

Brentwood Bible Fellowship
Reading thru the New Testament
2017

Week 44

John 11-15

Key Verses:

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35

NAS Version

October 30 – November 5

Monday John 11 – The death and resurrection of Lazarus

Tuesday John 12 – Mary anoints Jesus; The Triumphal entry

Wednesday John 13 – The Passover celebrated; Washing the disciples feet

Thursday John 14 – Jesus is the only way; The coming of the Holy Spirit is foretold

Friday John 15 – Jesus is the true vine, we are the branches

Saturday – Review

Sunday – Review

Questions and comments concerning the daily readings

John 11-15

Week Forty-Four

John 11

1. John 11:1-3 The event of Mary anointing Jesus feet is found in John 12. There must have been a very special relationship between Martha, Mary, Lazarus and Jesus. The sisters felt secure in the fact that if they let Jesus know that Lazarus, whom it says Jesus loved, was sick, he would leave what he was doing and come to heal him. They also apparently had such faith, that they believed Jesus would be able to heal Lazarus.
2. John 11:4-6 The section of our story seems strange when we first read it. Jesus loved Martha, Mary and Lazarus. He said Lazarus's sickness would not end in death, but instead of going to the family, he remained where he was for two more days. Why didn't He leave immediately to minister to Lazarus's needs?
3. John 11:7-10 After a two day delay, Jesus was ready to return to Judea to minister to Lazarus. Notice, if there was a ministry to be accomplished, Jesus did not fear those who were his enemies. Sometimes, we allow our fears to keep us from accomplishing the work that God has for us to do. It is important that we do the work and trust God to take care of us while we are about doing His will.
4. John 11:11-14 Jesus said Lazarus had fallen asleep and He had to go wake him up. Jesus of course spoke of Lazarus's death. The disciples took Him literally and thought if Lazarus was asleep then surely, he would wake up naturally. Jesus clarified for them that Lazarus had died.
5. John 11:15 According to John 20:30-31, why did Jesus perform the miracles? According to this verse, why was Jesus going to raise Lazarus from the dead?
6. John 11:16 According to this verse, what was Thomas willing to do with and for Jesus? This is the same disciple that is known as doubting Thomas. Maybe we should give Thomas a new nickname, like faithful, or brave Thomas.
7. John 11:17-19 How long did Jesus delay in leaving to go to Judea? How long had Lazarus been dead when He arrived? You do the math, but it does not appear to me that Lazarus would have been alive when Jesus arrived, even if He had left as soon as He heard that Lazarus was sick.

Many Jews had come from Jerusalem to mourn with Martha and Mary. The news of the miracle which Jesus was about to perform would spread quickly and through many witnesses who could confirm that Lazarus, who had died, was now alive. The news would be that Jesus had given life to one who had died. Only God can give life. What did that say about Jesus?

8. John 11:20-27 Jesus and Martha

- Martha seemed to be more self-confident than Mary. When she heard that Jesus had arrived, she did not wait for him to come to her, but she went out to meet Him. I Like Martha.
- Martha seemed to chastise Jesus for not coming sooner. She believed He could have healed Lazarus, but it does not seem that she was so sure that He could raise him from the dead. She did say that if He asked the Father that the Father could do anything Jesus asked Him to do. She apparently had the mental understanding that nothing is impossible with God, though she may have not had the practical faith to believe that He would raise Lazarus.
- Verse 23-24. Jesus told Martha that Lazarus would rise again. She responded with a good theological answer; Yes, he would rise on the resurrection day with the rest of those who had died believing in Jesus.
- Verse 25-26 Jesus calls Martha's faith into question. Explain verses 25-26 in your own words. Do you believe this?
- Verse 27 Martha confirms her faith in Christ. If asked, how would you describe your relationship to Jesus?

9. John 11:28-29 Note the quick response of Mary when she heard that Jesus had arrived. Should we not respond as quickly to His call?

10. John 11:30-32 Mary, like Martha, had a faith which said Jesus could heal those who were sick. It does not appear that they had a faith that He could or would raise Lazarus now that he had died. That is, not until the final resurrection.

11. John 11:33-37 Jesus saw their pain. He saw their sorrow. In verse 35 it says, "Jesus wept." Why do you think Jesus wept if He already knew He would shortly raise Lazarus from the dead?

12. John 11:38-40 Jesus said to remove the stone. Martha questioned the wisdom of his command since her brother had already been dead for four days and the body would be undergoing decay. Explain Jesus' response in verse 40.
13. John 11:41-42 Jesus prayed. He worked according to the Father's will, by the power of the Holy Spirit. He knew that God always heard and responded to His prayer. What motive did Jesus have for this prayer, that is, besides the raising of Lazarus from the dead?
14. John 11:43-44 Jesus called Lazarus forth and he came out of the tomb, still wrapped in the grave clothes. It has been said that due to God's power over death, that if Jesus had not called Lazarus by name but had simply said "Come forth" all of the dead would have risen at that time. God has that power and will one day bring all of those who have died, the saved to eternal bliss and the unsaved to eternal punishment, from their graves. That is for a future time. But yes, God does have that power over death. I look forward to that day, and if you are a believer today, so should you.
15. John 11:45-46. The Jews who saw Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead responded in two different ways. The first believed in Jesus. The second went to share what had taken place with the Pharisees. Why do you think they went to tell the Pharisees what had taken place?
16. John 11:47-48 What was the concern of the chief priests and the Pharisees? What did they believe about Jesus?
17. John 11:49-53 What prophecy did Caiaphas make concerning Jesus?
18. John 11:54-57 The scene is set for the final confrontation between Jesus and the Jewish leaders. It was all coming about according to the Father's plan.

John 12

1. John 12:1-2 Lazarus is at the table with Jesus and the other men. Martha, as seems normal, is serving. Where is Mary?
2. John 12:3-6 Mary took her most prized, most expensive possession, a bottle of pure nard/perfume, worth about 11 months of wages, and poured it on Jesus feet as He reclined at the table. They would normally recline at the table with their feet trailing out behind them. She came up behind Jesus to anoint his feet. Then she wiped them with her hair. We see the humility and open worship of Mary in her adoration of Jesus. The washing of someone's feet was normally the

role of a servant. Mary washed His feet with an expensive bottle of perfume. How extravagant was that! Then she dried his feet with her hair. A Jewish woman would never go out in public with her head uncovered. Mary did not care what the others thought about her at that moment, only Jesus. This was the case of extravagant, expensive worship. What might I give? What might you give to Jesus to show your love for Him?

What was Judas' problem with Mary's act of worship?

3. John 12:7-8 Explain Jesus response to Judas. What does that explain to us about the importance and value of worship?
4. John 12:9-11 Why were the Jews believing in Jesus? Why were the chief priests seeking to put both Jesus and Lazarus to death? What do you think was the true motivation of the chief priests to want to put Jesus to death?
5. John 12:12-15 Note the adoration of the crowd for Jesus as He entered Jerusalem. All this was foretold in the Old Testament. A King riding in on a donkey was an evidence of a King of peace. If the King rode in on a horse, it was the evidence of a victorious king.
6. John 12:16-19 The entry of Jesus must have been an amazing event. When Jesus went from Bethany to Jerusalem a huge crowd of people gathered around Him to escort him into the city. There were those who had been in Bethany when Jesus had called Lazarus forth from the tomb. (v. 17) There were those from Jerusalem who had heard of the resurrection of Lazarus who came out to meet him. (v. 18) They were proclaiming Him King. (v. 13-14) The Pharisees were frustrated. (v. 19) They said the whole world has gone after Him and to them it must have seemed that way. Do not forget how quickly the tide of public opinion can turn. Within the week Jesus would be crucified. The amazing thing is that all of this was working according to the pre-ordained plan of God.
7. John 12:20-22 Greeks came wanting to meet Jesus. They came to Philip. Why Philip? Some believe it was because Philip was from Bethsaida, a town mixed with both Greek and Jewish inhabitants. Also, we are told that Philip is a Greek name, not Jewish. They may have felt more comfortable with Philip than the other disciples. Philip apparently was not sure what to do, so he went to his friend Andrew. Andrew and Philip come together to tell Jesus. The news, good news of Jesus, was spreading to the gentile world even prior to his crucifixion and resurrection.

If you are like Philip and the opportunity comes to share Jesus with someone else and you are not sure what to say, do not hesitate to find a friend to help you share effectively.

8. John 12:23-26 What did Jesus mean when He said it was the hour when the son of man was to be glorified? What do you think the introduction of the Greeks had to do with His statement?

Explain the meaning in verse 24 of a grain of wheat falling to the earth and dying before it can bear much fruit. How does the meaning of verse 24 relate to verse 25 where Jesus spoke of the necessity of hating one's life in this world in order to gain eternal life?

Explain the meaning of verse 26 as you understand it. What does it mean to serve Jesus? Is this important? What does it mean to follow Jesus? How will the Father honor that person who both follows and serves Jesus? What does it mean to be where Jesus is?

9. John 12:27-28 According to this passage, what did Jesus say was the primary purpose for Him to come into the world? What was the Father's response to Jesus?
10. John 12:29-33 Who did Jesus allude to when He said the ruler of this world must be cast out? When He said that if He was lifted up from the earth, He would draw ALL men to Himself, what was He talking about? What judgement was about to come upon the world?
11. John 12:34-43 What was the confusion in the crowd according to verse 34? Why do you think they were confused? What was the answer Jesus shared with them in verses 35-36? Do you think that Jesus' answer helped the crowd to understand who He was and what He would do? Why or why not? Why did the believing rulers fail to confess Jesus? Is this a problem for people who may believe even today? (V. 43)
12. John 12:44-50 Jesus capsulated His public message in this passage. What happened if they believed in Jesus, who had come as the light of the world? What will happen to the person who does not believe/receive Jesus? Who did Jesus represent while He was in the world?

John 13 The beginning of the Passover Meal

1. John 13:1-3 As Jesus and His disciples came to share the Passover meal, what does it say Jesus was already aware of? Do you think it might have been difficult to share this meal with His disciples knowing what He did? Why?
2. John 13:4-11 The custom was that as guests would come off of the dirty street, a servant would wash their feet. It was a lowly task, and yet this was the task which Jesus took upon Himself. He, the Rabbi, the master, took the place of a servant. In all probability, no one else wanted to demean himself by washing the feet of his fellow disciples. Jesus set the example for us when He became the servant of His followers.

Verse 6-11 When Jesus came to Peter, though he had not rushed to wash the feet of the others, it was unthinkable to him that Jesus, his Lord, should wash his feet. Though Peter at first refused to have Jesus wash his feet when Jesus said, If I do not wash your feet, you have no part of me, then Peter said, Lord, not just my feet, but wash all the rest of me as well. Jesus said, if you have been washed clean, then you only need for your feet to be washed. What is the significance of being totally washed and then just needing to have your feet washed?

How do you think Jesus felt when He washed Judas's feet, knowing that within a few hours Judas would betray Him to the Jewish leaders?

What example do we find here for how we are to serve one another? What example did Jesus give us for those who might speak evil of us or betray us?

3. John 13:12-20 What example did Jesus, the teacher and Lord/master say that He set for His disciples according to this passage. How should His example be worked out in the local church today?
4. John 13:21-26 Jesus foretells that one of His own disciples would betray Him. That must have been difficult for everyone in the room. In verse 23, the one who they said Jesus loved, who was reclining on His bosom, was John, the author of this gospel. In reality, all but John ran and left him alone at his trial and crucifixion. Before we become too judgmental, don't we do the same thing when we are silent instead of sharing our faith when the opportunity arises? Evangelist, Bill Faye, calls this the sin of silence.
5. John 13:27-30 Judas departs in order to betray Jesus, his best friend. Notice the involvement of Satan in Judas's action. This goes back to the prophecy in Genesis 3:15 when God prophesied that Satan, the Serpent, would bruise Christ's heel and that Christ would bruise his head.

6. John 13:31-33 Jesus spoke of His glory, God being glorified in Him and His departure. As with the Jews, Jesus explained that His disciples could not come with Him. Where was He going that they could not follow Him at that time?
7. John 13:34-35 Explain the New Commandment which Christ gave to His disciples. What did Jesus say would be the evidence that we are His disciples? How is that lived out in a practical manner?
8. John 13:36-38 This must have been a very difficult time for the eleven who were with Jesus. Of course they wanted to go with Him. Why couldn't they go with him? Peter very sincerely said he would be willing to die for Jesus. When they went to Bethany because Lazarus was sick, Thomas had said He was willing to die with Him. Now Jesus said that they could not come with Him. Instead of dying for Jesus, Jesus told Peter that he, Peter, would deny Jesus three times before the rooster crowed in the morning. How difficult and how confusing this message must have been for those with Jesus.

John 14

1. John 14:1-6 Jesus consoles His disciples by sharing what is waiting for them in the future.

The disciples are not to be anxious about what Jesus has just shared with them. They put their faith in the Father, they can put their faith in Him as well.

- Jesus is going to prepare a place for them in His Father's house.
- Jesus promises to come back and take them to His Father's house to be with Him. Their separation is not to be permanent.
- They know the way because they know Him. He alone is the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father and Heaven except through Him.

Is there any other way to God and Heaven than through Jesus Christ? Is this a difficult statement for many people to hear? Why?

2. John 14:7-11 What did Jesus say concerning His relationship to the Father? What does it say that we can know about God the Father? What do verses 10-11 tell us of the unity of the Father and the Son (Jesus)?
3. John 14:11-12 Jesus said that those who believe in Him will do greater works than He has done. What works is Jesus talking about? How can the works which we, His followers do that are greater than the works which He accomplished?

4. John 14:13-14 What did Jesus promise concerning our prayers? What is the condition for answered prayer? What does Jesus say is the purpose for answered prayer? Is this in agreement with what you believe or expect when you pray?
5. John 14:15 How can we know that we love Jesus? When is it evident that we do not love Jesus? Based on this verse, if someone asked your best friend or a co-worker if you loved Jesus, what do you think they would say? Why?
6. John 14:16-17 Jesus tells his disciples that when He leaves, He will not leave them alone. He will ask the Father to send them another helper, comforter. This Helper will never leave them. He will be with them forever. This helper, whom the disciples were to receive was the Holy Spirit. Why couldn't the world receive the Holy Spirit?
7. John 14:18-20 What is the promise that Jesus makes in these verses?
8. John 14:21-24 Once again, how does Jesus say that we can know if we love Him or not? Do you love Jesus? How do you know? What does Jesus promise to those who love Him?
9. John 14:25-26 What will be the benefit of having the Holy Spirit? Notice the involvement of the entire Trinity at this time. The Holy Spirit will be sent by the Father in the name of the Son.
10. John 14:27 It was a trying time for the disciples. It would get worse before it would get better, and yet Jesus promised them a peace greater than any peace they could ever receive from the world. That peace is offered to each of us as well.
11. John 14:28-31 Who is the ruler of this world? How does Jesus display His love for the Father? How are we to display our love for Jesus? Who is our example for how we are to live?

John 15

1. John 15:1-6 Jesus compares our relationship to Him with that of a grape vine and the branches. The Father in this illustration is the vinedresser.

Jesus said every branch that is in Him that does not bear fruit, the vinedresser takes away. The word takes away may also mean, from the Greek to take up or lift up. Every branch that is bearing fruit, He prunes so that it will bear more fruit. What is God's will for each of us who are in Christ? What will happen if we are not accomplishing what God expects of us?

What does Jesus say will be true of us in verse 5 if we are in a right relationship with Him? What is the fruit Jesus is speaking of?

2. John 15:7-11 As you read verse 7, ask yourself, what is the context for this verse? What would the prayer request be for in verse 7? How is the Father glorified according to verse 8? How do you think that relates to our prayer requests in verse 7? How might our joy be made full or complete according to verses 9-11?
3. John 15:12-17 According to verse 12 and 17, what is Jesus' desire for each of us? What is the greatest demonstration of love that one person might show for another? (Verse 13) If God does not ask you to give up your life for a Christian brother or sister, what are some practical ways you can demonstrate your love for other believers within the church? This is rubber meets the road Christianity. It is also what God expects of us. Explain verse 16 as it pertains to you personally.
4. John 15:18-25 Who or what is the world which Christ mentioned in this passage. What should we expect from the world? Why? Are we, as believers, part of the world? If not, why not? How did we escape the world? How did the coming of Jesus change those who are in the world? How is it that before He came they did not have sin, but since He came they now have sin? So, should we be surprised when we take a stand for some Biblical cause and the world becomes antagonistic toward us. Can you name any instance of this happening that you know of? Can we as Christians be swayed to follow the standards of the world, rather than the standards of the Word?
5. John 15:26-27 Who will testify on behalf of Jesus once He has gone into Heaven?
Two witnesses!