

Learning from Jesus' Last Message #18
"The Jesus Education Method"
Message Notes, June 5, 2022

John 17:6-19 Jesus' Prayer for His Disciples

- 1. Jesus Goes "All In" on the Disciples' Future Potential:** He believes in and encourages their growth and does not limit them to who they are at the present moment.
- Current situation: When did the disciples follow Jesus' teachings (v. 6)? To what extent did they know (v. 7) and believe (v. 8) in Jesus? When did they reveal the glory of Jesus ("it is my glory" v. 10)? Now they will all betray Jesus and flee. Why did Jesus respond the way that He did?
 - Jesus had an amazing plan that the disciples did not know about, and in order to carry it out, He had prepared potential *gifts* and help (power) that they could not have imagined. Therefore, Jesus believed in and looked forward to the disciples' future (the future that God had prepared for them). → This also applies to us.

1 John 3:9 (NLT) "Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God."

- The verb "born" *gegennetai* is a passive imperative of completion, which implies not a single event of birth, but a state of continual continuance (Westcott). Because this verb represents the effect connected to the "divine seed (life)" that dwells within every person born of God, John did not hesitate to say that he could not continue to sin (John Stott).
- In other words, at present the disciples were weak, and they kept failing, but the seed that is God's life was sown in their hearts, growing in a process that continues over time. Remember, the current form is "seed" and not yet "fruit."
- For the sake of the growth of his disciples, God will invest all the resources He has prepared for them and guide their development.

Hebrews 12:1 (NLT) "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us."

- 2. 100% Commitment to Success:** Jesus gives his all for the sake of his disciples' growth

- He says, "I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so that they can be made holy by your truth" (v. 19): As he had done for the past three and a half years of his life, he would devote himself to freeing not only his disciples, but also, through the cross, humanity itself, from the bondage of sin, resurrecting them, and sending them power from heaven. This is the message John received throughout his life, as the beloved disciple of the Lord.
- Paul explains logically this divine earnestness (commitment) in this way:
Romans 8:32 "Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?"
- If God's only begotten Son, who is perfect and good, has willingly offered himself for us, it is only natural that He would give us generously whatever else He has prepared.
- Jesus prays in John 17 for the safety of these disciples he is leaving behind in this world. The content is that God will be with them and protect them. Jesus prays, "Let them be one, just as the Father and I are one" (v. 11). "Let their hearts be filled with the same joy that I have" (v. 12). How much comfort does this presence of God give to us who are frightened and anxious?
- Matthew, who was lonely and suffering before his discipleship, wrote of his truth as follows:

Matthew 11:28-29 ²⁸Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you,

because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

- God not only cheers and supports us from heaven, but He actually gets into the fray with the disciples, and with us, on the journey of life. Jesus, who was a carpenter, makes a yoke that fits us perfectly. The yoke is always borne by two oxen, one strong and one weak, pulling the cart together in a pair. We learn how to pull it from Jesus, the strong one. → *Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. (MSG)*

3. Transforming a Person into One Who Lives for Their Mission: becoming aware of the mission that God has entrusted to each person

- The word apostle *aposteilas* (v. 18), from which the word apostle *apostelo* (sent one) originates. Jesus had his disciples succeed him in his mission.
- He had already chosen them and was about to send them out, even when they were not aware of their apostleship. At the time, the disciples were competing for promotion among themselves, waging a factional war against outsiders (those who used Jesus’ name without permission), and thoroughly attacking Samaritans. Jesus called John and James the “Sons of Thunder.”
- What became of such disciples and of John? As God’s agents, they accomplished their mission. As Jesus said, “The world hated them” (v. 14), and the people of the world persecuted the disciples. They were transformed into people who loved and served those who persecuted them with the love of Jesus. Their influence became the driving force that changed the world. How were those disciples changed so drastically?

John 17:17-19 ¹⁷ “Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. ¹⁸ Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. ¹⁹ And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.”

- The most important thing for us is to live a life filled with and animated by the love of God. John left a clue about how that change occurred in the letters he wrote in his later years:

John 4:7-12 ⁷ “Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Please give me a drink.” ⁸ He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. ⁹ The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?” ¹⁰ Jesus replied, “If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.” ¹¹ “But sir, you don’t have a rope or a bucket,” she said, “and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? ¹² And besides, do you think you’re greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?”

Conclusion:

1. Have you ever thought about God’s guidance for your future? What guidance have you received so far?
2. Have you personally experienced the presence and love of God’s leading?
3. What has God entrusted to you to do in your life here on earth?