

Passing the Baton: Jesus' Last Discourse (John 13–17)

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INTRODUCTION TO THE MESSAGE:

CHRONOLOGY:

John 8:2–10:21 was 8th day of Booths (Sep. 17, A.D. 32)

John 10:22-39 was at *Hanukkah* (Dec 18, A.D. 32)

John 13:1–18:27 Maundy Thursday (Thu., Apr 2, A.D. 32)

John 18:28–19:42 Good Friday—Passover (Fri., Apr 3)

John 20:1-23. Easter (Sun., Apr 5, A.D. 33)

John 20:24-29. A week after Easter (Sun, Apr. 12, A.D. 33)

John 21:1-23. (between Apr 12 and May 15, A.D. 33)

On Maundy Thursday Jesus prepared the eleven for two departures: (1) His death and (2) His ascension (John 13–17)

He predicts the near future to stabilize the eleven, but the passages in bold at the top of the next column required further explanation, especially for Peter.

13¹⁸ I'm not talking about all of you. I know those I've chosen. But let the Scripture be fulfilled: 'The one who eats bread with Me Has kicked his heel at Me.' 19 I'm telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He.

*13³⁶ "Lord," Simon Peter said to Him, "where are You going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow Me later." 37 "Lord," Peter asked Him, "why can't I follow You now? I will lay down my life for You!" 38 Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Amen, amen, I tell you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied Me three times!"

*14²³ In reply Jesus said to him, "If anyone loves Me he will keep My word. My Father will love him too, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. 24a The one who doesn't love Me doesn't keep My words."

14²⁸ You have heard that I told you, 'I am going away and I am coming to you.' If you loved Me you would have been glad that I said. 'I am going to the Father,' because My Father is greater than I. 29 And now I have told you before it happens, so that when it does happen, you may believe.

*16³² Listen: The time is coming, and has now come, when you will be scattered each to his own home, and you will leave Me alone. Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. 33 I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation. But take heart! I have conquered the world."

Note Christ's rebuke six months earlier (Sep 17 33 A.D.)

10^{7b} I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before Me are thieves and robbers [**self-servers: #1**], but the sheep didn't listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ A thief comes only to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life and that they may have it in abundance. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd **lays down his life for the sheep**. ¹² But the hired man [**cowardly hirelings: #2**], who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, seeing a wolf coming, leaves the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf snatches the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ And the hired man flees because he is a hired man and doesn't care about the sheep.

On Maundy Thursday, Jesus' words make His disciples fear that He views them as unworthy: mere hirelings. Peter asserts his willingness to die for Christ—but, does Peter really love Him?

13³⁶ "Lord," Simon Peter said to Him, "where are You going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow Me later." ³⁷ "Lord," Peter asked Him, "why can't I follow You now? I will lay down my life for You!" ³⁸ Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Amen, amen, I tell you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied Me three times!"

14^{23b} If anyone loves Me he will keep My word. My Father will love him too, & We will come to him and make Our home with him. ^{24a} The one who doesn't love Me doesn't keep My words.

Peter tries to give his life (as promised), surrounded by soldiers

18^{10b} Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, "Sheathe your sword! Shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given Me?"

Despite apparent bravery, he thrice denied Christ to servants

18¹⁷ Then the servant-girl who kept the door said to Peter, "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" "I am not!" he said. . . ²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You aren't one of His disciples too, are you?" Then he denied it and said, "I am not!" ²⁶ One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Didn't I see you with Him in the garden?" ²⁷ Then Peter denied it again, and at once a rooster crowed.

Christ predicted that Peter, out of love, would give his life

21^{15b} "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said to Him, "You know that I'm fond of You." "Feed my lambs!" He told him. ¹⁶ A second time he asked him, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" "Yes, Lord," he said to Him, "You know that I'm fond of You." "Shepherd My sheep!" He told him. ¹⁷ He asked him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, are you fond of Me?" Peter was grieved that He asked him the third time, "Are you fond of Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know everything! You know that I'm fond of You." "Feed My sheep!" Jesus told him.

21^{18b} When you were young you used to fasten your belt and walk wherever you wanted. But when you grow old you will stretch out your hands and someone else will fasten a belt around you and carry you where you don't want to go." ¹⁹ In saying this He was indicating the kind of death by which he would glorify God. After saying this, He told him, "Follow Me!"