

**CALVARY PANDAN BIBLE-  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
[Adapted from Bethel Bible-  
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**DHW BIBLE CLASS**

**LESSON 36**

**THE LIFE OF CHRIST**

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**INTRODUCTION**

The scene is still in the Upper Room. Jesus was spending the last hours with His disciples before He would be taken away to be crucified. The disciples were confused, perplexed, and troubled. Jesus knew that He had to prepare His disciples for what was going to happen to Him and to them. Similarly, many Christians today feel the same kind of anxiety

and confusion at the apparent delay in Christ's return and the prevailing anti-Christian attitude in the world. Jesus' final words to His disciples should comfort and strengthen His disciples and us.

**UNDERSTANDING**

***Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial:***

Matthew 26:31-35, Mark 14:27-31.  
Luke 22:31-38, John 13:36-38.

The disciples did not understand the full significance of Jesus' prediction of His betrayal, arrest and death. When Jesus mentioned that He would not "*drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom,*" the disciples' thoughts were focused only on the establishment of the promised earthly kingdom. They were spiritually infantile. Peter seemed to know somewhat the words of his Master concerning His death. Jesus was troubled in spirit and Peter could have noticed it for Jesus had said that one of them would betray Him.

Simon Peter then asked Jesus, "Lord, whither goest thou?" When Jesus replied to him that he could not follow Him now, Peter said, "*Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.*" By these words Peter was the only one who seemed to know that his Lord would be arrested and put to death. And Peter declared that he would lay down his life for his Lord's sake. In other words, Peter was willing to protect Jesus with his life. When Jesus mentioned that all of them would stumble because of Him that night, in fulfilment of Zechariah's

prophecy (13:7): *“Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: **smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered**: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones”* [emphasis added]. Peter for the second time had the audacity to claim that “all men shall be offended (stumbled) because of thee” but he would never be stumbled. Peter is an example of one who understands but depends on his own strength and character to accomplish the will of God. Hence he fails, again and again.

One wonders whether Peter has heard what Jesus has just said about His resurrection from the dead. Probably he did, audibly but not really, because the prospect of Jesus’ death overwhelmed his mind and heart. Peter was sincere when he said those words but he did not know himself. He did know his own weakness. He did not know that there were forces that were working against him. The Lord Jesus responded again to Peter. Jesus addressed Peter by his original name, “Simon.” The repetitive calling of his name indicates the Lord’s tenderness towards him as well as warning that this was the old man speaking not the new man whom Jesus gave the name, Peter. Jesus said to Peter, *“Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.”* Satan was attacking and will continue to attack Peter. Satan wanted to “sift” or tear him apart. Jesus then quickly added that He had prayed for Peter that Peter’s faith might not fail. Jesus also gave him an undertaking that

when he was restored, he would strengthen his brethren.

What tenderness and assurance from the Master! He knew Peter would fail the test but he would not be completely devastated because Jesus had prayed for him. There was the certainty that he would recover and be restored, and that he would be strong enough to help his fellow disciples. Peter’s failure was for a short time and temporary. Now Peter for the third time said to Jesus, “Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.” Peter was getting more and more bold. Then Jesus said to him that before the cock crowed twice, he would deny Jesus three times. But Peter emphatically declared his total and unshakable commitment to Jesus. With that note the exchanges between Peter and Jesus ended.

Jesus now turned to His disciples. He reminded them that previously when they went on mission trips they did not bring any provisions with them. But the situation would change after the predictions concerning Jesus were fulfilled. They must then begin to provide for themselves. The mention of purchasing a sword should be viewed as symbolic rather than literal; Jesus forbade the use of the sword when they showed to Jesus two swords. The import of Jesus’ reminder to them was that they should provide for themselves when He was no more with them, and be prepared for any kind of pressure and persecutions. Jesus was preparing His disciples for what was going to happen. He knew their frailty. He saw through Peter although He knew that Peter was honest and

sincere in his heart. Peter did not know himself. Jesus was making it easier later on for them to return to Him. They would later remember how He had told them that they would flee from Him, and Peter would realize that what Jesus said about him was true. It did not take Jesus by surprise by their action. Knowing that, they would be able to accept their weakness when they realize it later.

***Jesus Comforts His Disciples in the Upper Room:***

*John 14:1-31*

Jesus could see that His disciples were confused and troubled. Jesus was going to die. One of them was going to betray Him. Peter was going to deny Him three times in spite of his boasts. Satan was going to work against them; and all of them were going to desert and deny Him except for John. The disciples must be greatly discouraged.

Knowing this, Jesus comforted His disciples. He told them not to be troubled and discouraged. Jesus commanded them to keep trusting in God and also in Him. He was not going away from them permanently. He was going away to prepare a place for them in heaven where God the Father is. Jesus promised to come again. In this promise Jesus was not referring to His resurrection but to His glorious return. Observe that Jesus did not describe in more details about heaven.

They knew the way to heaven. Jesus had taught them. But Thomas reflected bewilderment. Jesus then said to them, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." He is the WAY to heaven where God the Father is. There is no other

way because He is the TRUTH. He is the Truth of everything in this world. And He is the LIFE. He is not only the way to everlasting life but the source of all life—*For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist* (Colossians 1:16-17).

No man comes to the Father but by Him! Jesus is exclusive. There is no one like Him. Philip then interrupted Jesus and asked Jesus to show them the Father. Jesus expressed surprise that they, having been with Him all these years, still did not know Him. Then Jesus made the clearest claim to Deity—"he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father." Jesus had lived and worked in the midst of them by doing what the Father told Him to do. He is in the Father and the Father in Him. The Son and the Father are equal and in agreement in everything! Jesus told them to trust His testimony that He who had seen Him had seen the Father. But if it was still difficult, Jesus told them to believe Him for the testimony of His works. Jesus then made an astounding statement. The one believing on Him would not only do similar works that He did, but also greater works than the works that He did because He was going back to the Father. Jesus was intimating the empowering of the Holy Spirit on His disciples to do greater works. Then Jesus made a promise to them. Jesus told them that they must pray in and through Jesus

Christ. Whatever they asked in His Name, He would do so that the Father might be glorified in Him.

### ***Jesus Promises the Giving of the Holy Spirit***

Jesus made a promise to His disciples. This promise would only be realized if they love Him and keep His commandments. They must remain true to His will and purpose. The Comforter (Greek *Paracletos*) is the Holy Spirit (v.26). The Holy Spirit would dwell in them. As long as they love Him and obey His commandments they would receive the power of the Holy Spirit in and through their lives. Jesus would pray to the Father and the Father would send the Holy Spirit. We know that this was fulfilled at Pentecost. What does this mean? Does it mean that the believers in the OT time did not have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit? Does it mean that the Disciples of Christ did not have the Holy Spirit indwelling them all this time until the Pentecost?

The Bible says in Romans 8:9, "*But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*" 1 Corinthians 2:14 says, "*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*" The man who is not spiritual cannot understand many spiritual things. Either they are not as sinful as we are or that the truth of 1 Cor. 2:14 is applicable to only the NT. This cannot be so because all of us are just as depraved whether we lived in the 21<sup>st</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> century.

From the writings of Moses and David and Daniel, they definitely understand spiritual things. The Holy Spirit had been in the world from the dawn of Creation. He had been at work in the servants of God, and in the life of Jesus. All believers throughout the ages had the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. But at Pentecost the Holy Spirit came in a special way where the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. Every believer should pray that he be filled with the Holy Spirit for the Master's use. This filling of the Spirit is a repeatable event in the believer's life.

The Holy Spirit when He comes upon them would teach them all things and bring all things to their remembrance whatsoever Jesus had taught them. Jesus' disciples would continue His work through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will carry on the work of Jesus through His people. Jesus then said to His disciples that He would give them His peace, not as the world gives. The peace that the world gives does not comfort or strengthen the inner man to do the will of God. The peace that Jesus gives is rooted in His assured promises and they should not be troubled nor be afraid.

Jesus further comforted His disciples and enjoined them to rejoice if they loved Him for He was going to the Father, for His Father is greater than He. He told them all these things which would come to pass, and when these things came to pass, they would know and believe in all that He had said to them. Their faith would be strengthened. Jesus sensed that "the prince of this world" was coming with his followers to take

Him. So Jesus said to His disciple to go. They arose and made their way to the Garden of Gethsemane.

### ***Jesus Exhorts His Disciples to Remain Faithful to Him***

Somewhere along the way to the Garden of Gethsemane and apparently in the vicinity of a grape vine, Jesus spoke to His disciples. He said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman." The phrase "I am" is literally "I, I am." Jesus' use of "I" is emphatic, meaning that "I and only I and no one else am the true vine." Observe the "I AM," that is the name of God (Exodus 3:14). Israel was pictured as the vineyard in the Old Testament.<sup>1</sup> The nation Israel has failed to produce fruit. She has failed to fulfil God's purpose in the redemption of the world. However, the figure points to the Lord Jesus Christ as their fulfilment. He is the True Vine in comparison with all other false "vine."

Then Jesus spoke concerning the work of the "husbandman." *"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit He taketh away: and*

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<sup>1</sup> Isaiah 5:1 Now will I sing to my well beloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My well beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: {a very...: Heb. the horn of the son of oil}

Jeremiah 2:21 Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?

Hosea 10:1 Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images. {an...: or, a vine emptying the fruit which it giveth} {images: Heb. statues, or, standing images}

*every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."* Those who are connected to Him but do not bear fruit are not genuinely connected with the vine. They are cut away. Judas Iscariot is an example. Those who are connected to Him and bear fruit, truly belong to Him. They are already clean (v.3) by believing in Jesus. They have a spiritual and vital relationship with Jesus. However, they need to be regularly pruned, to cut away the dead twigs, so that they will bear more fruit. Their sins must be removed. The fruit refers to the fruit of the Spirit. The character of the person changes by the power of God when he becomes a Christian.

Jesus called His eleven disciples to continue to have a vital spiritual relationship with Him so that they could be fruitful. This relationship is vital if they are to produce fruit. The vine supplies the branches with the vital fluid flowing into its branches. A Christian is helpless apart from Christ, in bearing Christian fruit. The true Christian must believe and practice loving obedience to Christ. If a person does not believe, he has no life of God in him. Without the life of God in him, he cannot produce real fruit. He is cut off and cast away into the fire. This is a reference to Judas, a false disciple, and not to the other eleven. So Jesus came to redeem a people unto Himself so that they bear fruit for the glory of God the Father.

### ***Jesus Commands His Disciples to Love One Another***

Jesus then said, *"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved*

*you: continue ye in my love.*" This vital relationship with Jesus is to be one of obedient love. Jesus showed the example of being in loving obedience to the Father. In the same way His disciples ought to show their love for Him by obeying His commandments. By so doing they will remain in His love. This love (Greek *agape*) means total loyalty to Him. Just as Jesus loves (*agape*) His disciples, He requires that His disciples similarly love (*agape*) Him.

Jesus spoke these words to His disciples because He wanted them to share His joy that their joy might be complete. This joy will be enhanced in fruitful service. And one commandment Jesus that requires of His disciples is that they love one another even as He has loved them. Greater love has no man than that a man lays down his life for his friends. Jesus soon would prove His great love for His disciples by giving His life for them. He would die as their substitute.

Jesus then announced to His disciples a new relationship. Hitherto He had called them "servants" or "slaves." A slave does what he is told without knowing his master's mind or business. But since Jesus had opened Himself to His disciples, they knew Him, calling them "slaves" did not fit the service-relationship. Instead He called His disciples "friends" because He had shared with them the Father's revelation. Jesus reminded them that they had not chosen Him, but He had chosen them. The purpose of choosing them was so that they would produce lasting fruit. They are chosen for a mission, and His Father would

answer their requests so that they could accomplish that mission. Once again Jesus stressed that His disciples love one another.

### ***Jesus Warns Them of Persecutions for His Name's Sake***

Friendship with the world results in having the world's hatred. Jesus alerted His disciples to the world's hatred of them. If they experienced the world's hatred, they should not be surprised because the world hated Him first. They were not of the world for if they were, the world would love them because the world would love its own. But Jesus said that His disciples were not of the world because He had chosen them and called them out of the world. Therefore the world would hate them. Jesus reminded them that His disciples were no greater than their Master. If the world had persecuted Him for His teaching, the world would also persecute them for the same reason. Jesus' teaching had uncovered their sin, and so they hated Jesus because they had no way to cover their sin. Jesus' teaching is the revelation of God, and is so tied to the Father that to hate Him is to hate God.

Jesus comforted His disciples that the Holy Spirit would come. He would send Him from the Father. He is the Spirit of truth for He comes from the Father. He will testify of Jesus, and the disciples would be witnessing what they had known of Jesus because they had been with Him from the beginning.

## PRACTICAL VALUE

Peter's example should lead us to constantly examine ourselves so that we do not fall into the same mistake of not knowing our own weaknesses. In serving the Lord we need to depend on Him for strength and grace to accomplish the work He has called us to do. Indeed our Lord Jesus Christ, who is now seated at the right hand of God, is interceding for us. In whatever we accomplish it is because of His empowering through the Holy Spirit. We should not boast of our accomplishment but all glory is to God.

If anyone has any doubt concerning the Christian faith, Jesus' declaration that He is THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE should dispel that doubt completely from his mind and heart. The Christian religion is the only true religion. The world will always attack Christians for their uncompromising witness of Jesus Christ. But all truly born again Christians will remain steadfast and faithful, and continue to witness Christ to the world.

Jesus commands His disciples to love one another just as He has loved us by giving His life. Let us not disappoint and disobey Him by not loving one another. It is imperative that if we are truly His branch we will bear fruit when we obey Him. Are we bearing fruit so that God is glorified?

Finally, let us not love the world. Often many Christians are drawn away from the faith by the things and thinking of the world which oppose the teachings of Jesus. Let us remember that anyone who is a friend of the world is an enemy of God. Should we befriend the world and be an

enemy of God? May it not be so. We are witnesses of Jesus Christ to the world that the world might believe and be saved before the great and dreadful Day of Judgment. AMEN

## DHW BIBLE CLASS

### LESSON 36

#### THE LIFE OF CHRIST

#### DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

##### Daily Readings

**MONDAY:** Matthew 26:31-35, Mark 14: 27-31; Luke 22:31-38, John 13:36-38.

**TUESDAY:** John 14:1-14, Romans 8:14-18.

**WEDNESDAY:** John 14:15-31, Acts 2:1-4, Ephesians 1:13-14.

**THURSDAY:** John 15:1-16, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15.

**FRIDAY:** John 15:17-27, James 4:4, 2 Timothy 1:8-11, Ephesians 4:11-16.

##### Discussion Questions

1. Indicate the progressive force of Peter's declaration that he would not deny Jesus. How do you understand him?

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**2. What kind of attack did Satan want to direct against Peter? Why would he want to do that?**

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**3. What claims does Jesus make for Himself in John 14:4-11, (a) in regard to man's approach to God; (b) in regard to man's knowledge of God; and (c) in regard to the source and origin of His words and works?**

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**4. What does Jesus mean when He says "When the Holy Spirit comes" since the Holy Spirit is also omnipresent?**

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**5. What lesson does the parable of the vine teach?**

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**6. What seven reasons did Jesus give that His disciples may expect to meet hatred in the world?**

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