

Gospels Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Nine: The Olivet and Upper Room Discourses – Matthew 24-26, John 13-14

Read Matthew 24.

- 1) What surprising announcement did Jesus make (verses 1-2) and what two questions did His disciples ask in response?

- 2) How did Jesus answer these questions (give as much information as you can from Matthew 24)?

- 3) Reread Matthew 24:3, 32-33, 42-44. How much effort have you put into understanding the signs of Christ's second coming and the end of the age? If you think an adjustment needs to be made, what steps will you take to make such an adjustment?

Read Matthew 25.

- 4) What lessons can be gleaned from the parables and teaching in Matthew 25?

- 5) *Specifically*, what do you need to begin doing or do differently in case Jesus returns this year?

Read Matthew 26:1-35 (verses 6-13 parallel John 12:1-8, covered in Lesson 8).

- 6) How are the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Passover celebrations related and what is their significance (see Exodus 12:3-20 and Leviticus 23:4-8)?

- 7) Read Isaiah 53:7 with Luke 24:26-27, John 1:29, Acts 8:30-35, 1 Corinthians 5:7, 1 Peter 1:18-20, and Revelation 5:6-13, 7:9-10. What does the Bible teach about the ultimate fulfillment of the Passover symbolism?

- 8) Compare Matthew 26:18b and 26:26-29 with Jeremiah 31:31-33 and 1 Corinthians 11:25-26. What is the significance of the celebration of Communion (the “Lord’s Supper”) for the church of Christ today and how does it relate to the Passover?

Read John 13.

- 9) The apostle John is believed to be the only apostle who lived a long life, giving him much time to ponder the meaning of Jesus’ words and actions. Consider John 3:16, 12:24 13:34, 35 and 1 John 3:16 with Jesus’ washing of His disciples’ feet. Then read Matthew 20:26-28, Luke 22:24-27 and Philippians 2:5-7. Use all of these passages above to explain how greatness and service are related for those who have Christ-like thinking.

- 10)** John concludes his description of Judas' betrayal of Jesus with the words, "And it was night" (13:30b). Why would John have included such a detail (see John 3:19 and 11:9-10)?
- 11)** Peter emphatically declared that he would never deny Christ (Matthew 26:33 and John 13:37). Yet Jesus said that, before the rooster crowed, Peter would disown Him three times (John 13:38). Skim Matthew 26:69-75 to see the fulfillment of Jesus' prediction. Then read Acts 1:15; 2:14, 38; 3:1, 4; 4:13, and 5:15, 29, noting the leadership Peter displayed after Jesus' resurrection. With regard to which failure in your own life does this picture of Peter's later life encourage you?

Read John 14.

- 12)** What promise did Jesus make in John 14:3, 28 and Matthew 16:27 that is the foundation of a key Christian doctrine?
- 13)** Try to summarize Jesus' answer to the questions of Thomas, Philip, and Judas.
- 14)** In response to the questions of Thomas and Philip, Jesus gave two essential truths (doctrines).
- a)** What exclusive claim did Jesus make, according to John 14:6?
 - b)** What important claim did Jesus make with regard to His identity in John 14:9-11?
- 15)** Record the promises of Jesus in John 14. Which promise encourages you the most today and for what reason?