

I Introductions and announcements, joys and concerns.

II Prayer.

III Review: John 13-21, the Book of Glory, is John's account of the last week of Jesus' life: The Palm Sunday entrance, the three days of open teaching in the Temple courtyard while the authorities are frustrated in their desire to arrest Jesus by his popularity with the crowd. This problem is overcome by the offer of Judas to arrange to arrest Jesus after dark. Remember Jesus said that some love darkness rather than light for their deeds are evil.

On Thursday evening Jesus dines with his disciples in an upper room and starts his final discussion with the group. Review #16, IV for goals.

IV Overview: In response to a request by his disciples, Lk 11:1, Jesus taught his disciples to pray with meaning, Mt 6:7, and gave the model that we use in liturgy, spoken or sung, Mt 6:9-13, Lk 11:2-4.

In this section we have the moving and powerful prayer of Jesus in his time of sorrow and concern for his followers.

V Jn 16:16-33. From the reaction of Martha and Mary to the death of their brother, Lazarus, Jesus fully understood the pain and loss of a death. If he, as teacher, had used the metaphor of a Good Shepherd, he must prepare his flock for what happens after the shepherd is killed. In the metaphor, the flock is scattered and vulnerable. Jn 10:12, 16:22. v20. Who is sad at the death of Jesus? Who rejoiced?

v21. This metaphor about pain is common to male writers. Mic 4:9.

Is the observation correct from the point of view of women?

v25-28. Jesus continues to try to prepare his disciples for his death and departure; O'Day, NIB: "a crisis far greater than the loss of a teacher and friend", "the end of the Incarnation." Jesus gives four positive aspects of his departure:

1. But I will see you again. v16,22. Answer carefully: in what sense was that fulfilled or to be fulfilled?

2. The departure of Jesus is prior to the coming of the Paraclete, 16:7.

3. You will continue my ministry. 14:12-14, 16:23,24.

4. Your relationship with God the Father will continue and deepen, v27.

v33. Fear and worry are common threads of life. A poet wrote: (Who?)

In headache and in worry

Slowly life leaks away.

The desire of Jesus is that his followers will know peace. 14:27,16:33.

VI John 17 is the powerful and moving prayer of Jesus. Read carefully.

v2. What has been the purpose of his ministry?

v3. Define eternal life.

v5. Where is Jesus going? Cf Jn 1:1,2 Phil 2:6-8.

v6-12. The ministry of Jesus has been to reveal God to his followers.

What is his request for them? v11

v13-19. The prayer for Jesus' followers continues. What three requests?

1. v13

2. v15

3. v17

v20-24. The prayer broadens to include subsequent believers, v20.

The unity of believers will authenticate Jesus' life and ministry, 21, 23.

v25,26. The summary of Jesus' ministry: The one who reveals God.

VII We have taught that group prayer has meaning for the one praying, for those who hear or read the prayer, and to God the Holy Spirit who is near. Review this prayer. What would it do for the listeners? For you?

VIII Next time: John 18, Willhauck 11. The Hour has Come.