

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

JOHN 14-15

In the spring of 1942, General Douglas MacArthur was commanded by President Roosevelt to withdraw American troops from the Philippine Islands. A Japanese takeover seemed imminent. But before MacArthur left he promised the Filipinos, "I will return!"

At the time, he was criticized for egotistically phrasing his promise in the first person, "I will return." But that wasn't the Filipinos reaction. His promise boosted their morale during the occupation. They knew MacArthur was a man of his word and wouldn't break a promise.

Today, we're going to study Jesus' farewell address to His disciples. For He too is leaving soon, but He wants to insure His followers that He is going to return.

On the night before the cross, in the upper room, Jesus promised, "*I will come again.*" And Jesus is a man of His word! Thus, His promise has boosted the morale of believers for the last two-thousand years.

Like the Filipinos in World War 2, we also live behind enemy lines, and it's our General's personal promise that keeps us from losing heart! "**Jesus will return.**"

And by the way, Douglas MacArthur did return to the Philippines two-and-a-half years later. He kept His promise, defeated Japan, and liberated the Filipinos.

And one day soon, Jesus also will keep His promise! He will come again, defeat the armies that rally against Him, and liberate our world from the influence of Satan.

Chapter 14-17 is Jesus' farewell to His disciples.

It begins, "Let not your heart be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you." Life on earth is about to get rough for His disciples, so Jesus turns their eyes to heaven...

In fact, He promises us a "*mansion.*" *But this may not be what you think.* When I envision a "*mansion*" what comes to my mind is the Biltmore House in Asheville, or the Hearst Castle in California, but the Greek word translated "*mansion*" (*monai*) literally means "*rooms.*"

It's from the root word "*to stay.*" You could translate it, "*staying places.*" A "*monai*" is simply a place to stay.

Realize, Jesus isn't promising us something out the Lifestyles Of The Rich And Famous or MTV Cribs. Sprawling master baths, and swimming pools, and home theaters aren't standard amenities in heaven.

When Jesus promises us a mansion, He's simply saying "*a place to stay.*" He's comforting us with the assurance there's room for us in His Father's house.

Think it over, it might be more like hell than heaven if God stuck you in a cavernous mausoleum with 40 acres to mow and windows to wash. That's not heaven to me. There's an old maxim, "*Home is a man's castle.*" But an actual *castle*

might be a *hassle*. I'm sure heaven will be comfortable, but probably not gaudy.

Built into the outside walls of the Temple in Jesus' day were 38 chambers. These were rooms for priests and Levites. At times, they stayed right in God's house.

In northern Israel today after Palestinian kids marry, it's customary for the new family to move in with their father. Houses are expanded upwards. When children have children, another floor gets added to the house.

And this is the type of imagery Jesus is conjuring up. Not spacious, custom built estates, but intimacy and fellowship. In heaven, we'll live under our Father's roof, and eat at our Father's table. We'll live with our Father.

On earth, Jesus was a carpenter. Perhaps, the kind that built houses. Interestingly, in heaven, He's involved in the same trade. And He's preparing us a place for all eternity. It's an addition to the Father's house. Today, Jesus is in heaven working hard on us a place to stay.

He tells us in verse 2, "I go to prepare a place for you. 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." This world is a beautiful place, and God created it in just six days. Well, Jesus has been working on our place in heaven for the last 2000 years.

We can only imagine the glories that await us!

In verse 4, Jesus says, "And where I go you know, and the way you know." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know

where You are going, and how can we know the way?" He's thinking of an earthly destination.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." And here's a basic tenant - Christianity is not a code of ethics, or a set of doctrines, but a person!

You don't become a Christian just by following Jesus' teachings, but by engaging with Jesus personally.

Jesus doesn't just show us the way... *He is the way.*

He doesn't just speak the truth... *He is the truth.*

He doesn't just give us life... *He is the life.*

God's way is revealed - His truth is received - His life is released - when you come to Jesus. He's the way that keeps us *going* - the truth that keeps us *knowing* - the life that keeps us *growing*. All we need is Jesus.

And notice too, **Jesus is not a way, or a truth or a life. He is the way, the truth, the life.** He's not one of many roads that lead to God. He is the only road.

Jesus puts it plainly, "No one comes to the Father except through Me." But you can argue, "*Sandy that sounds pretty narrow-minded.*" And you're right, it's very narrow. *Why would God want to be so exclusive?*

Ever noticed how the IRS is so open-minded?

This year, rather than copy my income off my W2, I just estimated... As dependents, I counted our eleven staff members... And when I figure my tax, I didn't bother with the tables, I just paid what seemed fair...

And if you're the IRS listening... I'm just kidding!

Everybody knows the Internal Revenue Service has rules. They don't budge. It's black or white - right or wrong. Former heavyweight boxing champ Joe Louis was once asked, "Joe, who hit you the hardest during your ring career?" Joe Louis replied, "*Uncle Sam.*"

My point is there are issues in life, *like the Tax Code*, that aren't open to interpretation. You don't negotiate your way to heaven. The entrance is narrow. It's God's way or the highway. You come on God's terms or not at all. And the only way to heaven is through Jesus.

In my early years as a Christian, we'd hold up our index finger as a sign. It meant "*one way.*" There's still only one way to the Father and that's through Jesus.

Then Jesus says verse 7, "*If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.*" Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."

Here's the desire of every human heart - whether we're conscious of it or not - "*show us the Father.*" *We're all longing until we know the God who made us!*

"Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" Here Jesus asserts His deity.

He was God incarnate or God in human skin.

Though three separate persons, the members of the Godhead are of one substance. That means to see Jesus was to see the Father. Both are fully God.

For three-and-a-half years, Phillip had walked with His Creator along grassy paths in Galilee, and down the dirt roads of Judea; yet it had never dawned on Phillip Who was by his side. He had walked with God.

Verse 10, “Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.” Both the words of Jesus and His works had testified that He was God.

But then He says, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.” One of the reasons the disciples were so depressed over all this talk of Jesus' departure is that they interpreted it as a setback for their movement.

Lazarus' resurrection and Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem had stirred interest among the masses. Momentum was building, *and now Jesus was leaving?*

This would be like loading the bases for Freddie Freeman - the Braves best hitter - yet rather than bat he leaves and goes to Disney World. *What gives?*

Jesus had just told them, “Believe Me for the sake of the works.” And they had. The disciples had witnessed miracle

after miracle. *But now Jesus is leaving them, and He tells His disciples **they will do greater works!***

How can this be? Yet read the book of Acts, and this is what happened. In terms of quantity, twelve disciples scattered around the world, empowered by God's Spirit accomplished more work than one Man set in Israel.

Here's His promise, verse 13, "*And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*" And notice the promise's one stipulation. God will do "*whatever you ask*" if you pray "*in Jesus' name*" that "*the Father may be glorified in the Son.*"

The Masters Golf Tournament is the toughest ticket in sports. Folks pay thousands of dollars to attend. But every year, I enter through the gate with no money, no ticket, no right to be there on my own - only a name.

My son, Mack, works at Augusta National and his employment gains us entrance. At that gate, my name is unimportant. It's his name that unlocks the vault.

And this has *glorified the son*. In the Adams' family, the youngest is the star. Whatever Mack asks of us, the rest of us obey. We are now trusting in His name.

And this is the way it is in God's family, the Father has glorified the Son by putting the tickets in *His* name.

Your ticket - that is, "*whatever you ask*" - is in Jesus' name, *not yours*. That's why you follow His instruction. You don't approach God in a haughty, or selfish, or materialistic way. You live in a way that honors Jesus.

Jesus tells us in verse 15, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." If you're grateful for the access and blessing you've received through His name, you'll follow His instructions. You'll do His will. You'll do it His way.

Jesus tells us, "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever..." In sports, there are players who specialize in coming off the bench. In basketball, it's the "sixth man." In baseball, it's the "pinch hitter" or the "relief pitcher."

These guys are "super subs." And Jesus' also has a super sub. This is why His departure wasn't a setback.

He had a *supernatural sub* that took His place. Jesus ascended back to heaven, but the Holy Spirit took up where Jesus left off - to be with His disciples forever.

Notice the word, "*Helper.*" In Greek, it's "*parakletos,*" which means "*to come alongside to assist.*" In Greek courts, he was the court-appointed defense attorney. Likewise, the Holy Spirit is our defender. Jesus is our advocate with the Father. The Spirit is His co-counsel.

Here's my best illustration of the Holy Spirit... He's like the White House secret service. Everywhere the President goes he has bodyguards. These guys are willing to take a bullet for their commander-and-chief.

And if I looked through spiritual eyes, I'd see you; then right next to you, I'd see a guy wearing a dark suit and sunglasses - with an earpiece and He's packing. He's the Holy Spirit - the believer's spiritual bodyguard.

And notice Jesus calls the Spirit, *“another Helper.”* In the original language it means *“another of the same kind.”* The Holy Spirit takes up where Jesus leaves off.

He has the same goals, same methods, same nature as Jesus. When the Spirit came, no one put up an *“Under New Management”* sign for nothing changed.

God wanted the disciples to have the same relationship with His Spirit they had with Jesus, but without the physical constraints that limited Jesus on earth. Of course, this would require them to pray, and have faith, and live spiritually-oriented rather than physically-oriented. Certainly, the disciples were going to miss Jesus, but the team is going to improve and continue to win with the Spirit coming off the bench.

In verse 17, Jesus introduces the *“Helper”* as *“the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”* Notice, the Holy Spirit is *“with you”* prior to your conversion. He convicts us of sin and draws us to the Savior.

But once you embrace Jesus as Lord, the Spirit moves *“in you.”* *God’s Spirit* resides in *your spirit.*

He reveals to us the *presence of God* - conveys the *peace of God* - releases the *power of God* - bestows on us the *gifts of God*. He generates in us the *fruits of God*. He brings to us the *comfort of God* - administers the *correction of God* - teaches us the *truth of God*...

Yet despite doing all that, *don't expect your unbelieving friends to understand the Holy Spirit.* Jesus says, *"the world... neither sees Him nor knows Him."*

The ministry of the Spirit is an enigma to the tangible world we occupy. Materially-minded folks are clueless.

But Jesus promises us in verse 18, *"I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."* Jesus was going back to heaven, but the Holy Spirit would be like a Father.

Becoming a Christian is like enrolling in a Big Brother program - expect the Holy Spirit to be your Big Brother.

He's there, 24/7. He takes you places. He helps you open up and talk. He shows you love and guidance.

Verse 19, *"A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me."* Jesus is coming back for them. *"Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you."* In Spanish, one word for good-bye is "adios," but "adios" speaks of a permanent farewell.

Whereas "hasta luego" is "see you later" or "hasta pronto" is "see you soon." Here Jesus isn't saying "adios" but "hasta luego" or "until next time."

"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." Those who really love Jesus will obey Jesus.

Verse 22, *"Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him..."* In Matthew 10:3, this Judas was also called "Thaddaeus."

And Thad had a question, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?”

The Jews expected Messiah to be a global leader with a worldwide audience. This Judas was a thinker.

He’s wondering if Jesus is Messiah, why is He speaking to just twelve Jews, many of them simple fishermen rather than commanding a broader stage?

“Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.” What a cool promise! Love Jesus; then He and the Father God will make **their home in your heart.**

*But how was this the answer to Judas’ question? Why is Jesus wasting His time talking to twelve Jews? Jesus is saying, **He’ll reach the world one by one.***

Before the Messiah reveals Himself on the public stage, He first desires to come to each believing heart.

Verse 24, “He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.” Don’t say you love Jesus; then disregard His words - they come from the Father.

“These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” So much of what Jesus had said sailed over the disciples’ heads. It will be the job of the Helper to bring His word back to mind. This is

why the writings of the disciples were considered such a trusted record.

And this is something the Holy Spirit does in our own lives. He assists our memory with supernatural recall. At crucial moments He brings vital truths back to mind.

Jesus goes on to say in verse 27, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” What the world calls “*peace*” is merely the absence of conflict. It’s a momentary ceasefire.

But Jesus puts us in fellowship, *in harmony*, with our Creator and fellow man. We’re made one with Christ.

Verse 28 tells us, “You have heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away and coming back to you.’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, ‘I am going to the Father,’ for My Father is greater than I.”

Understand, when Jesus says, “*My Father is greater than I*”, He’s not denying what He said earlier that He and the Father are one. *God the Son* and *God the Father* are one God. What Jesus addresses in verse 28 is **a chain of command. The Father is greater in rank, but equal in nature.** Jesus was voluntarily submissive to the Father. It was the role He chose.

Think of a biblical marriage. The husband is to be the head of the home, and the wife should be submissive.

Yet everyone who knows Kathy and I recognizes that she is superior to me in just about every way imaginable - **except maybe jar-opening.** If Kath ever said, “*Sandy is greater than I,*” you’d know she was acknowledging our biblical roles or

opening jars. She would not be speaking of attributes. The same is true of Jesus. **He was submissive to the Father, not inferior.**

Verse 29, “And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.

I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.” Jesus is about to become embroiled in spiritual warfare the likes of which have not been seen before or since. Satan will throw all He can at Jesus to keep Him off the cross.

But notice Jesus’ defense. Satan “*has nothing in Me.*” This is also the secret in our overcoming Satan.

For a temptation to succeed, it has to appeal to a desire within us. Thus, guard your heart. **If what Satan offers is not what you want, his temptation bounces off.**

Notice one other point here. Jesus refers to Satan as “*the ruler of this world.*” When God created Adam, He gave mankind dominion - or authority over creation.

When Adam sinned, he forfeited that dominion to Satan. Satan has now usurped the authority that once belonged to Adam. Today, the world is still controlled by Satan. Jesus admits Satan is “*the ruler of this world.*”

And this sets up the conflict that rages even today. “*The ruler of this world*” is going at it - battling for the souls of men - with Jesus “**the ruler of God’s kingdom.**”

Verse 31, “But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do.

Arise, let us go from here.” which ends the conversation in the upper room. What follows occurred as they walked from Mount Zion, across the Kidron Valley, up the Mount of Olives, to a Garden called Gethsemane. And on the way they passed numerous vineyards, which became the backdrop for John 15. A chapter I like to call, **“I Heard it through the Grapevine.”**

Vineyards dotted the landscape all over Israel at the time of Jesus. Isaiah 5, Psalm 80, Jeremiah 2, Ezekiel 19, Hosea 10 all depicted Israel as **God’s vine.** Like a vinedresser, God expected fruits of righteousness from His people. Yet this fruitfulness never materialized.

Israel was a barren vine that God promised to uproot from His vineyard. Judaism was on its way out. It was spiritually dead - incapable of producing good grapes.

And in its place, God had planted *a new vine - the true vine.* Jesus identifies that true vine in Chapter 15.

He says, verse 1, **“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”** God’s initial plan was to graft the Gentiles into the vine of Judaism, yet Israel proved barren. Legalism, ritualism, hypocrisy choked the vine.

A change was needed. This is why when you come to Jesus you get grafted into Him. His life now flows through you. In Christ, we’re branches on God’s Vine.

We are merged into the life of Christ, and bear His fruit. The Father manages our growth and pruning.

Verse 2, **“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”** We’ll observe a progression in **this**

passage - the believer in Jesus goes from fruit to more fruit to much fruit. The gardener is after fruit! He's not interested in leaves, but fruit.

Thus, if a branch refuses to abide in the Vine, the Gardener cuts it off... Let me jump ahead to verse 6 and read what's done to a barren branch, "He is cast out as a branch and is withered, and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned."

And folks respond to verse 6 by asking, "Wait a minute, doesn't the Bible teach eternal security?" And I say, "Absolutely, as long as you're abiding in the vine!"

If your faith is in Jesus and you're relying on His grace - **you are eternally secure**. But if there's no fruit in your life - *and it doesn't matter if you never took root or your roots dried up* - if you're dead on the Vine, God is going to cut you off and cast you out. He wants fruit. He can't waste sap on a branch that's not bearing fruit!

This brings up another question... "What is fruit?"

And here's my best definition: "Fruit is the byproduct of the Spirit's activity in my life." It's evidence of faith.

Spiritual fruit includes love, joy, peace, kindness, patience, self-control, good works, power to witness.

Fruit is the Spirit's influence in my life.

And for a vine to reach its maximum yield it has to be pruned. The dead wood and excess greenery that rob the fruit of needed sap are lopped off. In the winter, before the sap rises, when the cold weather beats the sap down into the

roots, the vinedresser cuts back the branches. *And it hurts.* If the vineyard could talk, there'd be awful screams. **And we too have to be pruned.**

There are old habits, sinful inclinations, tempting distractions, unnecessary busyness that have to be cut off. And when it happens, you think God is killing you.

Next time you're in the church parking lot notice the crape myrtles by the front entrances. Every year they get pruned. Every green twig gets lopped off. And you think they're dead, but they're not. They're actually poised for greater growth. If a plant wants to be fruitful, it has to be pruned, **and so does a child of God.**

Sometimes when we're being pruned we think God is angry with us, but not so. He only prunes where He sees fruit. He wants *more fruit* and even *much fruit*.

Jesus continues in verse 3, "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."

The grapes in the vineyard were the cleanest in the spring after the winter rains. And calendar-wise it was spring for the disciples. This was the time of Passover.

But spiritually it was also spring. On the cross, Jesus will atone for their sin. They'll be made righteous through His sacrifice, and this will begin their growth.

In the vineyard, the branches are cleaned in the springtime, thus all that's needed in the summer for growth to occur is for the branches to stay in the vine.

As it gets hotter the sap rises and fruit blossoms.

This is why Jesus tells His disciples, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.” The term “*abide*” means “to stay, remain”

You never see the branches on a vine struggle or strain to grow. To bear fruit, all they do is abide. And the same is true for a Christian. It’s not up to us to produce spiritual fruit in our lives. Our job is to cultivate our connection to the vine. It’s the vine that supplies us life.

It reminds me of a pro golfer. He doesn’t try too hard and over-swing. He’s smooth. He trusts the club head to do the work. His job is just to make good contact.

And this is our job as Christians. It’s not up to us to manufacture character, or mimic grace, or muster power. That’s the work of the Spirit. Our job is to keep good contact. Fellowship with Jesus daily. Read His Word. Spend time with Him. Cultivate the connection!

Grapes just occur when a branch abides in the Vine.

Jesus says in verse 5, “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” Realize, a *vine* isn’t *pine*. Vines are too knotty and twisted to use as building material. All a vine is good for is bearing grapes... And likewise without the Spirit rising up within us and bearing fruit our lives are worthless.

Verse 6 “If anyone does not abide in Me...” And notice, you can start out in faith, but not continue or “*abide*” in faith. “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and

is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” Apparently, *abiding* and *asking* go hand in hand. The branch knows what it needs. It desires more sap. And likewise we can ask our Father for a greater outpouring of His Holy Spirit.

Verse 9, “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.” And here’s the key to us loving God - *stay in His love! Let God love you. And how?*

“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.” You let God love you by staying in His will - doing as He says. Remain open to His love.

“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.” Grapes are often called “*God's candy.*” Their sweetness makes them my favorite snack. And in this regard, I’m just like Jesus. He too is most joyful when we're most fruitful.

Verse 12, “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.” Jesus proves this the next day on the cross.

“You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.” The Greek word translated “*friends*” was used to refer to the king's

court - his *trusted advisors*. If you want to be trusted by Jesus then follow His orders.

Verse 15, “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.” Servants are hired hands - mere employees. They have no stake in the business. They do their job and head home. But a co-owner, a partner has a stake in the operation.

And here Jesus promotes His disciples from wage earners to co-owners. He’s upping the ante on their involvement in His kingdom by drawing them in closer.

In fact, He tells them, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you.” In the first century, Jews would chose their own rabbi. But Jesus tells His disciples He chose them.

And why? “I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another. If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.” The world didn’t pat Jesus on the back. It won’t treat you any better!

“If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

Again when Jesus uses the term “*world*” He’s not talking about the planet per se, but the ungodly, rebellious spirit of the age that shows up in culture. And Jesus says this world

“loves its own.” It hates to be corrected. It shows its teeth when it’s opposed.

“Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.” If you choose to follow Jesus, expect the world to treat you just like it treated Him.

“But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.” Throughout history, the Church has always seen it as an honor to be persecuted for Jesus’ *“name’s sake.”*

In the mid-1600s, Obadiah Holmes broke ranks with the state church of England. He held a prayer meeting in a Massachusetts home, and as punishment was ordered by the governor to be flogged. He was tied up in downtown Boston, and beaten so severely the only way he could lie down was on his elbows and knees.

With the last lash Holmes cried, *“You have struck me as with roses!”* As if His torture had been a trophy. Christians have always taken persecution as an honor.

And if persecution returns, we’ll do it again!

Verse 22, *“If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also.”*

Reject Jesus and you hate the God in heaven.

“If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.

But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law (and he quotes two Psalms, 35:19 and 69:4), 'They hated Me without a cause.'

The Chapter ends, "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning." And these last two verses will be the first verses we'll discuss next week...