

Lesson 42 John 14:15-31 Jesus Comforts and Encourages His Disciples

Pray: Before you begin lift your heart to God and ask for the Spirit's help as you read the passage and work through these questions in His divine presence and you certainly will be given understanding.

Background

orphans: In Old Testament times orphans were helpless and powerless and needed a legal defender or advocate. They were little esteemed and neglected. In John 14:18 the word "orphanous" is used by Jesus to refer to His disciples. In most Bible versions the word "orphanous" is translated as orphans but in some versions it is translated as either "desolate", "comfortless" or "bereaved."

peace: The state of peace was highly exalted among Jewish teachers, especially peace in relationships. The Romans also highly valued peace (The Pax Romana) but they usually found themselves at war.

Key Words:

orphan - (Strong's G3737) *orphanos* *bereaved*, that is, *parentless*: - comfortless, fatherless.

love - *agapaō* used often when referring to God's love for man and man's love for God. In Joh14:15,18 the tense of the Greek verb "agapao" indicates continuous action.

Helper - *paraklētos*; - Advocate, Helper. It comes from the Greek verb "parakaleo" which means to aid, help, comfort or encourage.

Jesus continues speaking to his disciples. He has reassured them of heaven, pointed to Himself as the way, and encouraged them to pray, In this lesson He will continue comforting them and encouraging them.

Read John 14:15-30

1. What does Jesus tell the disciples is evidence of their love for Him? John 14:15, 21
2. In 14:21 what does Jesus say will be the result of loving Him and keeping His commandments?
3. According to Ezekiel 36:27 what is needed to keep Jesus' commandments?

Application: How have you experienced the Spirit's help in keeping one of Jesus' commandments? If possible share a specific command that He enabled you to keep.

4. In John 14:16 Jesus promises the disciples a Helper or in some translations, an Advocate. He is speaking of the Holy Spirit. In 14:16-26 what do you learn about the Helper?

5. Jesus is about to die, be resurrected, and eventually return to heaven. physically leaving His disciples. How will the Holy Spirit fill this void in the lives of the disciples. Use the same verses: 14:16-26.

Application: Have you ever experienced the Holy Spirit in the role of Comforter or Helper in your life? If so, how did He help or comfort you?

Application: Have you ever experienced the Holy Spirit as a teacher in your life. How did the Spirit teach you?

6. In John 14:27. What else does Jesus say He will leave with His disciples? What is the condition for having this? John 16:33

7. According to 16:33 how can we experience peace in the midst of a dark world full of conflict and trouble?

Application: Can you share a time you personally experienced this peace in the midst of conflict or trial?

