**The Gospel of John**

**Week 3 – The Last Supper/Farwell Discourses**

**Chapters 13 – 17**

***Study Notes:***

**John 13:1 Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet**

* The hour has come.
* The devil put into Judas’ heart to betray Jesus.
  + Throughout John’s Gospel, Judas (identified as a devil in ch. 6) receives the same love, experiences, and blessings as everyone else, yet he does not respond in faith.
  + Judas intends harm for Jesus – God harnesses those evil actions (betrayal, crucifixion) for good.
* V3 – Jesus knowing the father had given (lit. put) all things into his hands… humbled himself – took the form of a slave – and washed his disciples’ feet.
  + This is how Jesus demonstrates his power & love.
* Peter assumes more = better – he misses the sign – foot washing in itself is complete devotion of Jesus.

**John 13:21 Jesus Foretells His Betrayal**

* To give a piece of bread was a sign of special blessing
* Is Judas responsible for his actions or is he just a pawn of Satan? - Both Evil is real – so is responsibility.
* Judas departs --- into the night – (he leaves the light to go into the darkness)
* Cleanliness and uncleanliness are expressed in terms of faith & and unfaith.

**John 13:31 The New Commandment**

* In light of all that Jesus does: What does it mean to love one another?
  + - This command is in the context of betrayal. See how I loved all of you (including Judas)… do the same.

**John 14:1 Jesus the Way to the Father**

* In my father’s house, there are many dwelling (abiding) places. Often used funeral text/image.
  + In verse 3: Jesus says “I will come again and I will take you to MYSELF”.
    - Image fades… Jesus doesn’t say he will take you to heaven
    - The hope that Christ gives is the hope of being with HIM. The Christ who has claimed you now, is the Christ who holds your future.
  + ***4*** And you know the way to the place I am going (“to the place” are NOT in the Greek.)
* ***6*** Jesus said "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
  + Jesus says something about himself. - One of the I AM sayings - **Identifies himself as the way.**
  + Jesus goes the WAY in order to become the WAY.
  + What is this “way” he is talking about?
    - Way = destination. To God, to the Father. Ultimate finishing point.
    - Way = route. What is the route Jesus is taking? Crucifixion and Resurrection. In order to embody the way of crucifixion and resurrection.
    - Jesus goes the way of death and resurrection and he comes to embody death and resurrection; because this is how he opens up relationships to God that sin has closed off.
* To ask “for whom is Jesus the way” is to ask “for whom did Jesus GO the way?” Jesus died for all.
* Jesus also says something about people.
  + “No one comes to the Father” - Not the first time we have heard this…
    - 7:34 To the temple police: “… you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come.”
    - 8:21 To the Jewish opponents: “Where I am going, you cannot come.”
    - 13:33 – To the disciples (inner circle): “ Where I am going, you cannot come.”
  + There is a barrier (like a brick wall). The assumption is that everyone is separated from the Father. Separation from God = sin. Is sin an element in the condition of all human beings? Yes!
  + Is separation the final word? No one comes to the Father, period? Is this the last word?
  + THE NEXT WORD IS POWERFUL WORD OF GOSPEL = “EXCEPT”
* Jesus puts it all together.
  + EXCEPT through me. It’s like a door in a previously sealed wall. (John 10 – I am the door/gate)
    - Where sin has closed off relationship with God; Christ has come to open up that relationship with God.
    - “Except” is a promise of life.

**John 14:15 The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

* Some Questions to consider:
  + What does an Advocate do?
  + What does it mean to have Jesus go away? Is Jesus really absent?
  + Does the Spirit coming mean Jesus is gone?
* John says NO.
  + The Jesus who has risen and appeared to his disciples, CONTINUES to be present with you.
  + The Jesus who was seen in the past and have the promise of seeing in the future, this Jesus is ALREADY present (this is the role of the Spirit; to disclose the presence of the living Christ within the community of faith.)
  + Where is the Father? Is God really absent from the world?
    - Jesus isn’t going to a Father who is absent; he’s going to the one who is already present.
    - How do you come to know the presence of Christ? Through the Holy Spirit.
* ***26*** "When the Advocate [**F132**](http://bible.crosswalk.com/OnlineStudyBible/bible.cgi?new=1&word=John+15&section=0&version=nrs&language=en#F132) comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf.***27*** You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

**John 15:1 Jesus the True Vine**

* This passage is best read in terms of Law & Gospel (Warning & Promise)
  + **Elements of Warning:** removing branches (cut off), pruning branches (even if you do bear fruit), I cannot bear fruit by myself, apart from Jesus you can do nothing.
  + **Elements of Promise:** we are branches, we are clean, the parts that don’t bear fruit are cut off (as good news). Abiding does lead to fruit bearing. Jesus is abiding in us (not “maybe,” but a true sense of abiding of Christ).
* **Pruning & the Judgment of God**
  + God removing a branch = judgment.
  + A branch that bears no fruit, that means that there is some barrier, something that is impeding the fruit bearing, some barrier in the relationship already. God isn’t out there to terminate a relationship; rather, a fruitless branch is one where the relationship has effectively ended already.
  + There are relationships with God that have ended (bearing no fruit, no sign of life, no sign that there’s connection between branch and stalk – so the vine grower formalizes the separation.
  + If the relationship has ended already, God’s judgment is simply to acknowledge what has already occurred.
    - THIS IS THE WAY JUDGMENT TYPICALLY OCCURS IN JOHN.
  + Judgment becomes God saying “yes” to the persistent human “no”. God’s acceptance of the human situation. This is frightening. – drives us to the good news.

**John 16 Final Instructions Continued.**

* Jesus tells his disciples he is going away. Promises the Holy Spirit again. Foretells persecutions and challenges that can be met with hope and peace because Jesus has “conquered the world” (with love).

**John 17 Jesus Prays for His Disciples**

* Chapter 17 is one long prayer that concludes the Last Supper. Jesus prays for UNITY. Unity comes from the love believers receive from Christ and is expressed in love for others and witness to Jesus and the Father.