

# Simply Jesus

## The Life and Ministry of God's Son

### Inductive: Lesson 25

#### Introduction

God has His way of not letting us know what's up ahead. Occasionally, He will let us in on a little insight but usually we are on a need-to-know basis—meaning when He decides we are able to handle it. In John 16–17, we find the conclusion of a series of intense intimate life-lessons Jesus shared with His disciples to prepare them for His imminent departure. Here we see the crescendo of His words in response to the deep need of their hearts, as He explains the work of the Holy Spirit to them. Then He lifted His eyes toward heaven to ask the Creator of the Universe to answer His prayers on the basis of their relationship as One. It is the stirring climax to the work God had given Him to do. The result for His followers—*then and now*—means that turmoil will be turned into triumph, grief into joy, doubt into faith, and fear into peace.

*But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning. These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.*

John 15:26, 27; 16:1–4

The above verses form the bridge that concludes Jesus' parting words to His followers. In them Jesus promises that persecution will come to all who faithfully stand up for Him. Earlier in John 9, the parents of the blind man Jesus healed backed away from a confession of faith rather than risk expulsion from the synagogue. So too the rulers in John 12 that believed in Jesus but would not openly profess it lest they be put out of the community. But Jesus emphatically states that the Holy Spirit is not only the Comforter, He is also the One who empowers and enables God's people to witness for Him.

#### Did you know ~

To live in today's America and try to understand what *excommunication* meant to the Jews of Jesus' day is difficult, if not impossible. In Jewish society, the synagogue was literally the center of life. It was not only where you went to worship but also to secure a job, to fit in socially and find a wife or a husband, and to celebrate the milestones of life with the community of God's people. It was also the place where you were mourned when you died. So the threat of expulsion meant the radical loss of life as they knew it. In Matthew 19, Peter looked at Jesus and asked, "Lord, we've left everything to follow You, what are we going to get in return?" Here in John 16, Jesus gives them the reality check along with the hopeful answer, but not the one they were expecting to hear.

Open your Bible and lesson each day by beginning with a word of prayer.

## Up Close ~

The chart below represents a reader's guide to the contents of this week's lesson. The topical teachings and/or events covered are followed by the primary scriptural text as well as the supportive parallel passages. You will be able to receive and grasp a well-rounded picture of the story narrative in the Gospel harmony by reading every passage. However, using the bolded text as your point of reference (your anchor text) will allow you to determine the facts, lessons, and personal applications necessary to formulate your own conclusions.

<u>Teaching / Event</u>	<u>Scripture Text</u>	<u>Parallel Passages</u>
The Work of the Holy Spirit	<b>John 16:5-15</b>	
Jesus Christ Has Overcome	<b>John 16:25-33</b>	
Jesus Prays	<b>John 17:1-26</b>	

## First Impressions: Group Discussion

**Reflect** for a moment on the passages you have just read.

**Respond** by recording your first impressions from your initial reading of the text. Be prepared to share one of your impressions with your discussion group.

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## Heartbeat: John 16:33 NKJV (Memory verse)

(Write it out once in the space below. **Practice it each time** you open your lesson.)

*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*

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John 16:5–15

The Work of the Holy Spirit

5 “But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’

6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

12 I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.”

John 16:25–33

Jesus Christ Has Overcome

25 “These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father.

26 In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you;

27 for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God.

28 I came forth from the Father and have come into the world.

Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.”

29 His disciples said to Him, “See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech!

30 Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God.”

31 Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe?

32 Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace.

In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

John 17:1–5

Jesus Prays for Himself

1 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come.

Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,

2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

6 I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world.

They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

7 Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You.

8 For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

9 I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.

10 And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.

11 Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me, I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

13 But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them by Your truth, Your word is truth.

18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

20 I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You;

that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them,

that they may be one just as We are one.

23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may

know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

24 Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may

behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

25 O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You;

and these have known that You sent Me.

25 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which

You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

(Scripture from the New King James Bible, © 1980 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.)

## Observation: Look!

Pray. Read the Bible passage several times, trying to get a big picture of what is going on.

Left Column (Facts): Following the writer in the order he tells the story, briefly describe who is involved, what is happening, when and where the events are taking place.

Right Column (Observations): Look closely to observe details. Some questions you may ask:

- What do you know about the people involved in the story? What questions does the story raise? What sources of conflict do you see? What does Jesus identify as true and important to life?
- Put yourself in the Biblical character's shoes. What were his ambitions? How did the character relate to others or to God? What problem did he think he faced? Did Jesus identify a different problem in his life? What did he discover about God? How did he respond?
- Are there any words that you are not familiar with? Look up the definition.
- Are there words or phrases that are repeated or emphasized? Why are they key?
- Identify comparisons, such as "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven..." What do you know about leaven (yeast)? Identify contrasts, such as "You have heard it said...but I say to you..."
- Extra: Record information you may find in Bible dictionaries, maps, handbooks, or encyclopedias. Understanding the culture/time in which Jesus lived will help you discover the meaning of the text.

John 16:5–15

The Work of the Holy Spirit

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

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John 16:25–33

Jesus Christ Has Overcome

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

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John 17:1–26

Jesus Prays

For Himself: vv. 1–5

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

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## Interpretation: What does it mean?

Pray. The more time you take to observe the passage, the more you will have a basis for understanding what God's Word means. Interpretation **always** seeks to answer the questions, "What was God saying to the original audience?" and then, "How does that same truth relate to life today?" Asking yourself questions will help you see the spiritual lesson in the text: What does this teach me is true about God? What does it teach me is true about mankind? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to the promise? Is there an example I should follow or avoid? A spiritual lesson is a timeless truth that points to God and speaks to the heart of man. Stating the lesson in a sentence of 10 words or less will help you keep it simple and memorable.

**Application:** How does it apply to me? Pray. Practicing Biblical truth day-to-day is the only way to grow in Christ and reflect the glory of God. To apply the spiritual lesson you have learned from the text, you have to take deliberate action. Take the time to examine yourself, and ask: Does this spiritual lesson point out error in my thoughts about God? Does it point to error in my attitude or actions? How does this lesson relate to my home life, my work, my relationships, how I spend my time, etc.? What change is required? What practical steps will I take to make that change? Write your application in the form of a question to help make it personal.

John 16:5–15

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

John 16:25–33

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

John 17:1–5

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

John 17:6-19

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

John 17:20–26

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

## Behold & Be Transformed

What did you see as you beheld God's Son?

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How does beholding (looking upon) Him, motivate you to change your thoughts, habit, attitude, speech or actions?

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**Pause . . .** What is the most significant lesson you have learned this week?

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**Ponder . . .** How will you put it into practice?

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**Pray . . .** Write out your prayer and be specific.

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