiming to be God Himself.
- ❑ The Father is always with Him.
- ❑ He **always** does what the Father's will is!

Why Us Then?

If we are all professing believers, why should we spend time in this book since it is meant to be evangelistic?

1. God included it in the Bible, which means it is there to instruct you and I until we die.
2. We need to be reminded day after day of these wonderful truths. Our faith is encouraged and strengthened by meditating on the same foundation.
3. We still struggle to believe. Belief is not just knowing that something is true. If we really know it is true our life will be dependent on that truth. When we sin, it can be said that we do not believe Jesus is who He said He was. In other words, **we need to believe too!** All sin is fundamentally unbelief.
4. We hope that we have unbelievers join us in working through this book. We should always be glad to have people join us even though this is designed to be "family time." Hospitality itself

would tell us that it is good to invite people into anything we are doing so that we can show them the love we have for God and one another. Please consider inviting unbelievers to our time together, telling them that we are going through some really important things about Jesus the Christ.

Questions to ask of the text:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this text. If the point of the whole gospel is to point people to Jesus, we should look at what we learn about Him in every part. We should love Jesus more from this text. What do we learn that we can then use to worship Him?
2. What is He telling His disciples to believe or do or both? What does that tell us about what a Christian really should look like? That is one of the ways we can see the evangelistic purpose come through. John is telling unbelievers what “believers” should look like.
3. How does that belief or action translate into our time for us to believe and do?

General Breakdown of Our Study

1. Introduction (This is today)
2. John 13:1-20 Humble service
3. John 13:21-30 Betrayal is predicted
4. John 13:31-38 Love as I have loved you
5. John 14:1-14 Way, truth, life
6. John 14:15-24 Promised Holy Spirit
7. John 14:25-31 Three clarifications
8. John 15:1-16:4 Counting the cost
9. John 16:4-15 Ministries of the Holy Spirit
10. Break for a few weeks discussing more on the Holy Spirit
11. John 16:16-33 Jesus overcomes
12. John 17:1-5 High priestly prayer part 1
13. John 17:6-19 High priestly prayer part 2
14. John 17:20-26 High priestly prayer part 3