

Why John 13-17 Is So Important In This Hour of History

- I. JESUS WILL RESCUE HIS BELOVED PEOPLE FROM BEING LUKEWARM (REV. 3:18-20)**
- A. Jesus promised the church of Laodicea deep fellowship with Him. He required that they repent of being lukewarm and promised to give them spiritual gold and food in dining with them (Rev. 3:20).
¹⁶“...you are lukewarm...¹⁸I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire...¹⁹...be zealous and repent. ²⁰I stand at the door and knock. If anyone...opens the door, I will...dine with him... (Rev. 3:16-20)
- B. ***Buy from Me gold:*** We repent to “buy spiritual gold,” that is, to engage in the God-ordained process of acquiring a deep relationship with God as highlighted in John 13-17. In “buying” gold, we do not “earn” it, but we invest ourselves in a costly way to position ourselves to receive “gold.” Isaiah called us “to buy spiritual food” by listening and talking (coming to Him in conversation).
¹“Everyone who thirsts...come, buy wine and milk without money ²...Listen carefully to Me... let your soul delight in abundance. ³Incline your ear, and come to Me...” (Isa. 55:1-3)
- C. ***Dine with him:*** To eat here speaks of deep fellowship with the Spirit who teaches and tenderizes us. The teaching in John 13-17 followed the physical meal the disciples shared with Jesus in John 13. Thus, we eat spiritual food—the truths, promises, and commands that He highlighted in John 13-17.
- D. On March 3, 2021, I had a vision of ***a door opened to a room that was filled with golden light***. I had been praying for grace to open the door of my heart and of our spiritual family more widely to Jesus and to “dine with Him” (Rev. 3:20). His message in this vision was, “*As My people open the door of their heart to Me, then I will open the door of My glory for them*” (Rev. 4:1). God’s people will encounter His glory by engaging in the Trinitarian conversation as highlighted in John 13-17.
- E. I want to alert people to the significance of the ***Upper Room Discourse*** (Jn. 13-17). One of its primary themes is to give God’s people insight into how the Father, Son, and Spirit relate to one another as the ***model and source*** of how the redeemed are to relate to God and one another. It defines what it means to walk as overcomers who enjoy the end-time miracle of unity (Jn. 17).
- F. Throughout church history the subject of the Trinity has been a theological debate seemingly reserved for scholars. But before Jesus returns, the Spirit will highlight the glorious reality of our participation and conversation with the Trinity as one primary emphasis in the body of Christ.
- G. John 13-17 is the greatest teaching given by the greatest teacher in history! My guess is that less than 1% of all the believers throughout church history have engaged with these 5 chapters in a deep and sustained way. In my opinion, it is not possible that Jesus would allow His deepest teaching to be engaged by so few. Thus, I believe that many millions in the end-time Church will engage in it.
- H. John 13-17 is a long neglected “gold mine” in God’s kingdom. Let’s go on a treasure hunt together. John 13-17 is a premier place in Scripture to drink from “the river of His pleasure” (Ps. 36:8). We drink from the river of God’s pleasure as “*God reveals God to the human heart.*”
⁸They are abundantly satisfied... You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. (Ps. 36:8)

II. WHY IS JOHN 13-17 SO IMPORTANT TO THE END-TIME CHURCH?

- A. Millions of believers will be equipped by the truths, promises, commands, and warnings set forth in these 5 chapters to be overcomers walking together as Jesus' prepared Bride (Rev. 19:7) in context to the most intense persecutions, temptations, betrayals, and difficulties in history (Mt. 24:21). The truths in John 13-17 define the way of the heart of the overcoming Bride in the end times.
- B. Believers in the end-time Church will face similar pressures including being betrayed, overcoming personal failures (lukewarmness), social conflicts, enduring persecution, etc. His people will be faithful and fearless in the face of death by being lovesick for Jesus and filled with Trinitarian joy.
- C. The multifaceted message that Jesus taught in John 13-17 will equip His disciples to walk in joy and peace (15:11; 16:33) and not stumble or fall away (16:1) in the face of great pressures
¹¹**"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you..."** (Jn. 15:11)
¹**"These things I have spoken to you, that you should not...stumble [fall away ESV]."** (Jn. 16:1)
- D. Jesus spoke truths to His young leadership team to prepare them to thrive spiritually in the face of a multi-faceted crisis coming to them—similar pressures will be experienced in the end-time Church.
- E. As we abide in (talk to) Jesus and as His words abide (live) in our mind and heart, we are equipped to engage more in the Trinitarian conversation and positioned to see more of our prayers answered.
⁷**If you abide in [talk to] Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.** ⁸**By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit...** (Jn. 15:7-8)
- F. His truths in John 13-17 will live in our heart as we **thank God** for them and **ask for more insight** into them. As we do this, we posture ourselves to receive more. We can speak with God regularly in short conversations—sometimes only 10 to 20 seconds, or 2 to 3 minutes, etc. What He thinks, feels, and says gradually fills our hearts. Simple phrases spoken to God impact our emotions.
¹**O Israel, return to the LORD...** ²**Take words with you, and return to the LORD.** (Hos. 14:1-2)
- G. In Deuteronomy 30, Moses taught that the command to love and obey God was not *too mysterious* (too hard to understand), nor was not it *far off* (outside their ability), nor did they need to *ascend to heaven* (have a heavenly encounter), nor *go overseas* (to receive it at a revival center) to do it. His point is that the power to love God is so near us—**in our mouths** (30:14)—by speaking to God.
⁶**The LORD will circumcise your heart...to love the LORD your God with all your heart...**
¹¹**This commandment...is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off.** ¹²**It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us...?"** ¹³**Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us...?"**
¹⁴**The word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart that you may do it.** (Deut. 30:6-14)
⁶**The righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'"**...⁸**The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart**" (that is, the **word of faith which we preach**)...¹⁰**For with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.** (Rom. 10:6-10)