

'SPIRITUAL NIGHT VISION'
(Discipleship Level Christianity – Sensing HIS Presence in the Dark)
John Chapters 13-17

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” **2 Corinthians 5:7**

About fifteen hours before Jesus was crucified on the cross He met with His disciples one more time for fellowship at the Passover Seder supper. After the Passover meal, but before instituting the Lord's Supper (communion), Christ did something and said something that dramatically altered the spiritual atmosphere of that upper room. Before His surprise ending to the Passover Seder (order of dining) everything seemed normal, but something was wrong in the room that was bothering the Lord and suppressing the fullness of joy, fellowship, and blessing.

The apostle John writes about that night around 65 years later in chapter 13 of his gospel account. Following Jesus' subtle intervention, refreshment and revival changed the spiritual mood of the upper room. His final extensive talk (discourse) to 'the eleven' began in the upper room and continued along the way to the Garden of Gethsemane. Although the route from the house to Gethsemane is less than a mile, the evening walk got darker and darker, then descended deeper and deeper downward into the Kedron Valley, just below the Temple area.

This final teaching of Jesus is a graphic picture of the transition facing them following the Lord's departure; they must learn to trust totally in His Word and His invisible presence without any visual, physical evidence of touch or sight as in the past. In that brief time this walk in the dark took, Jesus heightened their spiritual sensitivity as He decreased their need for His audio-visual presence. Their final discipleship course of learning to '*walk by faith, not by sight*' was the Lord's way of preparing them to lean more on the Holy Spirit Who would be indwelling them after His physical departure back to heaven. This is the sign of a true disciple – the ability to hear His Word, sense His presence and lovingly obey God's will even in the darkest of times.

The Lord Jesus taught the disciples this discourse as the Old Testament era was ending and the New Testament age was dawning. In Jewish reckoning of time, a day begins in the dark at dusk and ends the next evening. The crucifixion of Jesus was the dusk-like ending of the OT period and the beginning of a new day of grace to be called the Church Age. The Church Age has been a long day of nearly 2,000 years now and as to be expected the evidences of dusk are foretelling the end of this day. The last days' dusk we now see (a spiritual, political, social, moral decline into darkness) will soon turn into a dark 7-year Tribulation Period called 'the Day of The Lord'. True disciples of Christ at the end of the day need to be as vigilant and adept at 'spiritual night vision' as those original 'upper room' disciples. Things are going to get much worse, not better, and serious Christians better put on their spiritual night vision and *walk by faith not by sight* while we await our imminent evacuation (the rapture) which will happen just before the darkness of the Tribulation Period begins (*1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, 5:4-11; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58*).

'The Light of the World' Brightens the Upper Room
(Creating A Healthy Environment for 'The Body of Christ' to Flourish)
John 13

'Jesus Washes Their Feet'

(Christ Insists on a Clean 'Walk' from Disciples)

“Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come, that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.” (1)

And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. (2-5)

“Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, “Lord, are You washing my feet?” Jesus answered and said to him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.” Peter said to Him, “You shall never wash my feet!” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you shall have no part with Me.” Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!” Jesus said to him, “He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you. For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, “You are not all clean.”” (6-11)

So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.” (12-17)

“I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.’ Now I tell you before it comes to pass, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am (He). Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him Who sent Me.” (18-20)

‘Jesus Detoxes The Fellowship’

(Christ Insists on Sanctified Disciples in Leadership)

“When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.” Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke. Now there was leaning on Jesus’ chest one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke. Then, leaning on Jesus’ chest, he said to Him, “Lord, who is it?” Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it.” And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.” But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. For some thought, because Judas had the moneybox, that Jesus had said to him, “Buy those things we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor. Having received the piece of bread, he went out immediately. And it was night.” (21-30)

‘Jesus Immunizes His Body’s Systems’

(Christ Insists That His ‘Body’ Feature Worship, Fellowship & Discipleship)

“So, when he had gone out Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in Him. If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately.” (31-32)

Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come,’ so now I say to you. A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (33-35)

“Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?” Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward.” Peter said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake.” Jesus answered him, “Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times.” (36-38)

God can accomplish some things in a Christian or a church congregation that is infected with the ‘Judas virus’ of hypocrisy, discord, greed and worldliness - but the Spirit of Christ is grieved and limited. Like a sick body can only partially function for a while, but doesn’t feel well, look well or live right, so the carnal believer who is infected with the ‘Judas virus’ is functioning at less than 100%. When the virus is evicted from a believer’s life or a ministry, spiritual health is revived with Spirit-filled worship, fellowship and discipleship flourishing again. Acts shows how the spiritual immune system of the early church fought off every attempt of the devil to infect Christ’s body with the ‘Judas virus’ (***Acts 4:13-37, 5:1-16, 6:1-7, etc.***). Beware of the ‘Judas virus’ of malcontent, hypocrisy and love for this world – Whenever you get infected ask Christ to detox it from you, so it won’t sicken your walk with Him or the body of Christ, His church. Confess, repent and get well soon!