

John Chapters 12-17

Simple Summary for Review

These six chapters may be the most personal, sublime, valuable, and applicable of the whole Bible, but especially of the gospel accounts of Jesus' ministry. They cover the last week of His life on earth, with most of the content His last few hours, leading up to His prayer for His apostles before dying. When the apostles should have washed His feet and encouraged and prayed for Him, He instead did those things for them. God had chosen these special men to help His Son advance His kingdom, so Jesus prepared them and promised the things needed for a great victory, and we are beneficiaries today. Reader, in these chapters are descriptions of thy Lord, exhortations to thy greatest duties, and promises of thy greatest benefits.

John 12

Setting: Bethany & Jerusalem
Timing: Week Before His Death
Theme: It's All About Him
Key Verse: John 12:21
For Us: John 12:33
Link to Outline: [Here](#)

Friends Serve and Anoint (1-11)
 Three Siblings Serve Supper
 Mary Richly Anointed His Feet

Triumphant Entry to City (12-19)
 Hosanna! To the King of Israel!
 Fulfilled Prophecy Grasped Later

Glorious Victory by Death (20-36)
 Seed in Ground Bears Much Fruit
 Overthrow of Satan and World

Belief in Christ is Crucial (37-50)
 Prophecy of Blindness Fulfilled
 Fear of Man Caused Compromise

Down to the last week of His life, Jesus is the focal point of Mary's costly anointing to His victorious entry to Jerusalem. Greeks sought Him, but Jews conspired to kill Him. It was time for His glorious victory over Satan and the world the Father had planned for Him. He would win many Gentiles to faith by His crucifixion and the labors of the apostles. The Jews' blindness and fear of man warns us to fully believe and obey Christ.

John 13

Setting: Upper Room Passover
Timing: Final Night of His Life
Theme: The Last Supper
Key Verse: John 13:35
For Us: John 13:17
Link to Outline: [Here](#)

Washed Apostles' Feet (1-17)
 Victim Loved His Own to the End
 Example of Humble Service Only

Foretold Judas' Betrayal (18-32)
 Apostles Did Not have a Clue
 Jesus Sent Judas to His Crime

Priority of Brotherly Love (33-35)
 New Command By Emphasis
 Proof Christianity Is True

Foretold Peter's Denial (36-38)
 Peter Promised Great Loyalty
 Jesus Prophesied Great Failure

Down to the last hours of His life, Jesus loved His apostles to the very end. He was fully engaged to prepare them for their ministry on earth without Him. He knew pride and infighting could destroy them, so He showed how they should humbly serve each other. He told them about the traitor Judas among them for future comfort. He commanded brotherly love. He humbled them further by telling Peter of his denials coming soon.

John 14

Setting: Upper Room Passover
Timing: Final Night of His Life
Theme: Promise of Comforter
Key Verse: John 14:16
For Us: John 14:3
Link to Outline: [Here](#)

Hope of Heaven & Father (1-11)
 Individual Apartments in Heaven
 Jesus Is the Only Way to Heaven

Promise of Spirit Power (12-20)
 Greater Works than Jesus Did
 Holy Spirit as Personal Comforter

Promise of Spirit Love (21-27)
 God's Love & Presence Promised
 Peace of Christ Against Fear

Trust in Greater Father (28-31)
 Joy for Christ Being with Father
 Jesus Kept the Father's Will

Troubled by news of Judas and Peter, Jesus comforted the eleven by homes in heaven, His sure return for them, and His perfect unity with God. He promised the Holy Ghost as His personal power and presence with them for the future. He told them God and He would love them and show them even more for loving obedience. He explained that His departure to God the Father was a great thing and would benefit them.

John 15

Setting: Road to Gethsemane
Timing: Final Night of His Life
Theme: Fruit, Love, Joy in Christ
Key Verse: John 15:16
For Us: John 15:26
Link to Outline: [Here](#)

Fruitfulness in the Vine (1-8)
 Abiding in Christ Is Essential
 Abiding Not Brings Judgment

Priority of Brotherly Love (9-17)
 Obedience Keeps in Christ's Love
 True Love Sacrifices for Others

World Hates and Hurts (18-25)
 The World Hated Jesus First
 It Would Hate Apostolic Reproof

Promise of Spirit Power (26-27)
 The Holy Spirit Testifies of Jesus
 Apostles Were Eyewitnesses

The eleven were to be preachers; success required His blessings and sustaining power by faith and obedience. If they obeyed and loved each other as taught, they would be His friends. He had chosen them to be His friends and preachers. He told them the world would hate them since they were not of it, but that it had hated Him first for exposing the world's sins. He reminded them of Holy Spirit power from Him coming for them.

John 16

Setting: Road to Gethsemane
Timing: Final Night of His Life
Theme: Truth, Joy, Peace in Christ
Key Verse: John 16:13
For Us: John 16:33
Link to Outline: [Here](#)

Prophecy of Persecution (1-11)
 Murderous Hate by Rebukes
 Apostles Would Reprove World

Promise of Spirit Truth (12-15)
 Spirit to Teach Apostles All Truth
 Jesus Would Teach by the Spirit

Resurrection for Joy (16-22)
 World Would Wickedly Rejoice
 Three Days Brought Apostles Joy

Power & Peace in Christ (23-33)
 Powerful Prayer in Jesus Name
 Apostles Faith in Jesus & Victory

The world would hate and kill the apostles for exposing its lies and rebellion against God. By the Holy Spirit, Jesus would teach the apostles all the truth God had given Him for them. They would have a powerful reason for joy in the near future when He rose from the dead. With Jesus in heaven, they would then pray a new way for greater leverage with God. They embraced the message and heard Jesus promise victory.

John 17

Setting: Road to Gethsemane
Timing: Final Night of His Life
Theme: Jesus' Intercessory Prayer
Key Verse: John 17:9
For Us: John 17:24
Link to Outline: [Here](#)

Prayer for Himself (1-5)
 Reciprocal Glory Now and Later
 Designed Plan of Eternal Life

Prayer for Apostles (6-19)
 Reasoned by His Gift & their Faith
 Requests – Unity, Safety, Holiness

Prayer for Believers (20-24)
 Unity as One in Divine Sonship
 All Believers to Make it to Heaven

Prayer for Apostles (25-26)
 Reason by their Faith in Christ
 Reason by His Promise for Them

This is the Holy of holies. You are privileged to see Jesus looking up to heaven and praying to His Father. He requested mutual glory for God and Himself by the great work of salvation. He reasoned for God to hear Him for the apostles, and He asked for their unity, their safety, and their sanctification. He then prayed for all believers to be united on earth and with Him in heaven. He closed by reasoning with God on behalf of the eleven.