



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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John 14:24-31 Commentary **New Revised Standard Version**

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

follow the verse-by-verse [*International Bible Study Commentary*](#). **Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further** will help with class preparation and in conducting class discussion: these hints are available on the *International Bible Study Commentary* website along with the *International Bible Lesson* that you may want to read to your class as part of your Bible study. You can discuss each week's commentary and lesson at the [*International Bible Study Forum*](#).

(John 14:24) “Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

Jesus always emphasized that He and the Father spoke with one voice. They spoke and acted in perfect harmony. The words and acts of Jesus were the words and acts of the Father who sent Him. As two Persons, it would not be according to Jesus' teachings to separate the Father from the Son with respect to their intentions and actions. Jesus always glorified the Father and the Father always glorified the Son. The Son always did what the Father willed, and

the Father always did whatever Jesus asked of Him, because they always thought alike as God. If a person loves Jesus, they will do what Jesus says. Disobeying Jesus shows a lack of love for Jesus and His Father. Love for Jesus leads to honoring Jesus and His words by the way we live. The Gospel of John clearly shows the difference between those who walk in the light and those who prefer to walk in darkness. Those who prefer to walk in darkness do not love the Father or the Son; therefore, they do not keep the words (or teachings and commands) of the Father and the Son. Those who walk in the light seek to follow the teachings and commands of Jesus, though they will not do so perfectly in this life; therefore, they must prayerfully trust in the Holy Spirit to teach, lead, and empower them walk in the light. The direction of a person's life as they follow Jesus, not perfection (which is impossible in this life) indicates whether they walk in the light or walk in the darkness. No one can love as Jesus loves unless the Holy Spirit lives within them and loves through them. As followers of Jesus Christ, believers depend on Him in everything.

(John 14:25) “I have said these things to you while I am still with you.

Toward the end of Jesus' public ministry, Jesus began to prepare His followers for His coming death, resurrection, and departure for heaven. Jesus foretold these events to them as the prophet of God and the Son of God who would die and live again through these events. He told His

disciples in advance so when these truths became facts of history and facts of their experience they would understand and have more reason to trust and love Jesus. Jesus planned to teach them some truths before His death and additional truths after He rose from the dead. He would send His disciples the Holy Spirit to keep teaching them after He ascended into heaven. All Jesus' teachings follow a reasonable, God-ordained order, and our understanding of them depends on our practicing each truth as we learn them. Understanding Jesus' teachings as He intends requires obeying all Jesus' commandments as the Holy Spirit helps us. When we obey Jesus' commandments, we practice His teachings. If we stop practicing His teachings, we stop learning more from Him and the Holy Spirit—though we may learn more about Jesus and the Bible intellectually. Many of Jesus' teachings and truths (think of learning how to play a musical instrument) require practice to learn them and apply them effectively according to the will of God.

(John 14:26) But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

Knowing what His disciples would soon be facing, Jesus knew His disciples could not and would not keep His commandments or even remember His commandments and promises without divine help; therefore, Jesus promised to send them the Holy Spirit to live within them.

Jesus knew the same limitations would confront all who would believe in Him in the future, so He promised to send the Holy Spirit into the life of everyone who loves Him and wants to keep His commandments. When the Advocate comes to indwell Jesus' followers, He comes to endorse and promote obedience to Jesus' teachings. The Holy Spirit will never contradict Jesus' teachings in the Bible. He will speak in unison with the Father and the Son, because all three Persons are the one true God. He teaches more about Jesus, the meaning of Jesus' coming, and the right application of Jesus' teachings as well as remind believers of what Jesus taught. Jesus did this for His first disciples; therefore, as followers of Jesus we can rely on the words of the first disciples and the books we have from them in the Bible. Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to every believer in Him. As we read and study the Bible, we need to pray for the Holy Spirit to teach us all God wants us to learn from Jesus' teachings for us to practice at our point in time and place. As we continue to grow in faith and wisdom, the Holy Spirit will teach us more truths that flow forth from Jesus' teachings in the Bible and He will remind us of Jesus' teachings when we need to be reminded—especially when we face temptations, trials, or troubles.

(John 14:27) Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

As Jesus taught about and prepared His disciples for His departure (immediately after His death and burial, and later after His resurrection from the dead and ascension into heaven), His disciples naturally became afraid for their lives and troubled about what might happen to them if He left them. They began to learn that their early expectations about what Jesus the Messiah would do when He came were not according to God's plan. They did see the peace that Jesus experienced and enjoyed with the Father, and they enjoyed that same peace when they were near Jesus. So, as they became troubled and afraid, Jesus promised that He would give them His peace, the same peace He knew with God. He would give them His peace when His peace flowed through the Holy Spirit who would live within them. The world's peace is usually for a short time, a brief respite from hostilities before the next conflict or war. Today and forever, Jesus offers peace of heart and mind to all His followers and peace among all who try to show forth their love for Jesus by keeping His commandments as the Holy Spirit helps them. Jesus commands believers to not "let" their hearts be troubled or afraid. To not "let" ourselves become and remain fearful, we must keep trusting in Jesus and His infinite love for us.

(John 14:28) You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I.

If we really love someone, we will rejoice when they physically die and go to the Father and Jesus, though we will always feel deep personal sorrow as the disciples did when Jesus was crucified and buried. We will miss the ones we love. Jesus emphasized that He was both “going away from,” and “coming to” them. He would “go away from” them at His death and burial. He would “come to” them after His resurrection. He would “go away from” them after His ascension into heaven. He would “come to” them when the Father sent the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit, to live within them. He would “come to” them again when He came to take them to heaven, to the place He had prepared for them. Someday, He will “come to” His future followers when He comes back to earth as visible and reigning King of kings. In some way beyond our understanding, the Father is greater than the Son and when Jesus was the incarnate Son of God in human form the Father was greater than the Son as He walked upon this earth. The Son always did what the Father told Him, and He always humbly considered the Father greater than himself. We can practice Jesus’ example. In Philippians 2:5-8, Paul wrote, “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.”

(John 14:29) And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

Jesus is our Prophet, Priest, and King. As our Prophet, He foretold what He would do and what would happen before and after His death and resurrection. The fact that Jesus fulfilled what He foretold would happen and what He would do after His death and resurrection are additional reasons to believe in Jesus and everything He taught. Jesus told His disciples about His coming death, His coming again, and His gift of the Holy Spirit so they might have additional reasons to believe in Him and in everything He taught them. Furthermore, the indwelling Holy Spirit would help them understand and keep believing in Jesus as each day passed—He does the same today for believers in Jesus.

(John 14:30) I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me;

Jesus would not talk much longer to them after He finished His Last Supper with them. He would pray with them in the garden before His arrest, trial, and crucifixion. He would speak to them again from the cross and in some post-resurrection appearances. After He rose from the dead, He would cook them a meal and talk with Peter and John (see John 21). Jesus maintained His absolute control surrounding all these events, but the time for the “ruler of

this world,” the devil, to inspire Jesus’ betrayer and arrest was near. However, Jesus made clear that the devil had no power over Him. The devil still has no power over Jesus. The devil has no power over Jesus or the Spirit of Truth or the Father who indwell those who trust and love them. Jesus was laying down His life and taking it up again to save sinners and free His followers from fear of death and slavery to Satan. The ruler of this world was not taking Jesus’ life from Him. Remember in John 10:17-18, Jesus told His disciples: “For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.” In 1 John 3:16, John wrote: “We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

(John 14:31) but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.”

Jesus loved the Father, so Jesus did everything the Father commanded. Jesus lived a perfect human and divine life on earth. The world would see His death on the cross and from His death on the cross the world would have the opportunity to know that Jesus died because He loved the Father (both He and the Father also loved the world). But the world, under the influence of the ruler of this world, misinterprets the meaning and value of what Jesus did for

love of the Father (and for the love that God has for the world to save the world—see John 3:16). As we practice everything Jesus commanded us to do, the world may come to know that we love Jesus and the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, believers practice what Jesus commanded so many who are lost in the darkness of this world may come to believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. In the Gospel of Matthew, before Jesus ascended into heaven, He commanded in Matthew 28:18-20, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Jesus ascended into heaven as a glorified human being, but He remained with His disciples spiritually as He indwelt them along with the Holy Spirit and the Father. In John 14:23, remember what Jesus promised all who trust in Him: “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” Because the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit abide with us, we love them and want to keep all the words of Jesus as He commanded. As we love them and keep Jesus’ words, we glorify them as the Son glorified the Father and the Father glorified the Son. Furthermore, remember what we learned in John 13:35, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What does a person demonstrate when they do not obey or try to obey Jesus' words or when they change His teachings about how to live?
2. What did Jesus say the Holy Spirit would do for those who love Him and keep His words.
3. What are some of the ways the peace of Jesus helps those who believe in Him?
4. Why can believers in Jesus rejoice when a fellow follower of Jesus dies?
5. How does Jesus' teachings about the ruler of this world encourage you?

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