



Perfecting Discipleship: Discipleship: Love and the Future

A Farewell Message

Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Samuel and David all gave a 'farewell' message before they died. Jesus shares a 'farewell' message to His disciples before His death on the cross. It is filled with hope and assurance and transcends time with a message that had meaning then, now and in the future.

Introduction: Judas has now departed and Jesus is free to share the most powerful and important things that His disciples will need to know for the future. He starts by giving them a new commandment and a promise to come back for them.

A. A New Commandment *John 13:31-35*

This first section is a summary of the entire 'farewell' message which is to follow in *John 14-16*

1. Glorification *13:31-32* **Now** that Judas has departed and the betrayal has started, the full manifestation of Christ's glory will be revealed through His death, burial and resurrection.
2. Departure *13:33* They would look for Jesus after His death and resurrection—but more than that—only He could go to the cross and the grave.
3. Love *13:34-35* The distinguishing mark of discipleship is NOT programs, signs and wonders, eloquence or spiritual power, but Christ's love in us that allows us to love one another!

We covered Peter's denial of Christ in the last message *John 13:36-38* which comes between our two passages today. The key lesson we learn from Peter is: We cannot trust in our own loyalty or commitment—we must trust in God alone.

B. I Will Come Again *John 14:1-6*

1. Troubled hearts *14:1* The cure for whatever troubles our hearts is to put our hope and confidence in God alone.
2. A future home *14:2* A metaphor for heaven and Jesus' death is a necessary part of preparing heaven for us.
3. Access to our home *14:3-4* Jesus is the 'agent' of our access to the presence of God—both now and in the future.
4. An honest question *14:5* Thomas is saying, "If we don't know the address how are we to know the route?"
5. A powerful answer *14:6* Jesus is:
The Way — *John 3:16; Phil 1:6; 12b-13*
The Truth — *John 1:1-3*
The Life — *John 1:4-5;*

Salvation is . . . bringing back to normal the Creator-creature relation.

A. W. Tozer (1897–1963)

John 13:31-35

:31 So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, "**Now** the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him.

:32 If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately.

:33 Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you.

:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

:35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 14:1-6

:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

:2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where ***I am***, *there* you may be also.

:4 And where I go you know, and the way you know."

:5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"

:6 Jesus said to him, "***I am*** the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.