

*No Greater Hatred (John 15:18–16:4)*

*Jaunting through John (Message 41)*

Dr. John Niemelä Grace Chapel [www.mol316.com](http://www.mol316.com) February 22, 2009

**INTRODUCTION**

**BACKGROUND AND REVIEW:**

The Last Discourse: John 13:1–17:26

Part 1: The Upper Room Discourse (John 13–14)

Part 2: Discourse on the way to the garden [Gethsemane] (John 15–17)

The Last Discourse is not about how to live the Christian life (though it contains information pertinent to this topic). Rather, it prepares the eleven for Jesus' departure by showing that He does not shrink from the cross (even though He knows it is coming) and He prepares His disciples (as the Good Shepherd)

Last week, we studied John 15:9–17: No Greater Love. Jesus said that the greatest manifestation of love that exists is to give one's being (*psuchē*) for His/his friends. He did so in life and in His death on a cross; the eleven also gave their beings for their friend (Jesus), both in life & in death.

**NEW EXPOSITION**

(15:18–19) The world hated Him before it hated them & the reason it hates them is because He chose them out of the world & they no longer belong to the world (which would then not hate them)

(15:20) He reminds them that a servant is not greater than his master, so the world that persecuted Him will persecute them and the world which did not keep His word will not keep (His word) when they speak

(15:21) Rather, the world will persecute them on account of Christ, because they do not know the Father who sent Him

**(15:22–23) If He had not come (as the light of the world) the world would have (an excuse) for its sin, but since He came, it has no excuse—with the implication that the one who hates Jesus also hates the Father**

**(15:24) If He had not done His works in their midst that no one else could do, they would have an excuse for their sin, but they have seen Christ and (through Him) the Father and hated both the Father and the Son**

Cf. John 1:18

What signs does John record that Jesus did?

In or near Jerusalem:

Unnamed signs (John 2:23 and 3:2)

Healing the man who was lame for 38 years (John 5)

Healing the man born blind (John 9)

Raising Lazarus (John 11)

In Galilee:

Water into wine (John 2)

Healing the nobleman's son from a distance (John 4)

Feeding the 5000 (John 6)

Walking on water (John 6)

**(15:25) Their hatred of Jesus (as He did the Father's works) fulfills messianic psalms indicating that He would be hated without cause (Psalm 35:19 and 69:4)**

Psalm 35:19

Psalm 69:4

**(15:26) Christ will send the Spirit from the Father, who will testify concerning Christ**

**The Book of Hebrews also discusses this same point**

Heb 2<sup>2</sup> For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, <sup>3</sup> how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken <sup>A</sup> by the Lord, and was confirmed <sup>C</sup> to us by <sup>B</sup> those who heard Him, <sup>4</sup> **God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?**

A. The Lord Jesus spoke of Millennial deliverance (salvation)

B. The Eleven heard Him and testified publicly about what He said

C. The author of Hebrews & the readers heard their testimony

**(15:27) The eleven will testify concerning Christ, because they have been with Him from the beginning**

**Clarifying you have been with Me from the beginning:**

*John's Gospel testimony focuses on what He and the other disciples could present as legal testimony (they were eyewitnesses)*

John 20<sup>30</sup> And Jesus actually performed many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

John 21<sup>24</sup> This is the disciple who testifies to these things and wrote them down; and we know that his testimony is true. <sup>25</sup> Yes, there are many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I don't suppose even the world itself could contain the books that would be written! Amen.

*The point when He began accompanying Jesus was in John 1. John starts counting signs when he started following Jesus.*

John 2<sup>11</sup> This first of His miraculous signs Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee, and thus displayed His glory. And His disciples believed in Him.

John 4<sup>54</sup> Now this is a second sign Jesus performed after He came from Judea into Galilee.

**(16:1) Jesus told them [about sending the Spirit to testify about Him and that they would testify about Him, so they would not stumble**

**(16:2–3) Leaders would bar them from synagogues and when killing them would be seen as serving God, because they knew neither Jesus nor the Father**

**(16:4) Jesus told the eleven these things, so (when these things happened) they would remember, but He did not tell them these things earlier, because it is only now that He was leaving them**

### **Conclusion**

No greater hatred can one express than to seek to take away one's life (as Jesus' enemies and the apostles' enemies sought to do by killing them). The believer who denies Christ by elevating himself expresses this hatred for Him, but Jesus (manifested His love) by sending the Spirit to testify (through signs, etc.) as they gave testimony concerning Jesus in a hostile world.

## Summary

<p><b>Good Shepherd:</b> 10:1–21: Leaders misunderstand Good Shepherd, whom gateman lets into pen (vs. sneaky rustlers); sheep follow Him, not coercive strangers; so He retold it: He is entryway; earlier shepherds bully, steal &amp; kill sheep, but He even dies for sheep (vs. hirelings who let wolves steal/scatter); He knows sheep/they know Him, as He knows God who knows Him—He dies for sheep &amp; has other (non-Judean) sheep who hear Him who makes 1-flock/1-shepherd; God loves Him, because (for sheep) He dies to be raised (no one takes His life), but He lays it down to take it up—as God commands; some called Him crazy demoniac; others denied His speech was demoniac &amp; demon can't make blind see</p>
<p><b>At Hannukah:</b> 10:22–39: Judeans demand if He is the Christ; He said they disbelieve His words, but works in Father's name also testify; they disbelieve because not of His sheep; Shepherd guarantees sheep (bels) EL &amp; can't lose it, because Father &amp; Son (in union) secure them; He asked (as they try stoning) which good work led to seeking His death; said they seek His death for making self God; He said God (ψ 82<sup>6</sup>) calls (wicked judges) gods; Bible is always true; so Father-sent One doesn't blaspheme in calling self God's Son; if He didn't do Father's works, they should disbelieve, but Father's works lead to believing His words (2nd witness) that Father &amp; Son are united; they again seek His death, but He escaped</p>
<p><b>Lazarus' death:</b> 10:40–11:16: Rec'd word that Laz sick; said illness not to death, but will glorify God; when (2 days later) He planned to go to Laz, 12 said Judeans seek death; said still is day (time to live) &amp; He needs to wake Laz &amp; it is good He was not there, so they would believe</p>
<p><b>Resurrection &amp; Life:</b> 11:17–37: JC came 4 days after Lazarus' burial; many mourners present; Martha hurried to meet Him; Mary stayed home; Martha said JC would have stopped Lazarus' death, if He were there; God answers His prayers; He said Lazarus will rise; she agreed; He said that He is resurrector &amp; grantor of EL; asked if she believed; she affirmed this, because she believes He is Christ, God's Son, whom [God sent] to earth; she said that JC wants to see her, Mary went quickly to Him; some said she went to tomb &amp; followed; Mary worshipped Jesus &amp; said He would have stopped Lazarus' death, if He were there; crying of Mary &amp; others moved JC w/ empathy, so He asked where they put Lazarus; they said <i>Come &amp; see</i>; JC also wept, so some said He greatly loved Lazarus; others asked why He let Lazarus die (since He healed blind man)</p>
<p><b>Raising Lazarus:</b> 11:38–57: Said <i>Open Tomb</i>; Martha spoke of stench; reminds re God's glory, if she believed He'd raise Laz; tomb opened; thanks God He always hears Him (saying this) so they might believe God sent Him; told Laz, <i>Come out</i>; did so bound; said <i>free him</i>; many believe; some told Phars (who try) to stop Him, lest Rome take their position &amp; nation; Caiaphas urged His death for nation (prophecy His death giving Jewish bells life/gather in one flock); rulers want His death; went to Ephraim; feast's earlybirds said He'd avoid feast, because APB</p>
<p><b>Anointing &amp; Entry:</b> 12:1–19: At Bethany a meal was fixed for Jesus, Lazarus &amp; others; Martha served; when Mary anointed His feet, Judas feigned concern for the poor &amp; scolded her, but Jesus defended her; pilgrims came to Jesus &amp; Lazarus because He raised him; officials sought Lazarus' death also, He rode donkey to Jerusalem, throngs hearing Lazarus was raised laid palm fronds before Him, leaders sought His death.</p>
<p><b>Hellenized (Jews) at Passover:</b> 12:20–26: some asked to meet Jesus; He told Philip &amp; Andrew that the hour of His glorification had come: One seed dies in earth that many seeds may sprout to life; loving the mortal life has detrimental effects on the immortal life; hating the mortal life enhances the immortal life; the Father will glorify servants who follow Jesus (where He goes)</p>
<p><b>Who Believes Rept?</b> 12:27–43: Didn't ask to avoid cross, because came to die; asks for God's glory (God said He did so/will do so); voice was to benefit them; judging world involves Satan's defeat, cross to draw people to JC; object that Christ has EL; He said believe &amp; be enlightened/regenerate before He leaves; He left; disbelief tho seeing signs fulfills Isa 53 &amp; Isa 6, but many rulers believe &amp; fear exclusion</p>
<p><b>His Command is EL:</b> 12:44–50: Believing in JC logically entails believing in GF, who sent Him; seeing GF logically entails seeing JC, the Light of the world who enlightens bells; His words (from GF commanding EL) is what will judge unbels</p>
<p><b>Washing the Disciples' Feet:</b> 13:1–20: JC (who knew He would soon leave) loved His own, when Passover was served, after the devil led Judas to betray Him, He began washing the 12's feet, but Pet objected; JC said refusal would disqualify him from a portion (inheritance) w/ JC; Pet offered also his hands &amp; head; JC said bathed persons (the 11) only need footwashing, because he is already clean; JC asked if they understood; He, their Teacher and Lord, became their servant (washing feet) so they would serve one another; they are not greater than their master, so the 11 will be blessed if (knowing these things) they serve each other; He did not say this about Judas, whom Scripture said ate w/ JC &amp; would rebel; the prediction was so the 11 would believe; the one who receives them actually receives Him and the one who receives Jesus actually receives the Father who sent Him</p>
<p><b>Predicting Betrayal &amp; Denial:</b> 13:21–38: JC's words about one of them being His betrayer puzzled them, John asked JC the betrayer's identity; JC said it was the one He would give bread &amp; bitter herbs; Satan entered Judas when he received it; JC said to do things most quickly (the 11 thought Jesus sent him on an errand); Judas left; JC said both Father &amp; Son are glorified; He will be with 11 briefly, so they won't find Him &amp; can't (yet) follow Him to death; JC commanded them to love one another as He loved them; showing they were His disciples; Peter asked JC where He was going; Jesus said he can't now follow Him; Peter pledged to die for JC; He said Peter would deny Him thrice before cock crows</p>
<p><b>Another Comforter:</b> 14:1–18: Rather than being distressed, they are to believe in both the Father &amp; in JC to prepare a place so He can come back so they always will be w/ Him; JC said they knew His destination &amp; the <u>Way</u>; Thomas said they knew neither, but JC is <u>Way</u> (to Father), <u>Truth</u> &amp; <u>Life</u>, so all who come to Father come thru JC; knowing JC involves knowing the Father, so they will know the Father, because they have seen Him, but Philip asked to see Father; JC said that (after 3½ years) Philip should know the Father, because he saw JC; they should believe that JC &amp; Father are in each other, so He only speaks w/ authority of indwelling Father; JC's works should convince them of this; the 11 who do (in fact) believe in Him will do greater works than JC, because [the HS will come] after JC leaves; He will do whatever the 11 ask in His Name, to glorify Father; they will love JC by keeping His commands; He will ask the Father to send another Advocate who will stay w/ them forever, but only bels can receive Him &amp; the 11 know Him &amp; He will stay w/ them &amp; be in them, so JC is not orphaning them, but will return to them</p>
<p><b>Peace I Give:</b> John 14:19–31: Soon the world will not see Christ, but the 11 will &amp; they live, because He lives; then, they will know that Christ is in the Father, they are in Him, &amp; He is in them; one who obeys Christ's commandments loves Him; Christ &amp; the Father will (in turn) love him &amp; Christ will reveal Himself to him; Judas of James asked how He would reveal Himself to them, but not to the world; Jesus said that He and the Father will love and will abide with those who keep His word, that came from the Father; Jesus said that, although He is telling them these things while He is with them, the Advocate, the HS, whom the Father will send in Christ's name is the one who will actually teach them these things; Christ grants them peace (not as a wish), which is how the world tries to give peace, but He will actually give them peace that will settle their hearts against distress and intimidation; He said that He has told them that He is going away and will return to them; if they loved Him (were focused on what is best for Him) they would rejoice that He is going to the Father (who has authority over Christ); Jesus has told them this, so they may believe, when it happens, but He will not speak very much more to them, because ruler of this world (Satan) is coming (to try to defeat Christ), but he has no power over Christ, but (rather) Christ (will die) so the world will know that He loves and obeys the Father; [Having spoken this] it is time for them to leave the upper room [and to walk to the Garden of Gethsemane]</p>
<p><b>The Vine:</b> John 15:1–8: He likens Himself to a grapevine &amp; the Father to the vinedresser, who props up unproducing branches &amp; nips suckers to make bearing branches more productive; His word cleansed the 11 (as fruitbearing branches) of what hinders fruitfulness (so they can bear fruit); abiding in Him &amp; He in them is essential to bear fruit, just as a branch can only bear fruit thru its connection to the vine; if they did not abide in Him, they will have no role in bearing fruit for Him, but would face severe discipline &amp; lose reward; if they abide in Him &amp; His words abide in them, He will answer their prayers (making them fruitful); producing much fruit glorifies the Father (the vinedresser), thus, the 11 will follow Jesus as disciples (in obedience to the Father)</p>
<p><b>No Greater Love:</b> 15:1–17: He loves the 11 as the Father loves Him, so they are to abide in Christ's love, by keeping His commands, just as He abided in GF's love by keeping His commands, which He told them so they would abide completely in His joy; He commands them to love one another as He loved them, even lay down one's life for His/his friends (they are His friends, if they do whatever He commands); they are no longer slaves, but He has told them everything His Father has told Him; they did not choose Him, but He chose &amp; appointed them so they would go out &amp; produce much enduring fruit &amp; the Father would answer their prayers; He commands them to love one another</p>