



## The DAILY JESUS NEWS #287

### Thursday... Day of Instruction and Arrest: Jesus Delivers His “Farewell Discourse”

Jesus Is the Way to the Father, the Truth That Reveals Him, & the Life  
JN 14.1-11

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1 *“I command you to stop letting your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; I command you to also keep on believing in me.*

2 *“My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me, that you also may be where I, myself am.*

4 *“You know the way to the place where I am going.”*

5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

6 Jesus answered, *“I myself am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 Since you really come to know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have conclusively seen him.”*

8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

9 Jesus answered: *“Haven’t you come to know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has really seen me and understood me has seen the Father, too. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”*

10 *“Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak from myself. Rather, it is the Father, who is living in me, who is doing his work. 11 I Command you to keep on believing me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least continue to believe on the evidence of the works themselves.*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This “superscript ID” is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	An Upper Room in Jerusalem
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)

Jesus' Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	D. Thursday: Day of Instruction and Arrest
	Jesus Delivers His "Farewell Discourse"
Title	Jesus is the Way to the Father, the Truth that Reveals Him, and the Life

COMMENT:

In today's reading Jesus began his "Farewell Discourse," comprising JN 14-17. He had just finished his last supper with the apostles, in which he washed their feet, observed his final Passover, and instituted his own memorial "Lord's Supper." Now, he will share the most important truths of his entire ministry.

Jesus' teachings in the Farewell Discourse are of paramount importance for Jesus disciple's because they describe the kind of relationship which his disciples would be privileged to share with him after his death, resurrection and ascension back to his Father in heaven. They apply to all believers in the same way.

Up to this point his disciples had related to Jesus in flesh and blood. This kept him on the outside of them, in a relationship limited by space and time. However, Jesus would rise from the dead in a new kind of spiritual body, freed from the constraints of a physical body. Furthermore, after his ascension he and the Father would send the Holy Spirit to indwell every believer in Jesus. What had been a physical, outer relationship would change into a spiritual, indwelling relationship with him through his Spirit.

Jesus was preparing his disciples for this massive transition that would change everything about how they related to the same Jesus.

Furthermore, the "new" kind of relationship Jesus was explaining to his disciples would become the norm for everyone who believes in Jesus after Pentecost. That means you and me. Therefore, Jesus was thinking of all future believers like us when he spoke these priceless words to the apostles.

The Farewell Discourse is the bedrock teaching of Jesus on what it means to love, know, and follow him for people like us, who hear the gospel and believe in him after he returned to heaven.

A point of clarification. The apostles, and all the disciples who believed in Jesus during the earthly, flesh and blood period of his life were in a unique situation that will never be repeated in history. They experienced Jesus in two phases--first in a limited, outer, flesh and blood relationship during his earthly life, and then in a spiritual, indwelling, complete union with him from Pentecost forward.

The Post-Pentecost way of knowing Jesus was permanent, and the same as all other believers. The Pre-Pentecost way was temporary, transitional, and limited to those who knew Jesus in the flesh. It was all preparation for the Post-Pentecost way of knowing their Lord.

Jesus began the teaching by commanding his disciples to believe in him in the same way they had always believed in YHWH. He did this because Jesus IS YHWH as a member of the Trinity. The degree to which Jesus was totally one with his Father as a fellow-Trinitarian Being was still not clear to the apostles. It would take the resurrection and time under the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit before they could take it in. However, Jesus commanded them to believe in his total oneness with the Father in these verses because it was the truth, and essential to the nature of the God they had always believed in.

The Trinity is not an optional doctrine for Christians. It is the foundational truth of our faith that makes us unique. This is true because the Trinity was not an optional concept for Jesus and the Father. It was and is the eternal reality of their indivisible, uncreated Being as God. It is the first Word of the gospel: *"In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God (the Father), and Word was God."*

#### APPLICATION:

The amazing thing about the Farewell Discourse is that it describes a better relationship with Jesus through the Spirit, after his ascension, than the disciples experienced with him in the flesh!

As much as you and I might long to travel back in time to the days of Jesus' earthly ministry, and witness what the apostles did, both He and they would say: *"What you have now is better."* The apostles themselves did not want to go back to the "old" times. It is much better to have Jesus living within us by his Spirit than to only know him according to the flesh. We are blessed indeed.

*How many truths about the relationship between the Father and Son can you find in today's text? Try making a list.*

*How many truths about Jesus' relationship with us can you find in this text?*

*Which one of these is most important to you? How can you share it with others?*