

Why is Jesus' Departure Good News?

Gospel of John, Part LI

John 14:8-21

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I. Preparing the Twelve

II. Show us the Father!

A. Philip's Request (8)

B. Jesus' Response (9-21)

1. Admonishment (9-11)

2. Instruction (12-21)

III. The Blessings of Jesus' Departure

A. Increased Gospel Power (12-14 cf. 5:19-27; 12:24, 31-32)

Jesus' departure is good news because it paved the way for the _____ expansion of the Gospel. When some Gentiles wanted to meet Him, Jesus declared, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain"* (12:24).

Jesus says that His departure will result in " works" done by His disciples. Unfortunately, we often associate these with more stupendous miracles. But there are works *even* _____ than such displays of power. So what are those?

¹⁹ Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

²⁰ For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. [So what are these "greater works"?) ²¹ For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

²² For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. ²⁴ "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." ²⁵ Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, ²⁷ and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
 - A. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)
 - B. The Son of God Rejected (5:1-12:36)
 - C. Conclusion (12:37-50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
 - A. Introduction: He knew His hour had come (13:1)
 - B. Jesus Prepares the Disciples for His Departure (13:2-17:26)
 - C. Jesus Departs this world to the Father (18:1-20:29)
 - D. Conclusion: Purpose of the Gospel (20:30-31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

Even greater than miraculous works is the _____ of sinners. Jesus' departure is good news because His death and resurrection have broken the power of death. Because Jesus rose from the dead, the Gospel is going forth and converting those who were dead in their trespasses and sins. *"Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself"* (12:31-32). Isn't that Good News?

B. Increased Relational Intimacy (15-21 cf. 3:16; 17:3; Rom 8:12-17; 1 Jn 2:4)

Jesus' departure is good news because it brings increased relational intimacy with God. Because Jesus has departed, He has poured out His _____ upon His people so that we might know God intimately and personally. *At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you* (14:20).

What is salvation? Consider John 3:16: *"God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life."* When God saves us, He grants us *"eternal life"*. So what does that mean? Biblically the phrase *"eternal life"* is _____ not *quantitative*. Eternal life is a certain type of life. It is the life shared among the Persons of the Godhead; eternal life is divine life (17:3).

This helps us understand Jesus' opening and closing remarks in this section. *If you love me, keep My commandments... (15) He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him (21).* To have *"eternal life"* is not just to have some sort of *"get out of jail free"* card. To have *"eternal life"* is to *share in the life of _____* and to share in that life is to delight in goodness, righteousness, and truth.

C. Increased Theological Clarity (20 & 9-11 cf. 17:1-5; 2 Cor 3:17-18)

Finally, Jesus' departure is good news because it has brought increased theological clarity, a deeper knowledge of God. Jesus' departure enables us to understand that:

1. To see the Son is to see the Father (9)
2. The Son dwells in the Father and the Father in the Son (10,11,20)
3. To glorify the Son, therefore, is to glorify the Father (13)
4. To have the Spirit is to have *"another Helper"* like unto the Son (16)
5. The other Helper is the Spirit of Truth [of Jesus] (17)
6. For the Spirit to come, therefore, is for *Jesus Himself* to come (18)
7. The Spirit enables us to *"see"* the Son (19 cf. 2 Cor 3:17-18)

To have the Son is to have the Father; to see the Son is to see the Father; likewise, to have the Spirit is to have the Son; to see the Spirit is to see the Son. Father, Son, and Spirit are inseparable. While the Father, the Son, and the Spirit can be distinguished from one another, they cannot be separated from one another. Hence, to glorify the Father is to glorify the Son and Spirit; to glorify the Son is to glorify the Father and the Spirit; to glorify the Spirit is to glorify the Father and the Son. There is one God in three Persons, the blessed _____.

IV. Conclusion