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# **GOSPEL OF JOHN**

**Chapters 12-21**



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## **Lesson 1: Jesus Goes To Jerusalem – John 12:1-50**

### **A. Introduction**

Jesus is now in the vicinity of Jerusalem and Passover is at hand. There are crowds who are seeking Him out and rulers who want to stamp Him out. Something has to give.

### **B. Jesus Is Anointed (12:1-8).**

1. Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany. There He dined with His friends – Mary, Martha and Lazarus. It must have been extraordinary.
2. Mary used the occasion to anoint the feet of Jesus with an expensive ointment. Judas lamented that the ointment was not sold and given to the poor, but he had ulterior motives. What did Jesus say about Mary's action? (12:7).

### **C. Plot Against Lazarus (12:9-11).**

3. Many of the Jews were excited about both the presence of Jesus and of Lazarus. The chief priests expanded their murderous plans to include Lazarus along with Jesus.

### **D. Jesus Enters Jerusalem (12:12-19).**

4. A large crowd of Jews heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, so they went to meet Him, shouting praises to the King of Israel. Jesus' entrance on a young donkey fulfilled Messianic prophecy from Zechariah.
5. The Pharisees were chagrined that the "world" had gone after Him.

### **E. Greeks Seek Jesus (12:20-26).**

6. There were Greeks who attended the feast and they asked Philip if they could see Jesus.
7. Jesus told them that the hour had come for the Son of Man to be glorified. What did Jesus mean by glory? What did this involve for His followers?

### **F. Son Of Man Lifted Up (12:27-36).**

8. Jesus was troubled. He might have refused to proceed, but He states that "for this purpose I have come to this hour."
9. Jesus stated that His death would bring about judgment on the world and its ruler. His lifting up would be how men are drawn to Him.
10. This caused consternation among the crowd. What was the way forward?

**G. Contrast: Unbelief And Belief (12:37-50).**

11. John summarizes at this point. Jesus had done so many signs, yet there were those who did not believe in Him. He quotes from Isaiah to bear this out. What are some reasons they did not believe? (12:39, 42).
12. Jesus stated the importance of believing in Him (12:44-50). What are some results of belief or unbelief?

## **Lesson 2: Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet - John 13:1-38**

### **A. Introduction**

Jesus prepared to eat the Passover with His apostles. The other gospels tell us about this meal being eaten and Jesus introducing the elements of the Lord's Supper as they ate. John focuses on events that precede the meal and last minute teaching that Jesus did to impress the nature of service upon them. This leads to a lengthy discourse between Jesus and the apostles in the chapters that follow (ch.14-16), not found in the Synoptic accounts.

### **B. Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet (13:1-11).**

1. Jesus was on a divine timetable, not a human one. His hour had now come to depart out of the world. Jesus used this occasion of eating the Passover meal to teach His apostles about the nature of service in the kingdom.
2. Apparently no servant was available to wash feet for these visitors and none of the apostles volunteered to undertake such menial service. As a result, Jesus girded Himself with a towel and began to wash each of the disciple's feet. Explain the interaction between Jesus and Peter.

### **C. A Lesson For The Disciples (13:12-20).**

3. Jesus said they rightfully called Him Lord and Teacher. What did this demonstrate about His authority?
4. What did He want them to learn from His example? (13:15-17).
5. Jesus cited Scripture from Psalms 41:9 in which David spoke about one who betrayed him. Now David's greater Son would experience betrayal on a greater scale.

### **D. Jesus Predicts His Betrayal (13:21-30).**

6. This meal was eaten with each of the guests reclining on their side around a table in the middle. When Jesus announced his betrayal, Peter urged the disciple "whom Jesus loved" to inquire about who it was.
7. Despite singling out Judas, the others did not fully understand Judas' abrupt departure. Judas vanished into the night air.

### **E. A New Command (13:31-38).**

8. Jesus again spoke about being glorified. He also revealed that He would be with them a little while. His death was imminent, but the apostles did not understand what was about to happen. Jesus had told the Jews that they could not come where He was going and they failed to understand His meaning.

9. His new commandment to love one another was not new in time. The Old Testament contained exhortations about loving others. What was different about the kind of love Jesus had in mind?
10. Jesus says that people will know we are His disciples by the love we have for one another. Why is that?



## **Lesson 3: Jesus' Departure - John 14:1-31**

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### **A. Introduction**

After Jesus finished this last meal, the Passover, with His apostles, He continued to teach them. They needed help to navigate the coming challenges. Jesus attempted to brace them for what was ahead and explain to them how they would receive divine guidance in His absence. In this chapter He answers various questions that were raised by His teaching.

### **B. Peter: Lord, Where Are You Going? (13:36-14:4).**

1. Peter senses from the events that have unfolded that something serious is about to happen, even a life and death matter. So he asks the Lord where He is going. When Jesus tells him he cannot follow him now but later, Peter offers to lay his life down for him.
2. Jesus responds by telling Peter and the others not to be troubled. Just as they have believed in God, they need to believe in Him. He is going to prepare a place for them – not physical mansions – but an opportunity to dwell with God forever. They know the way He is going.

### **C. Thomas: We Do Not Know Where You Are Going. How Can We Know The Way? (14:4-7).**

3. Thomas desires clarification. He wants to know how they can know the way that Jesus described.
4. Jesus replies with the familiar statement that we all know. The way to the Father is through Jesus. Jesus has come from His Father and shows them who the Father is. When God revealed Himself to Moses, it was an incomplete, indirect revelation. Now they are able to know the Father by knowing His Son.

### **D. Philip: Show Us The Father And It Is Enough (14:8-21).**

5. Philip asks to see the Father. That would be sufficient.
6. Jesus tells him they have “seen” the Father when they “see” Him. Jesus works in concert with His heavenly Father. He speaks the words of His Father and His Father enables Him to do the works that He does.
7. Jesus promises that there will be even greater works that are done in His absence. He promises them that a Helper will come in His absence. He will not leave them alone as orphans. He urges them to keep His commands, a proof of their love for Him.

**E. Judas: How Will You Manifest Yourself To Us And Not The World? (14:22-31).**

8. Judas is puzzled. He wants to know how Jesus will make this glorious display.
9. Jesus responds by telling them that by keeping His word, they will be able to have a relationship with them. They keep His word and both He and the Father will dwell with them.
10. The Holy Spirit – the Helper – will teach them all things and bring all the things He has taught them to their remembrance.
11. As a result, they do not need to be troubled or afraid. He has told them what is to come so that when it happens, they may believe.

## **Lesson 4: The True Vine – John 15:1-27**

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### **A. Introduction**

1. Jesus taught His disciples in John 14-16. This discourse is not found in the Synoptic gospels. It helps us appreciate the teaching and encouragement Jesus gave to them and the apostles unawareness of what would presently happen to Jesus.
2. In chapter 15, continues His teaching. We can structure this chapter by the three commands that Jesus gives. He tells them that they need to abide in Him (15:4), love one another (15:12) and remember His words (15:20).

### **B. Abide In Me (15:4).**

3. Jesus describes the relationship that He desires with His disciples. He uses an image that would be familiar to them – a grape vine and its branches.
  - a. This was familiar both because many of the people worked in vineyards and because this image was used in the Old Testament. Passages like Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalms 80:9-16 and Ezekiel 15:1-8 described Israel as a vineyard owned by God.
  - b. Jesus had used other images, such as the temple, bread, water and light to make other analogies about what He had come to accomplish.
4. Jesus was redefining these symbols and institutions in Israel's past and making new applications of them to His relationship with His disciples.
5. Read 15:1-11. What are some applications that could be made about this relationship?

### **C. Love One Another (15:12-19).**

6. Jesus had mentioned previously the importance of their love toward each other (13:34).
7. He told them that there could be no greater love than laying down one's life for his friends, the very thing Jesus is preparing to do (15:13).
8. He made His love clear to them by calling them friends. This desire and willingness to show love to each other is part of the fruit bearing Jesus had mentioned.

**D. Remember The Word That I Said (15:18-27).**

9. Jesus called His apostles out of the world – not the physical world, but the mindset of rebellion against God and His ways. The world reacted with hate. That hate would also be shown toward His apostles (15:18-19). They hated Him because of the good He did among them (15:22-25).
10. Servants were not greater than their masters. Jesus warns them that they will experience similar persecution to His (15:20).

**E. Promise (15:26-27).**

11. Jesus ends this chapter with a promise – the Helper, the Spirit of truth – will bear witness about Him.
12. The apostles would also bear witness because they had been with Jesus.

## **Lesson 5: The Comforter – John 16:1-33**

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### **A. Introduction**

1. Jesus prepared His apostles for the storm that was coming. He was going away. They needed to stay close to Him, like a vine and its branches. There were to love each other. When persecution came, they were to endure it.
2. In this chapter, He gives them three promises to which they can look forward.

### **B. I Will Send The Holy Spirit (15:26-16:15).**

3. As we noted at the end of chapter 15, Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to the apostles. When He came, He would bear witness to the truth (15:26-27).
4. This would enable them to face the tests that were coming. They would be put out of the synagogue and their lives would be threatened (15:1-4).
5. Jesus anticipated sorrow at the news that He was leaving them (15:5-6). Yet, it in His absence the Helper would come (15:7). He would convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment (15:8-11).
6. Jesus continued telling them about the Spirit's coming. They could not bear all He had to tell them. The Holy Spirit would guide them into all the truth, speaking only what He heard from the Father. He would complete all that they needed to know (15:12-15).

### **C. He Would See Them Again (16:16-32).**

7. Jesus told them they would see Him no longer, then see Him again after a little while (16:16).
8. They asked what He meant by "a little while." Jesus answered by comparing what they faced to a woman giving birth. The actual birth is accompanied by sorrow and anguish because of the pain that a woman bears. Yet it results in a joy that supersedes the sorrow because of the joy at the entrance of this person into the world (16:17-22).
9. Ultimately, they would be empowered by the Father to pray and accomplish their work (16:23-24).
10. Having used figures, Jesus now speaks plainly (16:25). He is preparing to leave the world (16:26-28).

11. The apostles expressed their faith that Jesus had come from God. Jesus braced them for the difficulties ahead. They would be scattered and leave him alone (16:31-32). Yet, Jesus would not be alone.

**D. I Have Overcome The World (16:33).**

12. Jesus knew that He had overcome the world. His death would make it appear as though He had been defeated, but He would be raised. He had overcome the world.

13. Despite tribulation, they could take heart and have peace. The world's stranglehold over sinners would be lifted.

## **Lesson 6: Jesus' Prayer For Unity – John 17:1-26**

### **A. Introduction**

1. Jesus taught and exhorted His apostles after their last meal together. He warned them of coming persecution but He promised them that the Holy Spirit would come and help them to overcome the challenges they would face.
2. Now He prays to His Father. This is an intimate conversation between an eternal Father and eternal Son. His apostles presumably heard it and it has been recorded for us.

### **B. Jesus Prays Concerning Himself (17:1-5).**

3. Jesus asks His Father to glorify His Son now that the hour has come. Based on the way Jesus has referred to this “hour” previously, what does He mean? How does this fit with the idea of glory?
4. It was part of God’s nature to give. He had given His Son authority over all flesh (17:2). Now the Son will give eternal life to all that had been given to Him. This eternal life is more than quantity – it is a quality of life.
5. This eternal life is described here as “knowing” both the one true God and Jesus Christ. This life is only possible because of the work of the Son, sent by God.
6. The word “know” suggests a special, intimate relationship with both of these. This is not a mysterious, intuitive knowing, but one that comes from understanding what the Father and Son have spoken and developing that relationship with them.
7. Jesus has “accomplished” the work He has been given. The culmination of that work is fast approaching. He looks forward to being with the Father in His presence as He had been before the world existed (17:5).

### **C. Jesus Prays Concerning His Disciples (17:6-19).**

8. Jesus turns His attention to His disciples. The “name” that Jesus had manifested to His apostles was the identity and the qualities of His Father – all that He is (17:6).
9. Jesus had given His words (from the Father) to them. He says that they had kept His word, despite all the struggles through which they had gone (17:6-7).
10. As imperfect as they were, they knew that the Father sent Him (17:7-10).

11. Jesus made three requests on their behalf: keep them in your name (17:11), keep them from the evil one (17:14), and sanctify them in the truth (17:17). What does each one mean?

**D. Jesus Prays For All Who Believe (17:20-26).**

12. Now Jesus prays for all those who will believe in Him through their word (that's us) (17:20).
13. He wants them to be one, as are He and His Father (17:21). What does that mean? Require?
14. What will the world know as a result? (17:23).
15. Jesus requests that those He has been given may be with Him to see His glory (17:24).



## **Lesson 7: Jesus Arrested And Tried – John 18:1-40**

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### **A. Introduction**

1. Jesus' discourse and prayer are now ended. He and the apostles go out into the night air and Jesus takes them to the Garden of Gethsemane.
2. John does not record Jesus' prayer in the garden. Instead, he focuses on Judas' betrayal.

### **B. Jesus Betrayed And Arrested (18:1-11).**

3. Judas was privy to Jesus' location. We are told Jesus often met there with His disciples (18:2). Judas had been busy since leaving the meal with the other apostles. He had gathered a band of soldiers and religious leaders in order to betray Jesus and have Him arrested (18:3).
4. Jesus took the initiative and asked who were seeking. When they replied "Jesus of Nazareth," Jesus answered "I am he." When He told them the same thing again, He asked that they let His apostles go (18:8).
5. Peter acted rashly, cutting off the ear of the high priest's servant (18:10). Jesus told him to put away his sword – He was ready to drink the cup His Father gave Him (18:11).

### **C. Taken To Annas, Peter's Denials (18:12-27).**

6. Jesus was led to Annas, who had previously been high priest, but still exerted a great deal of influence (18:13). He was also the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who had suggested it might be expedient that one die instead of the entire nation perishing (18:14).
7. Peter followed from a distance with another disciple (probably John) (18:15). Peter stood outside the courtyard where Jesus was taken and when pressed, denied any knowledge of Jesus (18:16-18).
8. When Annas questioned Jesus about His teaching, Jesus urged him to ask His disciples, since He had done nothing in secret (18:19-21). One of the officers struck Jesus, then He was taken to Caiaphas (18:24).
9. Peter was asked again about His association with Jesus and denied Him (18:25-27).

#### **D. Jesus Appears Before Pilate (18:28-40).**

10. Jesus was led from Caiaphas to Pilate (18:28). When they appeared outside his headquarters, he asked for their accusation. Pilate instructed them to judge Him by their own law. They exposed their hand when they told him they did not have authority to put Jesus to death (18:29-32).
11. Next, came the well-known interrogation of Jesus by Pilate. Pilate asked if He was king of the Jews. Jesus told Him His kingdom was other-worldly and His purpose was to bear witness to the truth. Pilate replied with his question – “what is truth?” (18:33-37).
12. When Pilate told the Jewish rulers that he found no guilt in Jesus, he asked them if they wanted to release Jesus according to their custom at Passover. They had their answer ready – release Barabbas (18:38-40).

## **Lesson 8: Jesus' Crucifixion – John 19:1-42**

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### **A. Introduction**

1. Jesus was arrested in the middle of the night and led back to appear before Annas, then Caiaphas.
2. Once those hearings concluded, Jesus was taken by the authorities to Pilate. Even though some arrangement may have been made beforehand, Pilate seemed to balk, interrogating Jesus, yet finding no fault in Him. When Pilate offered to release Jesus based on a Jewish Passover tradition, the crowd cried out that they wanted Barabbas released.

### **B. Pilate Appears Before Pilate – Continued (19:1-16).**

3. Pilate had Jesus flogged, then the soldiers began to ridicule Him with a crown of thorns and a purple robe (19:1-2). Pilate went out and confirmed that he found no guilt in Jesus (19:3).
4. Pilate paraded Jesus before the people. His attitude may have been to indicate that Jesus was no threat to anyone (19:4-6). Pilate became more fearful upon hearing their claim that Jesus had made Himself the Son of God (19:7-8).
5. When Jesus failed to answer Pilate's questions concerning His origin, Pilate told Him that he controlled the outcome (19:10). Jesus told him that he only had authority because it had been divinely granted (19:11).
6. The Jews sensed that Pilate might release Jesus and charged that Pilate was not Caesar's friend (19:12). Pilate responded by presenting Jesus as their king. When the people clamored for his crucifixion, Pilate gave Jesus over to be crucified (19:13-16).

### **C. Jesus' Crucifixion (19:17-42).**

7. Jesus was taken with His cross to Golgotha. There He was crucified with two others. Such a death was meant to be a public display of what happens to those who oppose the Roman authority (19:17-18).
8. Pilate added an inscription, to the chagrin of the Jewish authorities, that Jesus was the King of the Jews (19:19-22).
9. The soldiers who crucified Jesus cast lots for Jesus' garments, fulfilling Scripture (19:23-24).
10. Jesus instructed His beloved disciple to care for His mother (19:25-27).

11. Jesus thirsted, then after being offered sour wine, He said “It is finished” and gave up His spirit (19:28-30).
12. When the soldiers came to break the legs of Jesus in order to hasten His death, they discovered He was already dead. One of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear. John noted that these actions fulfilled Old Testament Scripture (19:31-37).
13. Joseph of Arimathea requested and was granted the body of Jesus. Nicodemus assisted him and Jesus was taken and buried in a new tomb in a garden close by (19:40-42).

## **Lesson 9: Jesus' Resurrection – John 20:1-31**

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### **A. Introduction**

1. Jesus' arrest, hearings and crucifixion took place with breathtaking speed. Just a few hours after warning His apostles about His departure and the threat of persecution, Jesus was dead and laid in a tomb.
2. In their minds, all hope must have been gone. They must have been dispirited and disillusioned. Their Master was gone or so they thought...

### **B. Morning – First Day Of The Week (20:1-18).**

3. John's focused initially on Mary Magdalene, who made an early trip to Jesus' tomb on the first day of the week. There she saw that the stone had been moved from the tomb (20:1).
4. She ran and told Peter and Jesus' beloved disciple. If this was indeed John, he would have had a vivid memory of outrunning Peter to the tomb. Both of them eventually entered the tomb to discover that the body of Jesus was not there. They returned to their homes (20:2-9).
5. Mary returned to the tomb, only to be asked by angels why she was weeping. When she stated that she did not know where Jesus' body had been taken, she turned to find Jesus, whom she mistook for a gardener. When He identified Himself to her, Jesus said that He would ascend to His Father. Mary went back to the disciples to let them know that she had seen the Lord (20:10-18).

### **C. Evening – First Day Of The Week (20:19-23).**

6. The scene shifted to a place where the fearful disciples were behind locked doors. Suddenly Jesus appeared to them, with proof of His resurrection (20:19-21).
7. He then breathed on them, indicating the Holy Spirit that would be given to them. That "breath" would enable them to offer forgiveness through Jesus (20:22-23).

### **D. Next First Day Of The Week (20:24-29).**

8. Thomas had been absent from Jesus' previous visit. When the other apostles presented their testimony concerning Jesus, Thomas replied that he would need to witness the physical evidence himself if he was to be persuaded that Jesus had risen from the dead (20:24-25).

9. We often refer to Thomas as “doubting Thomas.” Do you think he was in the right or the wrong?
10. Eight days later, the apostles were together and Thomas was with them. Jesus appeared again and offered the evidence to Thomas that he had requested. Without seeking empirical proof for himself, Thomas proclaimed “My Lord and My God!” What does his statement indicate? How remarkable was it?
11. Jesus remarked that those who believed despite not seeing would be blessed.

**E. Concluding Statement Of Purpose (20:30-31).**

## **Lesson 10: Jesus' Appearance – John 21:1-25**

### **A. Introduction**

1. Jesus was put to death unlawfully, but His death served a divine purpose. The Jews and Romans unwittingly fulfilled God's purpose by offering the perfect Lamb of God as a sacrifice to take away the sins of the world.
2. Jesus was raised from the dead and appeared to His disciples. The previous chapter ends accordingly with Thomas professing His faith in Jesus as both His Lord and God. John adds that those who did not witness these things can yet be blessed by believing the testimony regarding Jesus' signs in this gospel account.
3. We might expect the end, but there is more. Just as there was a prologue (1:1-18), the last chapter serves as an epilogue with Jesus providing more proof of His resurrection.

### **B. Jesus Appears To The Disciples (21:1-14).**

4. John writes that Jesus revealed Himself again to the disciples (21:1).and then repeats that statement at the end of this section (21:14).
5. The setting for this scene is the Sea of Tiberias (another name for the Sea of Galilee). Several of the disciples are here and they are fishing. We might expect that of fishermen, but that does not mean they had given up on Jesus.
6. As on a previous occasion (not mentioned in John's account, Luke 5:5), they fished through the night and caught nothing (perhaps not an uncommon occurrence). As day broke, Jesus appeared on the shore and offered instructions that enabled them to catch a host of fish.
7. When John called out that it was the Lord, Peter rushed to the shore. There they ate breakfast together.

### **C. Jesus And Peter (21:15-19).**

8. After eating, Jesus confronted Peter, asking him three times if Peter loved Him. Peter answered each time in the affirmative, grieved that Jesus had asked Him.
9. Each time Peter answered, Jesus directed Peter to take of His lambs or sheep. Then, after the third exhortation, Jesus told Peter that there would come a time where he would be led where he did not want to go. John added the parenthetical note (to leave us in no doubt) that Jesus was speaking of the kind of death Peter would die.

**D. Jesus And His Beloved Disciple (21:20-24).**

10. Peter asked Jesus about the disciple whom He loved. His question was “What about his man?” How did Jesus respond? What tradition developed as a result of that saying? Was it correct? What does that tell us about traditions that develop?

11. What did John tell us about his message? (21:24).

**E. Conclusion (21:25).**

12. How does John explain his limited testimony concerning Jesus?

13. Did Jesus do many other things that are not written?