

## Bible Basics-The Hour of Darkness Chapter 26-John

“High” or “Special” Day  
John 19:31  
Nisan

| Mon.<br>10 <sup>th</sup>                                | Tue<br>s.<br>11 <sup>th</sup> | Wed.<br>12 <sup>th</sup> | Thurs.<br>13 <sup>th</sup>                          | Fri.<br>14 <sup>th</sup>                            | Sat.<br>15 <sup>th</sup>  | Sun.<br>16 <sup>th</sup>   | Mon.<br>17 <sup>th</sup> | Tues.<br>18 <sup>th</sup> | Wed.<br>19 <sup>th</sup> | Thu<br>s.<br>20 <sup>th</sup> | Fri.<br>21 <sup>st</sup> |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|---|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| *Cleansing of the Temple<br>*Lamb Selected (Ex. 12:3-6) |                               |                          | Lord’s Supper<br>Passover began on Thurs. at sunset | Jesus’ Death<br>Passover-technical day for Passover | Sabbath-rest-Feast of Unleavened Bread<br>perfection<br>Jesus in the Tomb | Resurrection<br>First Fruits-consecration of first crops to God<br>Countdown to Pentecost<br>50 days * |                          |                           |                          |                               | End of Unleavened Bread  |

### **Feast of First Fruits**

- Israel ate the first fruits in the Promised Land (Joshua 5:10-12).
- Haman’s plot to kill the Jews was foiled (Esther).
- Jesus Christ rose from the dead (John 12:24).
- Paul explains First Fruits (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:20-23).

<http://ezinearticles.com/?Jewish-Feasts---Feast-Of-First-Fruits&id=1205274>

### **Feast of Unleavened Bread-Seder**

- Jesus prepared for the Feast of Passover (Unleavened Bread). Mark 14:12-16
- As God delivered the children of Israel from Egypt on the night of Passover, the Jews in Jesus’ time looked forward to the Messiah coming to deliver them.
- Jesus was about to fulfill that desire.

# The Gospel of John

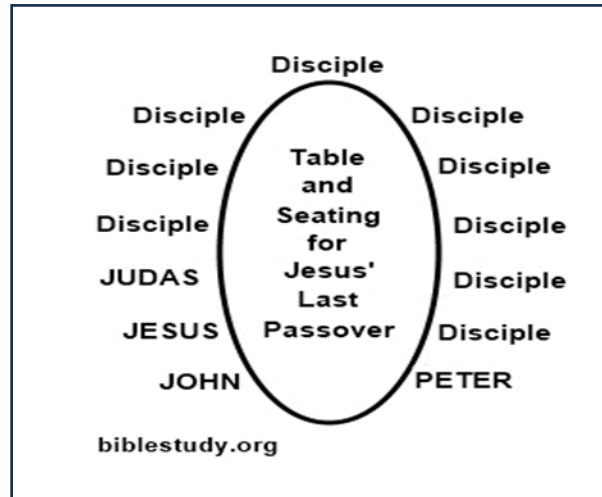
## Chapter 13

### **Vs. 1-20-Christ the Servant**

- During the supper (possibly before the actual Passover Lamb was to be eaten) the disciples began to **quarrel** over who was the greatest. This topic came after a discussion about who would betray Jesus [Luke 22:22-24] (Pentecost-427).
- Jesus knowing their selfish and ambitious hearts took off His robe and assumed a servant's role by washing the feet of the disciples. The washing of feet during the Passover meal was a customary sign of **confession** and showed the need for cleansing. The washing was also an affirmation of faith that when Messiah came, He would provide cleansing for His people (Pentecost-427).
- "From the record given to us at the Crucifixion, we know that He wore a seamless robe. This would have been an unusually **costly** robe. Normally robes were made of strips of cloth that had been woven on narrow looms; these strips were sewn together to make a garment of sufficient size to be wrapped around an adult. But the robe that Christ wore had been especially prepared at great cost. ...No doubt this robe was a love gift from a grateful donor." (Pentecost-428).
- "...How fitting that Christ should have laid aside the robe of honor and put Himself in a Servant's place! Well does Paul speak of Him, 'who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a **servant**, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-even death on a cross!' [Philippians 2:6-8]" (Pentecost-428).
- Jesus states in vs. 14-15 that we should be servants to each other. (This will be brought out later).

### **Vs. 21-30-Jesus Declares His betrayal**

- Jesus stated that one of them would betray Him. Vs 26 can be confusing without understanding what Jesus was doing. Dipping the bread in the sauce and giving it to each member of the table would have been a customary act at the Passover Feast. This act was very symbolic. Pieces of lamb and bitter herbs would be placed on unleavened bread, rolled up, dipped into a bitter sauce and given to each guest. The first to receive this bread would go to the guest of **highest** honor. Judas was placed to the left of Jesus while John was placed on the right (Pentecost-430-431).



<http://www.biblestudy.org/biblepic/last-supper-seating.html>

- The fact that Jesus gave the first piece to Judas indicated that He was **honoring** Judas above all the others. The bread, lamb, bitter herbs, and bitter sauce symbolized one's recognition of sin and a foreshadowing of the Messiah who would ultimately take away the sins of the world. The disciples would not have recognized that Judas would betray Jesus since each of the disciples received the bread (Pentecost-431).
- Jesus was showing Judas His ultimate love and was giving him a chance to **repent**. Judas did not repent, and Satan entered him. (Pentecost-431)
- The Three matza pieces
  - While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, gave a blessing, and broke it.
  - Jesus then took the cup and after giving thanks, He gave it to the disciples (Mark 14:22-25).

### **Vs. 31-38-Jesus Tells the Disciples of His Departure**

- Jesus gave a new commandment in vs. 34, "A new commandment I give to you, that you **love** one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."
- Compare Leviticus 19:9 to John 13:34.
- Jesus predicted Peter's denial in verse 38.

## **Chapter 14**

### **Vs. 1-14- Jesus Prepares the Disciples for His Departure**

- Jesus made it very clear that He and the Father were **one** (vs. 7; 9; 10).
- Jesus said in vs. 6 that He was the way and the truth and the life. He said that no one could come to the Father but through **Him**. This is very applicable today since so many people are trying to reach heaven through works, self-denial, various philosophies, meditation, universal oneness, etc.
- Vs. 12-14 has often been misinterpreted. Jesus clarified this statement in Ch. 15 vs. 7.

### **Vs. 15-26-Jesus Explains the Role of the Holy Spirit**

- Vs. 16-17; 26 explained the role the Holy Spirit would play after Jesus' **resurrection**.
- After Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came and indwelt all believers. Before Pentecost, the Holy Spirit would not reside permanently within a believer.

## **Chapter 15**

### **Vs. 1-17-The Vine and the Branches**

- Vs. 2, 4-8 explains how important it is for a believer to abide in Christ.
- Vs. 6 does not mean that one can lose their salvation. Remember the Jews were the promised people of God. They felt they would automatically inherit eternal salvation because they were **Jewish**. Jesus was saying those Jews who would not accept Him as Savior and Messiah would be cast from God's presence as an unbeliever.
- Jesus reiterated His new commandment again in vs. 12.

### **Vs. 18-27-Contrast Between the World and Believers**

- Jesus told His disciples that the world would hate them because it hated Him first. However, the Holy Spirit would **guide** the disciples into testifying about Christ.

## **Chapter 16**

### **Vs. 1-6-The Disciples Would be Hated by the World**

- Jesus was very clear in explaining to the disciples that they would be **hated** by the world (Chapter 15). Jesus stated in vs. 16 and 19 of Chapter 15 that He had chosen the disciples and that they were not of the world.
- Jesus knew the disciples' sorrow and promised them a "Helper," the **Holy Spirit**.

- The reason why Jesus told the disciples of their eminent doom was to prepare them for the **persecution** to come. Jesus stated in vs. 1 that the disciples would be outcasts from the synagogue. To be cast out from the synagogue in Jewish society would immediately reduce one to poverty and isolation.

### **Vs. 7-15-The Holy Spirit Would be Given to the Disciples**

- Jesus told the disciples that it would be to their **benefit** for Him to go to the Father. By doing so, the Holy Spirit would be given to them. It is interesting to note how Jesus trusted the work of the Holy Spirit. Vs. 13 states that Jesus trusted the Holy Spirit to guide the disciples with to truth (John 16:12-14).

### **Vs. 16-33-Jesus Spoke of His Death and Resurrection**

- Vs. 16-22-Jesus told His disciples that He would be crucified but soon would be resurrected. The disciples could not **comprehend** what Jesus was saying.
- Jesus affirmed the Father's love for the disciples and affirmed their faith in Him.
- Vs. 32-33-Jesus told His disciples that they would leave Him. (This happened when the soldiers came and arrested Jesus). However, Jesus told them that He would not be alone since the **Father** would be with Him. Jesus was aware of the shame the disciples would face after deserting Him. He said, "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace..." (Vs. 33).

### **Ch. 17-Jesus Prayer to the Father**

#### **Vs. 1-5-Jesus Prayed for Glorification (Resurrection)**

- Jesus stated the simplicity of eternal life-Vs. 3.
- Jesus asked that the Father glorify Him. This did not mean that Jesus was asking for the Father to give Him honor among people, but rather the Father fulfill the resurrection plan by bringing **salvation** to the world.

#### **Vs. 6-19-Jesus Prayed for the Disciples**

- Jesus made a distinction between believers and **unbelievers** in vs. 9. The concept that all "mankind" is one and in harmony with each other does not fit with Jesus' prayer.
- We can see Jesus' most earnest love for the believers in vs. 11-16. Vs. 12 gives us the **assurance** that we will never be lost from the Father's hand.
- Jesus stated in vs. 17 that God's word would **sanctify** us (set us apart) from the world. As we grow closer to Christ, the farther we draw from the desires and pleasures of the world.

- Jesus foresaw and prayed, not only for the disciples, but also for **all** who would come to a saving faith in Him. The love of the Father is as strong for us as it is for Jesus (vs. 23).

## **Ch. 18-The Arrest of Jesus**

### **Vs. 1-11-Judas Betrayed Christ and Peter's Retaliation**

- Jesus was very much prepared for what was to follow. Judas, who had betrayed Jesus, led the Roman cohort (300-600 Roman soldiers), and the temple guards to arrest Jesus.
- Peter, having brought a small sword (a small ceremonial dagger with which the disciples had prepared the Passover lamb-Pentecost) struck at the high priest's **slave**, cutting off his ear.
- Jesus was arrested, and the disciples **fled**.

### **Vs. 12-23-Jesus Before Annas**

- Jesus was brought before Annas for examination. Annas had been the high priest and held considerable authority.
- Peter **denied** Jesus.
- Jesus is struck for His answer to Annas.

### **Vs. 24-27-Jesus Before Caiaphas**

- Jesus was then taken to Caiaphas, the High Priest (son-in-law to Annas).

### **Vs. 28-40-Jesus Before Pilate**

- Jesus was led into the Praetorium (the Roman headquarters). The Jews would not go into a Gentile place since it would **defile** them for the Passover. Pilate was the governor of Judea.
- Jesus stated in vs. 37 that He had come to testify to the truth and that everyone who was of the truth would **hear** His voice. It is interesting that Pilate stated, "What is truth?" and leaves without waiting for an answer. This is true today among an unbelieving world.
- The Jews cried out for the release of **Barabbas** in the place of Jesus.

## **Chapter 19**

### **Vs. 1-5-The Scourging**

- **Scourging** was a brutal means of Roman punishment. The accused would be whipped about 39 times. The end of the whip had multiple lashings and bits of iron or bone were attached to the ends of the thongs. Often, the victim died during this beating [Pentecost Pg. 474].
- After the scourging, the Roman soldiers began to beat and mock Jesus. The soldiers twisted together a crown of **thorns** and pressed it into His head.
- Matthew 27:27 states that the whole Roman cohort gathered around Jesus. A cohort consisted of about **300-600** men.
- Pilate tried to release Jesus, but the Jews threatened Pilate of **treason** if Jesus was released (vs. 11). This statement, “We have no king but Caesar,” sealed the redemptive fate of the Jews in accepting their Messiah.

| The Trials of Jesus     |        |                 |           |   |
|-------------------------|--------|-----------------|-----------|---|
|                         | Trial  | Scripture       | Judge     | Decision                                      |
| Religious trials—Jewish | First  | John 18:12-14   | Annas     | OK given to liquidate Jesus                   |
|                         | Second | Matt 26:57-68   | Caiphias  | Death sentence, charge of blasphemy           |
|                         | Third  | Matt 27:1-2     | Sanhedrin | Death sentence made legal                     |
|                         | Fourth | John 18:28-38   | Pilate    | Not guilty                                    |
| Civil trials—Roman      | Fifth  | Luke 23:6-12    | Herod     | Not guilty                                    |
|                         | Sixth  | John 18:39-19:6 | Pilate    | Not guilty, but turned Jesus over to the Jews |

<http://jerryrothaus.com/fall-one-year-bible-reading-may-29/>

## Vs. 17-22-The Crucifixion

- “Edersheim writes concerning the Roman Method of execution: ‘The cross was the most disgraceful and one of the cruelest instruments of death ever invented. The Romans, who borrowed it from the Carthaginians, would not allow a Roman citizen to be crucified, but reserved crucifixion for slaves and foreigners or provincials. The Jews customarily used stoning and never crucifixion. It was not only the death of greatest ignominy but of the most extreme anguish and suffering. ...The victim was usually first stripped naked, the garments falling to the lot of the executioners; but in the crucifixion of Jesus, tradition says that a loincloth was used. First the upright was planted firmly in the ground and then the victim was laid down with arms extended on the crossbar to which they were

fastened by cords and afterwards by nails through the palms. Then the transom was raised to its position on the upright and nailed while the body was left to swing or its weight rested on an iron saddle peg driven into the upright. Following this the feet were nailed either through the instep separately, or both together with a single iron spike. There the body was left to hang in agony sometimes two or three days, until death from pain and starvation ensued.” (Pentecost, Dwight J. *The Words and Works of Jesus Christ: A Study of the Life of Christ*, 480.)

### **Vs. 23-30-The Crucifixion**

- Vs. 23-24 was a fulfillment of Ps. 22:18.
- Vs. 28-Jesus said that He was **thirsty**. Psalm 22:15 describes the extreme dehydration that Jesus experienced. It is possible that Jesus was not asking for a drink for thirst sake but He needed to moisten His mouth for one last proclamation, “It is finished” (vs. 30) (Matt.27:50; 27:46; Ps.22:1).
- Vs. 31 explains that the bodies had to be taken from the cross since the **Sabbath** was approaching and it was to be a high day.
- Vs. 31-Ryrie states the Sabbath was a **high day**-The first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread fell that year on a Sabbath, making it a “high” or “special” festival.
- The Jews had missed their **Messiah**.

### **Vs. 34-37-Prophecy Fulfilled**

- Vs. 36 fulfills prophecy-Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12; Psalm 34:20.
- Vs. 37 fulfills prophecy-Zechariah 12:10.

### **Summary**

Jesus said, “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (John 17:3). This truth is so simple. Pilate asked, “What is truth?” Do we take the time to find God’s truths for our life? Do we meditate on God’s word and pray for His guidance and wisdom? Do we tackle life by the horns and try to wrestle it to the ground, or do we take everything to God in prayer-trusting the Holy Spirit to guide us in all our ways? Prayerfully, ask God to show you His truths and allow His quiet and gentle answers to flood your life with peace and joy.

Jesus promised that He would always be with us and that His Holy Spirit would guide us into all truth. It is imperative that we place our absolute faith in Christ. Even when events and situations do not make sense, we must trust that Christ is in control and that His Spirit will guide us.



## Discussion Questions

### Chapter 26

1. The Disciples quarreled over who was the greatest.
  - a. Is it possible to have such quarrels without being so open about it?
  - b. Why is recognition so important and servanthood so undervalued?
  - c. It is hard to imagine that Jesus took the time to demonstrate servanthood knowing He was about to be crucified. How do you think this impacted the Disciples after Jesus' death and resurrection?
  
2. Jesus demonstrated love to Judas even though He knew Judas was going to betray Him. The Bible tells us to overcome evil with good.
  - a. How is possible to overcome evil with good when our nature screams out for revenge?
  - b. Have you experienced a time when you returned a good deed for a bad one? Explain.
  - c. Read Romans 12:19-20. What is meant by heaping burning coals upon an enemy's head? Have you ever experienced this?
  
3. Jesus told the Disciples that they would be hated by the world.
  - a. Why is there such animosity against Christians today?
  - b. How should a Christian respond to such animosity?
  - c. What can we do to stay strong in our faith?
  
4. Jesus prayed that we would be sanctified (set apart) from the world.
  - a. What do you think that means?
  - b. Read John 17:15. Jesus prayed that we would not be taken out of the world but be protected from the evil one. How can one be part of the world and yet remain sanctified?
  - c. How does God protect a Christian from evil?
  
5. Peter thought he was going to protect Jesus by cutting off the slave's ear.
  - a. Do we sometimes try to protect Jesus by arguing with a nonbeliever?
  - b. Is it proper to have spiritual arguments (disagreements) or should Christians avoid them altogether?
  - c. Were you ever engaged in a spiritual argument with someone? How did it turn out?