

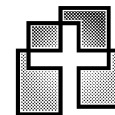
The Gospel of John



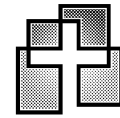
Notes From the Podium

These notes are intended to augment your own reading and study of the lesson. Please use as an aid to help you incorporate the main message of the lesson into your lecture.

- I. First Approach – What is happening in this moment of the text?
 - a. The Last Supper discourse continues.
 - i. Prior to this point Judas Iscariot had dismissed himself at Jesus' request for him to do quickly what he is going to do (betray Him).
 - ii. Also prior to this point Peter protested that he would go anywhere Jesus would lead, even unto death.
 1. Jesus responds, prophesying Peter's three-fold denial.
 - iii. Now Jesus continues exhorting them all not to let their hearts be troubled. v1
 1. He refers to His Father's house having many rooms and that He will go to prepare a place for them that they might follow for they, in fact, know the way to where it is that He is going.
 2. Thomas protests that they do *not* know the way.
 - a. Jesus responds, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me." v6
 - b. To know Jesus is to know the Father.
 3. Philip asks to see the Father. v8
 - a. Jesus responds, almost frustratingly, that He is in the Father and the Father is in Him.
 - b. He exhorts them to believe in Him, and if not in Him then in His works.
 4. He explains that because He is going to the Father that anyone who believes in Him and makes a request in His name, He will do it that the Father may be glorified.
 5. He exhorts them to keep the commandments.
 6. He will petition the Father and the Father will respond by sending His Spirit to remain with them.
 - a. The world will not receive the Holy Spirit because it does not know the Holy Spirit.
 - b. However, they (the apostles) will receive the Holy Spirit because they know Him, He already dwells with them (presumably from Jesus' divine presence) and soon the Holy Spirit will dwell *in* them. V17
 7. Jesus promises He will not leave them desolate.
 - a. Although the world soon will no longer see Him, they will.
 - b. Furthermore, in the future they will live because of Him and they will know for certain that He is in the Father.



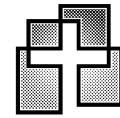
- i. Jesus is presenting Himself as the link between the disciples and the Father.
 - ii. The Father and Jesus are in each other. When the disciples keep His word (commandments) they are in Him and He in them. Therefore, Jesus is the link/bridge between the disciples and the Father.
 - iv. The Holy Spirit, soon to be sent by the Father in Jesus' name, will teach them all they will need to know and help them recall all that He is saying to them.
 - 1. He offers them His peace.
 - a. It is peace not of this world – a peace that does not ever have to be taken away.
 - 2. He exhorts them again not to let their hearts be troubled.
 - a. He explains that they should rejoice because He is going to the Father.
 - b. He explains why He is telling them in advance, so that when it happens they may believe.
 - v. He concludes by stating that He will no longer talk with them much because the ruler of this world is coming (Satan).
 - 1. Satan has no power over Him. Rather, He, the Father and the Spirit are in control.
 - 2. He briefly explains why all that will take place happens. Mainly, because He does as the Father wills - so that the world may know that He loves the Father.
 - 3. He concludes with a forward marching command, “rise, let us go hence.”
v31
- II. Second Approach – Pastoral Points: God gives us supernatural gifts/virtues of faith, hope and love. Here we see Jesus imply their necessity in the Christian life and how these virtues will be at work as we live in the Holy Spirit after He departs.
 - a. Hope
 - i. (Read Jn 14:1-4 aloud.) This passage demonstrates how the gift of faith is a springboard from which one leaps into the gift of hope. Jesus is teaching us about hope – before He leaves; before they face the darkness that lay ahead.
 - 1. In a sense, Jesus is saying that they will not survive what is about to take place without it.
 - a. The same applies to us now. None could survive the Christian challenge if it were not for the gift of hope.
 - b. It is not possible to live the Christian life without hope.
 - ii. Rather than begin with Jesus' words and attempt to abstract the truth of what He is saying, let us for the sake of clarity, do the reverse. Let us begin first by analyzing *our* experience of Christian hope and then apply it to what Jesus is saying at this moment in John's gospel.



Notes From the Podium (cont.)

Catholic Scripture Study

1. I normally would not advocate this order of analysis, however, I think I can put you in contact with your own experience of the supernatural gift of hope (to which Jesus is alluding) and then have you see it confirmed in what Jesus is saying here.
2. What is hope?
 - a. Let us consider the basics, there are many misconceptions. Hope is not wishful thinking. It is something more. It is supernatural.
 - b. There are three supernatural gifts (faith, *hope* & love)
 - i. Hope, therefore, is from God. It is divine in origin.
 - ii. This first came to my attention when I was a seminarian...a priest friend challenged me...this began a long (years' long) source of reflection.
 - c. I recall attending Mass at a religious house in Washington, D.C...
 - i. This priest was not saying Mass properly
 1. I was first moved to frustration and anger...
 2. I began to think of the future...all of us standing before God...this priest before God.
 - a. Via my faith, I imported the future into the present.
 - b. It became the lens/medium through which I now viewed the present.
 3. My reaction changed.
 - a. I was no longer angry.
 - b. I was moved to sorrow and desirous of helping.
 - c. I was moved to charity for the one who was transgressing.
 4. The Holy Father had recently come out with his published interview known as his book, "*Crossing the Threshold of Hope.*"
 - a. I instantly understood the title.
 - iii. Listen to Jesus in this Gospel passage.
 1. He implores them to believe...
 - a. "Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me" v11
 2. Based upon this faith, He imports the future...
 - a. "And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." v3
 3. Thus giving them the gift of hope necessary to all Christians, especially those apostles to whom He is now addressing.
 - a. They will need the gift of hope if they are to survive the trial that lay before them.



Notes From the Podium (cont.)

Catholic Scripture Study

- b. The peace He imparts at this moment (the calm before the storm) rests upon this gift of hope He is now giving them.
- b. Faith.
 - i. (Read Vs. 22-23 aloud.) Jesus is talking about loving Him when He is not there (for He is leaving). This means they must love Him when He will no longer be seen, that is, from the world's perspective. The man who loves Him must first believe in Him. Thus it is faith that will enable one to see that Jesus will have made His home with him and remains with him.
 - 1. Recall the Creed, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, all that is seen and **unseen**..."
 - 2. The eyes of faith enable us to see the invisible, the unseen.
 - a. Catholics deal with the invisible all the time.
 - i. Marriages/Annulments.
 - ii. Valid baptism formulas
 - b. This is part of the ordinary power of this extraordinary gift of faith – to see the unseen.
 - ii. Apply this power of faith (to see the unseen) to the arena of Christ's Presence and we can see Him.
 - 1. We see Him present in the Church as He guides and protects it.
 - 2. We see His enduring presence most especially in the Holy Eucharist.
 - a. (Read quote from Mother Theresa regarding adoration of the Blessed Sacrament) "I make a Holy hour each day in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. All my sisters of the Missionaries of Charity make a daily holy hour, as well, because we find that through our daily holy hour our love for Jesus becomes more intimate, our love for each other more understanding, and our love for the poor more compassionate..."
 - c. Love – lest you think love is neglected in this passage and that it speaks only about faith and hope, look again.
 - i. Peppered throughout this passage is love.
 - ii. Love is the origin of faith and hope. Love is the fulfillment of faith and hope.

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