

**CALVARY PANDAN BIBLE-
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
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DHW BIBLE CLASS

LESSON 37

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

CONTENTS

1. **Jesus Promises to Send the Holy Spirit When He Departs From Them:** John 16:1-33
2. **Jesus Intercedes for the Believers Whom the Father Has Given to Him:** John 17:1-26
3. **Jesus Agonizes in the Garden of Gethsemane:** Luke 22:39-46, Matthew 26:30, 36-46, Mark 14:26, 32-42, John 18:1
4. **Jesus Is Betrayed by Judas and Arrested by the Religious Leaders:** Matthew 26:47-56, Mark 14:43-52, Luke 22:47-53, John 18:2-12

INTRODUCTION

Being separated from those whom we love and whom we have close and strong relations is always difficult. The disciples of Jesus began to understand that their Master and Teacher Jesus Christ whom they had been together for more than three years would soon leave them. His bodily presence with His disciples will soon come to an end. And for the

time being they could not go with Him to where He was going. Naturally they were sad and sorrowful. Jesus understood their thoughts and feelings. He prepared them for that ordeal and for the period in which He would be physically absent from them. Jesus knew the importance of comforting and encouraging them.

UNDERSTANDING

Jesus Promises to Send the Holy Spirit When He Departs From His Disciples:
John 16:1-33

Jesus earlier had commanded His disciples to love one another. This is important because Jesus predicted that they would experience adverse and arduous events when He leaves them. Jesus forewarned them that they would be put out of the synagogues and those who killed them would think that they were doing it in the service of God. [Saul of Tarsus was one of them.] He forewarned them of these adversities so that they would not stumble but remain faithful to Him and to the cause for which they were called and chosen. He had told them that the world would hate them because they were not of the world, and the fact that they hated Jesus first. And the reason why these people would do all these things against them was because they had not known the Father and Him. It is not ignorance of an intelligible nature. It was ignorance of an experiential relation with God through Jesus Himself. He was going to the Father and none of them asked Him where He was going because

they did not understand the meaning of His words to them. Sorrow had filled their hearts.

Jesus declared to them that it would be “expedient” for them that He went away. For if He did not go away, “the Comforter” would not come to them. But if He went away He would send Him to them. The word “expedient” in the context does not mean that His going away would be *advantageous* to the disciples. The word means a *bringing together* that would be advantageous and helpful to the disciples. Jesus was thinking of the birth of the local church, a bringing together a called-out people to carry on His ministry of saving souls and teaching believers all the commandments that He had given them. The “Comforter” (Greek: *parakletos*) whom He would send would guide them into all truth. The word means *one who comes alongside to help, to intercede, to counsel, to succour*. Jesus gave another name to the Comforter, the “Spirit of truth.” Apart from guiding the disciples into all truth, the Spirit would also show them things to come. He would continue the work of Jesus Christ and would show them and glorify Him. In other words, the Spirit of truth, who is none other than the Holy Spirit, would be to the disciples as Jesus was with them. He would take Jesus’ place. He is exactly like the LORD Jesus Christ in essence, power and glory and help.

In relation to the world, the Holy Spirit would “reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgement.” The word “reprove” which could be understood as “to convict and

convince” is not sufficiently strong. It is a legal term. The Holy Spirit pronounces a judicial verdict on the guilty where there is no recourse for appeal. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit will convict the world of sin because they do not believe in Him. The Holy Spirit does not merely convict the world of sin but bring to their realization of their terrible sin in rejecting Jesus Christ and that they are helpless before God. There is no escape unless they repent and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour.

The Holy Spirit would convict the world of righteousness because Jesus was and is Himself righteousness. Jesus had lived a righteous life while He was on earth. He had met God’s absolute standard of righteousness. He is the standard God demands of the world. The Holy Spirit would convict the world of its helplessness to meet God’s demands of holiness in order to be saved. The only way of salvation is to accept God’s offer of the Mediator who is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The Holy Spirit would convict the world of judgement because the prince of this world is judged. Judgement is always determined by an absolute principle. In this case, the righteousness of Christ which meets God’s demands is the absolute rule. When human sin is confronted by the righteousness of Christ, condemnation is inevitable or self-evident. When Jesus declared that the “prince of this world,” who is Satan, is judged, Jesus was speaking of the satanic inspired self-willed righteousness and rejection of the righteousness of

Jesus Christ. This self-willed righteousness apart from Jesus Christ's death at the cross is God's condemnation of sin against Him. Jesus Christ Himself has no sin, but the sin of the world was laid on Him. He died for the sin of the world.

Jesus said to them that "a little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father." The disciples were musing among themselves the meaning of what Jesus had just said to them. Jesus said that they would weep and be sorrowful but the world would be rejoicing. Then Jesus continued and said that their sorrow would be turned into joy. Jesus gave an analogy of a woman in the throes of birth pangs, but as soon as the child is born, she does not remember her pain. It is the same for His disciples. They would sorrow because He would be taken from them, but they would see Him again, and their heart would rejoice. No man could take away from them the joy they would then have. That they would see Him again, Jesus was not referring to His second coming. An understanding of the context would show that Jesus was referring to His resurrection. He would see them again in Galilee, and their sorrow would turn to joy, which no man after that, could ever take away from them.

In that day, a new relationship would take place. Jesus Christ would no more be bodily with them after His ascension. He would send the Holy Spirit to them. Jesus promised them that they would pray and ask the Father in His name, and He would give it to

them. Up to then, they had asked Him directly for He was with them. But He would go away and send the Holy Spirit. They would ask in His name. They would ask and would receive that their joy might be perfect and complete. Jesus Himself would intercede for them. He would pray to the Father and the Father would love them because they had loved Him and had believed that He came from God. The disciples would learn that they were not left alone in the world.

The disciples understood His meaning. Jesus spoke plainly to them. They believed that Jesus came from God and into the world. The time had come for Him to go back to His Father. The moment that He would be taken away from them was at hand. Once again, He told them that they would be scattered, every one to his own. They would leave Him alone. But He would not be alone because the Father was with Him. Jesus spoke all these things to them so that they would have peace. In the world, they would have tribulation and keep having tribulation. Jesus assured them that He has overcome the world. Jesus had won. His betrayal, arrest and shameful death on the cross were not a victory for the world. The cross was a victory for Jesus completely. And His disciples would win in Him.

Jesus Intercedes for the Believers Whom the Father Has Given to Him: John 17:1-26

This is a wonderful chapter in the Bible. There are many prayers recorded of godly men in the Old and New Testaments. But this is the best of them all because in this

we are given a glimpse into the very soul of our LORD. It is wonderful because it reveals the relationship between the Father and the Son. It is also wonderful for it demonstrates the intercessory ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ in behalf of His disciples. He is the Great High Priest who stands before the Heavenly Tabernacle. It is indeed wonderful because Jesus' prayer provides the example for His disciples to pray likewise. We need to pray for the things that He prayed for His disciples. This prayer of our Lord is sometimes called "The High Priestly Prayer". Jesus could not pray in the Temple area because it was a very busy time and there were many people celebrating the Passover. The text does suggest a quiet place where there was privacy. It could be a spot outside the city walls or even in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus prayed for Himself, for His disciples, and for future disciples.

Jesus prayed aloud lifting His eyes to heaven. Jesus' first word as He addressed God is "Father". This shows the intimate relationship He has with the Father all the time. It is a Father and Son relationship that is emphasized whenever we pray. God the Father is not some far-removed Potentate, but one who is near and intimate. Jesus acknowledged that God has given Him all power over all men that He should give eternal life to as many as the Father has given Him. And Jesus' chief desire and aim was to glorify the Father, who sent Him. Jesus said to the Father that He had glorified Him. He had finished the work which the Father had given

to Him to do. He called on the Father to glorify Him with His own self with the glory which He had with the Father even before the world was.

Jesus mentioned that He had shown the Father to His disciples whom Jesus said the Father gave to Him out of the world. They belonged to the Father and they had kept His Word. The disciples now understood His relationship with the Father, because Jesus had taught them the Word which the Father had entrusted Him to give to the disciples. The disciples understood now and they believed that the Father sent Him to them.

We learn a few important truths. Jesus' relationship with His Father is from eternity past, yea, even before the world was (v.5). Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God right from the very beginning. He did not assume the title of the Son of God at the time when He voluntarily accepted to do the will of His Father to come to the world and redeem it.

All believers are chosen of the Father and given to His Son. Believers are chosen to belong to Jesus. On our own, we could not have come to God. The Father has chosen us and we come to Him and believe in Jesus Christ.

Now JESUS PRAYED FOR HIS DISCIPLES who were with Him. "I pray for them," Jesus said. He prayed not for the world. He prayed thus because they belonged to the Father and those who belonged to the Father also belonged to Him. How intimate is the relationship between the Father and the Son! Jesus said that He was glorified in this little group of disciples despite what He had foretold about them that they

would scatter themselves and leave Him alone.

Jesus prayed to the Father for the disciples. Jesus said that He would not be with them any more in the world. His disciples would be in the world. He prayed to the Father that He would keep them whom He had given to Him. Jesus committed His disciples to the Father's protection and providence. He prayed for the safety of all of them except "the son of perdition". It was a reference to Judas, who was one of the Twelve, who was a traitor and a false believer and disciple of Jesus. This phrase "the son of perdition" means "the one doomed to destruction".

Jesus prayed that they might be one as the Father and He are one. By this, Jesus was praying not for an organizational oneness or unification. The oneness intended here was one of doctrine, purpose and will; that the disciples might be one in doctrine, purpose and will just as Jesus and the Father are always one in doctrine, purpose and will. Jesus also prayed that the joy that He had might also be had by His disciples. Jesus further prayed that the Father would not take them out of the world, in other words, translate them up to heaven, but that they should remain in the world to carry on His work. However, He prayed that the Father should guard them against "the evil one" who is none other than the devil.

Jesus went on to pray to the Father "to sanctify them through the truth" which is His Word. To sanctify means to make holy and or to set apart for the service of God. Jesus had sanctified Himself, setting Himself

apart to do God's will. He had come into the world to redeem the world according to the will of the Father. He prayed the same for His disciples that they too might be sanctified, set apart, to carry on the work that Jesus came to do.

JESUS PRAYED FOR FUTURE BELIEVERS. These believers would hear the Word from the disciples. Once again, Jesus prayed that these future believers would also be one as the Father and He are one, and they are also one with the believers. Again, this oneness is not about organizational unity. It is about oneness in doctrine, purpose and will. It is oneness in knowing God's Will, and doing God's will and in fulfilling His purpose. It is a spiritual unity, not an organizational church union. It may be visibly expressed and seen by an organizational unity but the latter does not bring about the former. It is the other way round. The purpose of this spiritual oneness is for the world to see and be drawn to the knowledge that God has sent Jesus Christ, and has loved them, as He has loved Jesus. Jesus had already explained that oneness should be reflected in their love one for another.

Finally, Jesus prayed that all those whom God had given Him, might be where He would be in heaven. His disciples had seen His glory on earth in His human form. But He wanted them to see His glory in heaven, the glory that He had even before the foundation of the world. What a glorious glory it will be! That's where Jesus desires all His disciples to be. Jesus addressed His Father as righteous. God is righteous and

holy. Jesus' final words and wish is that His disciples would experience within the fellowship of believers the same love that the Father and His Son had.

Jesus Agonized in the Garden of Gethsemane:

Luke 22:39-46, Matthew 26:30, 36-46, Mark 14:26, 32-42, John 18:1

The time has come. There was no letting up. If the kingdom of God was to be set up, then the spiritual struggle with the powers of darkness had to be fought. The sooner it was fought, the better.

Jesus led His disciples to a garden which was called Gethsemane. They entered it. Jesus chose a certain spot and told His disciples to remain there and pray. His reason for telling them to pray was that they might not "enter into temptation." The principalities and powers of darkness would unite to frustrate the will of God, if possible, from being done. The temptation was that they would avoid facing the battle, to give in, to run away, to fail to do the will of God.

Jesus picked Peter, James and John and went a short distance away from the rest. He then knelt down to pray. The battle and its outcome would depend on Him. If He failed, all would be lost forever. But if He triumphed, He would secure permanent and complete victory. He told the disciples that He was exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death. The agony was very great. He told them to watch and pray.

Jesus prayed sincerely that if it be possible, "the hour might pass from Him." If God be willing, He prayed for "this cup" to be

removed from Him. Jesus immediately said that "nevertheless not My will, but Thine be done." Jesus did not dread the physical pain that He would shortly have to endure. It would be excruciatingly painful. But "this cup" which Jesus asked to be removed was not just His physical suffering on the cross. That would be confined to His human nature. The "cup" Jesus was referring to was that He was to be made sin. For One who knew no sin and to be made sin was agony and painful. He did this that we might be made the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). If there was another way, He asked the Father to remove this "cup". If there was no other way, then He was willing and prepared to submit to the will of the Father and drink of that "cup."

He submitted to the will of the Father. An angel even appeared and strengthened Him. Jesus prayed more earnestly and His sweat was like "great drops of blood falling down to the ground." Jesus then came to His disciples and He saw that they were asleep. Jesus gently chided them for He said that the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. On the third time, when the party that came to arrest Him had arrived, He woke the disciples up.

Jesus Was Betrayed by Judas and Arrested:

Matthew 26:47-56, Mark 14:43-52, Luke 22:47-53, John 18:2-12

Judas knew where to find Jesus. Jesus had oftentimes gone to this place with His disciples. When Jesus was calling His disciples to wake up, Judas

arrived at the scene with a great crowd of people carrying swords and staves, lanterns and torches and weapons. He had come with a band of men and officers who were sent by the chief priests. Included in the crowd were the Pharisees and the scribes, and elders of the people. Jesus did not run away to escape them. Instead He did the very opposite. He went forward and confronted them and identified Himself. Judas was seen in the company of the crowd who came to take Jesus.

When Jesus identified Himself and said, "I am He," the arresting party fell backwards to the ground! Jesus pronounced the name of God – "I AM that I AM." Judas then went to Jesus and kissed Him because he had previously arranged with the religious authorities that he would point Jesus to them with a kiss. This is devious and diabolical. A kiss in the eyes of others is an outward gesture of affection. But Judas used it to carry out his heinous plan.

When Peter took his sword and cut off the ear of a servant of the high priest, whose name was Malchus, Jesus instead touched his ear and healed him! Jesus told Peter to withdraw the sword into its sheath. Jesus mentioned that He could pray to His Father and He would send more than twelve legions of angels. A Roman legion of soldiers numbered 6,000. Twelve legions would be 72,000 angels. They could easily have defended Jesus from all opposition. One angel killed 185,000 Assyrian fighting men in Isaiah 37:36.

Jesus chided the chief priests, the temple captains, and the

elders for coming to arrest Him with swords and staves. He had been teaching daily in the Temple. They should have taken hold of Him then. However, Jesus commented that it was their hour and the power of darkness. This was done that the Scriptures might be fulfilled (Psalm 41:9). So for the moment they had their victory. They then took Jesus and bound Him, and led Him away. Then all His disciples forsook Him and fled. An interesting incident happened. A young man followed Jesus who had been taken. He had only a linen cloth covering his naked body. When the young men of the arresting party caught hold of him, his linen garment was taken away from him, and he fled naked! Only Mark recorded this incident. It is commonly believed that the young man was Mark himself.

PRACTICAL VALUE

Our Lord Jesus Christ's forewarning of the hatred of the world towards His disciples is comforting and encouraging to us Christians. We should not be taken by surprised when we are persecuted or even killed for the sake of Christ. These things are to be expected by the followers of Jesus Christ. The Lord tells us that we have the victory in Him.

The promise of the Holy Spirit is "expedient" for all His disciples as our Lord says. The expediency is not merely an advantageous benefit in itself. The Holy Spirit is a person who indwells in every Christian. His indwelling is the guarantee that a believer is saved (Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13). He gives light to us to understand wondrous truths from the Word of

God. So when we faithfully and diligently study the Word, He is there to guide our understanding. Let us not pass Him over but rather always seek His leading and guidance. There is no other person that is closer to us than the Holy Spirit, and there is no power that is greater than His power. It is to our own loss and foolishness if we do not have a vital and vibrant relationship with Him.

One of the assurances that our Lord Jesus gives to His disciples is that of answered prayers. He promises that if we pray and ask the Father in His name, God will give it to us. We are exhorted to pray. But we must caution ourselves that our Lord does not give a blank check in which we may write anything we want which may not be in accordance with His will. To pray in His name means to pray in a manner that is pleasing and right in His eyes; to pray in His revealed will. Let us therefore pray without ceasing with proper understanding and wisdom.

Furthermore, we learn that our Lord Jesus Christ intercedes for us before the Father in heaven. What a joy! He knows our weaknesses for He Himself was tempted and tested as we are. That is a wonderful truth and assurance that we are protected and provided for in our sojourn on earth.

The prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ teaches how we ought to pray for one another. List the things that He prays for His disciples and others. If we learn from Him, our prayers would be more in the will of God. How often we pray and ask for things that are mundane and worldly instead of things that are meaningful and spiritual. Not only are the things

that we pray for important, but also how we pray. Our Lord Jesus agonized in prayer. He prays earnestly, fervently, and intensely with all His being. We are taught that the effectual and fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; pray in His will; pray fervently and intensely.

Finally, let us not be like Judas Iscariot. He betrayed the Lord Jesus Christ with a kiss. This is diabolical. A kiss planted on the cheek of a person in full view of others is a gesture of affection and love. Yet Judas uses it to hide his real evil intent and greed. There are many such people in the world who wear a mask that hides their real evil intentions. Sadly, such people are also found in the churches today. Some are soon detected and dealt with. A few manage to succeed in deceiving others and gain the admiration and loyalty of the brethren. Be watchful and beware of such men who appear as angels of light but they are really selfish, and wicked. These are false Christians. They flatter you in public but they kill you in private. When it is time and they have the upper hand, they will also kill you in public. AMEN

DHW BIBLE CLASS

LESSON 37

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

**DAILY READING & DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS**

Daily Readings

MONDAY: John 16:1-15

TUESDAY: John 16:16-33

WEDNESDAY: John 17:1-26

THURSDAY: Luke 22:39-46,
Matthew 26:30, 36-46,
Mark 14:26, 32-42, John 18:1

FRIDAY: Matthew 26:47-56, Mark
14:43-52, Luke 22:47-53, John
18:2-12.

Discussion Questions

1. In what way would Jesus be said to be sending the Holy Spirit since the Holy Spirit is also omnipresence like Christ?

2. What did Jesus mean by His words: "a little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me"? How did Jesus

prepare His disciples for what they must pass through?

3. In what two opposing spheres would the disciples live? What was to be the ground of their courage and confidence?

4. Are all the prayers of Jesus Christ always answered? Explain your answer.

5. What evidence of our Lord's deep love for us is given by His petitions, especially in verses 22-26?

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6. What is the meaning of this “cup” that Jesus asked to be taken away from him if possible? Could it be his suffering as mentioned in the notes or his premature death (cf. Heb. 5:7-8)?

7. If Jesus had prayed for his cross to be taken away then can we say that He had second thoughts about dying for us ?

8. What lessons can we learn from our Lord Jesus and the disciples handling of the situation of His betrayal and arrest?
