***International Bible Study for Wednesday, July 22,* 2020**

**SUMMER QUARTER**

**MANY FACES OF WISDOM**

**491 057 9465**

**Unit II: Wisdom in the Gospels**

**Theme for the Week:** **Wisdom: The Way, Truth, and Life**

**July 20:**

**Proverbs 3:13-18: Wisdom, Source of Abundant Life**

**Questions**

**Verses 13-17 give the particular benefits of wisdom in its resulting in abundant and what that abundant life looks like.**

**It is described as The True Wealth:**

**13Happy are those who find wisdom,  
    and those who get understanding,  
14for her income is better than silver,  
    and her revenue better than gold.  
15She is more precious than jewels,  
    and nothing you desire can compare with her.  
16Long life is in her right hand;  
    in her left hand are riches and honor.  
17Her ways are ways of pleasantness,  
    and all her paths are peace.”**

**Reading this passage, discuss how what is described as riches compares with usual understandings of riches and wealth and what they result in for those who possess them. Does the writer include both spiritual riches and worldly wealth as coming from Wisdom’s provisions? How do you interpret what is described as being in the right hand of wisdom and in her left hand? Are pleasantness and peace the general experience of typically wealthy persons?**

**July 21:**

**John 5:19-24: Jesus Does What the Father Does**

**Questions:**

**Jesus delivers what is called a keynote address which results from the Jews’ taking offense at his healing of the paralytic in earlier verses of this chapter. Consider what the Bible Panorama comments say about this passage:**

**“V 15–18: PRESUMPTION The man tells the Jews that Jesus has healed him. Their wicked desire to kill Jesus, because He heals on the Sabbath, intensifies because He identifies with God the Father, making Himself equal with God, which they see as presumptuous blasphemy. V 19–30: POWER Jesus claims absolute identification and oneness with the Father in the works that He does, including raising the dead, exercising judgement and giving everlasting life. His power is the power of God, because that is who He is.”**

**Notice that unlike Mark’s “messianic secret,” in John’s Gospel from beginning to end Jesus is openly and adamant about His divinity and Messiahship, thereby angering the Jews more and more. Why do you suppose they become so infuriated with Him for these claims and accuse Him of blasphemy? How do Jesus’ claims go against their beliefs about the Messiah and God?**

**July 22**

**John 13;31-35: Love as I Loved You**

**Questions:**

**Notice Jesus’ words here describing His relationship with the Father, as well as his commandment to love one another as He has loved His followers? Contrary to the songs, Love has everything to do with it here!**

**“31When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32If God has been glorified in him,[**[**a**](about:blank#fen-NRSV-26652a)**] God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” 34I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.’**

**35By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’”**

**Why do you suppose that in this context, Jesus has switched the commandment from the usual one of “love your neighbor as yourself” to “love one another as I have loved you”?**

**July 23, 24, and 25:**

**John 14:15-17: Spirit of Truth Dwells in You**

**John 14:18-24: Love Binds Believers to God**

**John 14:25-31: Spirit of Wisdom Promised to All**

**Questions:**

**Consider Jesus’ mentioning the giving of the Holy Spirit at this point and the other parts of this discourse Jesus discusses privately with His disciples before His crucifixion, all considered Farewell Words, Upper Room Discourse. *The Asbury Bible Commentary* has an interesting commentary on these verses 14:15-31, which is our for three days this week, and we are grouping them together and considering this commentary: (We have listed the first scripture below—14:15-17):**

**“15 “If you love me, you will keep[**[**a**](about:blank#fen-NRSV-26673a)**] my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,[**[**b**](about:blank#fen-NRSV-26674b)**] to be with you forever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in[**[**c**](about:blank#fen-NRSV-26675c)**] you.”**

**The Commentary says:**

**“Loving Jesus and its result (**[**14:15-31**](about:blank)**)**

**Three times in what followed Jesus spoke of the reciprocal relationship between the believer and himself. Just as he loved the Father and was in turn loved by him, so there would be mutual love between him and the believer. Such love is not a matter of mere emotions, though emotion is not ruled out. Rather, true love is expressed in obedience. As Jesus loved the Father and obeyed him, so those who loved Jesus would in turn obey him. And, for the disciples, that separation from his physical presence that they so dreaded would be replaced by a deeper spiritual presence.**

**The first of the three statements of this theme was a declaration to the disciples that, if they loved him, they would obey his commandments (**[**v.15**](about:blank)**). He in turn would request the Father to send another Counselor, whose function would be to abide with them always (**[**vv.16-17**](about:blank)**; cf.** [**vv.25-26**](about:blank)**;** [**15:26-27**](about:blank)**;** [**16:5-15**](about:blank)**). Jesus was the first Counselor, but he would not stay forever, at least not bodily. Of that the disciples were poignantly aware on that fateful evening. Furthermore, the new Counselor would relate only to the disciples, because nonbelievers could have no cognizance of him. In addition, Jesus promised that their bereavement would not be permanent but would be replaced by a mutual indwelling of Father, Son, and [Holy Spirit] (**[**vv.18-20**](about:blank)**)…. All this is stated positively twice more (**[**vv.21-23**](about:blank)**) and negatively once more (**[**v.24**](about:blank)**).**

**In the second promise concerning the Counselor (**[**vv.25-26**](about:blank)**; cf.** [**vv.16-17**](about:blank)**), Jesus alluded to all he had taught while on earth, much of which the disciples had failed to understand (cf.** [**2:22**](about:blank)**;** [**12:16**](about:blank)**). But the Counselor, here expressly identified as the Holy Spirit, would make clear to them everything Jesus had taught them (cf.** [**16:13-14**](about:blank)**). Charles Wesley may have had this verse among others in mind when he wrote:**

**Spirit of faith, come down,**

**Reveal the things of God;**

**And make to us the Godhead known,**

**And witness with the blood.**

**The chapter ends as it began with Jesus comforting the disciples. He bequeathed to them a peace for their bereavement that was quite beyond anything earthly (**[**v.27**](about:blank)**). And he reminded them again that his departure was really a matter of rejoicing, because he was going to the Father (**[**vv.28-31**](about:blank)**).” Consider these last verses:**

**“25 ‘I have said these things to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Advocate,[i] the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. 28 You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. 29 And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. 30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; 31 but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.”**

**July 26:**

**John 14:1-14: Jesus, the Way to the Father**

**Questions:**

**Consider verses 1-7:**

**“14 ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe[**[**a**](about:blank#fen-NRSV-26659a)**] in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?[**[**b**](about:blank#fen-NRSV-26660b)**] 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going.’[**[**c**](about:blank#fen-NRSV-26662c)**] 5 Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ 6 Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you will know[**[**d**](about:blank#fen-NRSV-26665d)**] my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’”**

**Imagine yourself as one of the disciples with Jesus at the time. How would you have felt in hearing this discourse from Him? Would His words have consoled and comforted you?**