

What Jesus Said Before He Died

John 14-17

Sermon for March 27 2022

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Three weeks from today, we will celebrate Easter. Easter is the most important holiday in the Christian calendar. Because on Easter we celebrate the most important event in human history. On Easter morning, 2,000 years ago, Jesus rose up from the grave after being dead for three days. Because he defeated death, he can defeat sin and pain and death in us when we believe in his name. The night before Jesus died, he said many important things to his followers. Instead of preaching a sermon today, and I want you to hear the words of Jesus directly. So I am going to read some of the things he said on Thursday night, before he died.

I will read from the gospel of John. Before I begin reading, please pray with me. Our Father in heaven, thank you for the gift of your Word. Please send the Holy Spirit to our hearts and minds, to help us hear and understand. Bless us through your holy Word, so we can follow and trust you every day. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

John 14:1-21

1 "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.

2 There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

4 And you know the way to where I am going."

5 "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

7 If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!"

8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

9 Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?"

10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me.

11 Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.

12 "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.

13 You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father.

14 Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!

15 "If you love me, obey my commandments.

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you.

17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

18 No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.

19 Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live.

20 When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

21 Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them."

John 14:27-29

27 "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

28 Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again. If you really loved me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father, who is greater than I am.

29 I have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe.

John 15:1-17

1 "I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener.

2 He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.

3 You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you.

- 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.
- 5 "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.
- 6 Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.
- 7 But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!
- 8 When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.
- 9 "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.
- 10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love.
- 11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!
- 12 This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.
- 13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.
- 14 You are my friends if you do what I command.
- 15 I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.
- 16 You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.
- 17 This is my command: Love each other.

John 16:16-33

- 16 "In a little while you won't see me anymore. But a little while after that, you will see me again."
- 17 Some of the disciples asked each other, "What does he mean when he says, 'In a little while you won't see me, but then you will see me,' and 'I am going to the Father'?"
- 18 And what does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand."
- 19 Jesus realized they wanted to ask him about it, so he said, "Are you asking yourselves what I meant? I said in a little while you won't see me, but a little while after that you will see me again.
- 20 I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy.
- 21 It will be like a woman suffering the pains of labor. When her child is born, her anguish gives way to joy because she has brought a new baby into the world.
- 22 So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy.

23 At that time you won't need to ask me for anything. I tell you the truth, you will ask the Father directly, and he will grant your request because you use my name.

24 You haven't done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.

25 "I have spoken of these matters in figures of speech, but soon I will stop speaking figuratively and will tell you plainly all about the Father.

26 Then you will ask in my name. I'm not saying I will ask the Father on your behalf,

27 for the Father himself loves you dearly because you love me and believe that I came from God.

28 Yes, I came from the Father into the world, and now I will leave the world and return to the Father."

29 Then his disciples said, "At last you are speaking plainly and not figuratively.

30 Now we understand that you know everything, and there's no need to question you. From this we believe that you came from God."

31 Jesus asked, "Do you finally believe?"

32 But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when you will be scattered, each one going his own way, leaving me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me.

33 I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

John 17:1-8

1 After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you.

2 For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him.

3 And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.

4 I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.

5 Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.

6 "I have revealed you to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours. You gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

7 Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you,

8 for I have passed on to them the message you gave me. They accepted it and know that I came from you, and they believe you sent me.

John 17:20-26

20 "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message.

21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

22 "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one.

23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.

24 Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!

25 "O righteous Father, the world doesn't know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me.

26 I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them."


Together we read Isaiah 40:8:

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."

Let's pray together.

Jesus, we thank you for the words of encouragement and truth you shared with your followers before you died. Our hearts are heavy when we remember the many times we fail to trust and obey you. But our hearts are filled with joy when we remember the forgiveness and life we receive from you, when we believe in your name. Help us love you with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. And help us love our neighbors the same way you loved us, so that everyone may experience the love of Jesus for themselves. We pray all this in your holy name.

Amen.

 One Voice Fellowship