



## International Bible Lesson

International Bible Study Commentary

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### **How to Recognize a True Disciple** **John 16:12-22**

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come (John 16:13—KJV).*

*But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come (John 16:13—NASB).*

*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come (John 16:13—NRSV).*

How can we tell the true disciples of Jesus from His many followers in the crowds? Jesus' disciples believed His signs and what He said. They wanted to learn everything He taught. They wanted to be with Him all the time, so they followed Him wherever He went. They loved Jesus and wanted the best for Him. They did what He told them. They took risks with Him and suffered for Him. Perhaps you can think of more characteristics, for Jesus' true disciples think and act like Jesus' first disciples. We know how Jesus treats His disciples by the way He treated His first disciples. Jesus does not give His disciples more than they can bear or cope with at the time. Before His arrest, Jesus did not tell His disciples all the details about His trial and suffering on the cross, for He knew they could not bear it then. Jesus' disciples have the Spirit of Truth with them and in them to guide them into all the truth they need to know. The Spirit teaches Jesus' disciples what He hears from the Father and the Son, and Jesus' disciples can

pray to the Father and the Son. The Spirit declares what Jesus' disciples need to know about the future. When Jesus' disciples weep, mourn, and suffer pain, they know their pain will turn to joy. Because they know Jesus, their hearts rejoice in all circumstances and no one can take the joy of Jesus from them.

### **Thinking Further**

1. What will the Spirit of Truth do when He comes to the disciples?
2. How will the Spirit of Truth glorify Jesus?
3. Why can (or will) the Spirit of Truth take what belongs to Jesus and declare it to His disciples?
4. Why would the disciples weep and mourn? What would the world do as the disciples wept and mourned?
5. What would happen to Jesus' disciples after their time of pain at the loss of Jesus?

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