

**JESUS IS THE WAY, TRUTH AND LIFE**

**PLEASE do not read these comments until you have prayed and read the Bible for this lesson to learn what the Holy Spirit wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes. When you follow this procedure you will be a better teacher of your students.**

**Lesson Aim:** Do not be troubled by bad news; be comforted by the good news Jesus gives.

**Suggestion:** The teacher lesson will call attention to some important truths to teach. After the lesson, give your class next week's Student Lesson so they can share their answers in class next week.

**Introduction:** Jesus celebrated the Passover Supper with His disciples before He would die. Since no one volunteered to wash their feet when entering the house, He taught them the virtue of humility by doing this lowly task. At this meal He told them that one of them would betray Him, Peter would deny Him before morning and He would be leaving them to go to His Father. This was devastating news, but He also comforted them with some good news about the coming of the Spirit to help them and how they could be with Him in Heaven. Be comforted by Jesus' good news. "Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in Me" (Jn 14:1).

**Why did Jesus wash the feet of His disciples? 13:1-17**

Jesus wanted to teach them by example to be humble (Mt 5:3). People wore sandals and walked on dusty roads, so it was the custom for a household servant or a woman in the house to wash the feet of guests that entered their home. Since there was no servant or woman to wash the feet of Jesus and His disciples when they entered the Upper Room to eat the Passover Supper, no one's feet were washed. The disciples had been discussing who the greatest disciple was. Jesus took this opportunity to teach them the virtue of humility. He rose up from the supper and began to wash the feet of His disciples. Since He, their Lord and Master, did this to them, He told them to do it to each other. At this time Jesus explained to Peter the difference between foot washing and a bath. A bath cleanses the whole body and symbolized his salvation, which cleansed him from all sin and united him with God forever, so it is not repeated. Foot washing cleansed only his feet and symbolized his walk with Jesus, which needed cleansing from daily sins that broke his fellowship with Him, so it needed to be repeated.

**Did Judas and Peter lose their salvation when they sinned against the Lord? 13:10-11, 27, 37-38**

Neither of them lost their salvation. Judas never had salvation and Peter kept his salvation, but lost his fellowship with Jesus. Jesus said His disciples were clean, except one: all were saved, but Judas. Jesus foreknew that Judas would not be saved, but would betray Him, so He purposely chose him to fulfill Scripture (Jn 17:12; Ps 41:9). Judas grieved over his sinful act, but he went to the priests to undo his wicked deed instead going to God. As a result he committed suicide. After Peter denied three times that he knew Jesus, he went out and wept bitterly. Jesus knew he was saved, went to him privately after His resurrection and his fellowship was restored. Peter became a fruitful preacher for the Lord.

**What is the true way to have eternal life with God the Father? 14:6**

Jesus Christ, who created us, said "I am the way" to the Father. There are many religions which give us different ways to be with God, but God's Son said He is "the truth" about the way to God. If we claim there are many roads to be with God in Heaven, we are calling His Son a liar. Jesus went on to say that He is "the life" that we desire. His resurrection from the grave proves that He conquered death and has eternal life. No one else has conquered death, so Jesus is the only One who has eternal life and He shares His life with all who receive Him as their Savior: "no one comes to the Father" apart from Him.

**How is the Spirit related to believers differently in NT times than in OT times? 14:17**

In OT times, the Spirit came ON believers to help them to do God's work. But after Jesus went to Heaven, He sent the Spirit to dwell IN believers as He promised His disciples. This was done at Pentecost when God fulfilled His promise to make a New Covenant with Israel (Ezk 36:27). Gentile believers are blessed with this New Covenant through Christ. Now God has a closer bond with us than He had with OT believers (1 Cor 6:19-20),