

What Are You Looking For? Questions From The Gospel Of John

3rd Session: "Love one another, Abide in Me!"

Introductory Statement: This week we experience a very personal and mystical exploration of the implications of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Here, the disciples recall the words of Jesus that helps them understand why the Passion & Death must occur. It's called the "farewell discourse."

Scriptures that reveal themes for this week's film & discussion:

Chapter 14

"Love one another, as I love you!!!" (13:34)

It appears that Jesus is asking us to imitate his love by our love for one another. His love is a model, but there is more here. Love is more than a command, it is a gift!!

"I am the way, the truth and the life." (14:6)

Boldly!! Jesus is teaching HE is the ONLY way to salvation because He teaches the ONLY valid truth and the proof of this is that he leads his followers to the ONLY life that deserves the name.

"The one who believes in me will do the works I do and will do greater works than these." (14:12)

If we, by faith, enter the flow of life between the Father and the Son, we will be empowered to perform the works that characterize the life of Jesus.

"The Holy Spirit will teach you everything." (14:26)

How does one live as a Christian as an old person? How does one live as a Christian as a rich person? How does one live as a Christian as a politician? How does one live as a Christian as a priest? Etc., etc., Jesus was none of these.

Chapter 15

"I am the vine, you are the branches." (15:5)

Before Jesus said to drink, to eat, now the imagery is more intimate we must remain in Jesus as a branch on a vine. One CANNOT be united to Jesus as a branch in a vine without an actual experience of shared life and love.

"Remain united to me and I will remain united to you (15:4)

To abide, to remain in Jesus is to be attached to him in such a way that life would seem impossible without him.

“I have called you friends” (15:15)

To know this experientially is to have no more fear and to enjoy a peace beyond imagining. (Rudolf Schnackenburg)

“When the Advocate comes.” (15:26)

If the Pharisees could hear the truth given by the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, they would be liberated from their addiction to scrupulous legal observance. The Advocate makes Jesus present in a whole new way.

Chapter 17

“So that they may be one” (17:11)

There is a great danger here of confusing unity with uniformity, which is a superficial kind of unity that is concerned mostly with appearances. This can be achieved only when competition is abandoned and replaced by service of one another.

Protect them from the evil one.” (17:15)

If Satan’s view of life were complete nonsense we could easily dismiss him, and he would not be a threat to us. However, from a merely human and rational point of view, what Satan tells us makes sense and seems to be the only way that is really promising. Nonetheless, the deep intuition is that self-giving love is THE good and noble way.

“Sanctify them in the truth, your word is truth.” (17:17)

To be sanctified in the truth is to be fully committed to this radical interpretation of life, even though it may seem foolish at times, for in the end it will prove to be complete wisdom.
