

Lesson 53

Peaceful Hearts

Icebreaker:

How would you comfort people when they are anxious or worried about the future?

Introduction:

Shortly after Judas departed the Last Supper, Jesus and the disciples came to the part of the meal known as the Maggid, the telling of the Passover story. At the beginning of the Maggid they would have partaken of the second cup of wine, the cup of judgment or instruction. Its intent was to remind those who participated in the meal how God had delivered His people. "*I will redeem you with outstretched arm and with great judgments.*" (Exodus 6:6)

The telling of the Passover story is still done in the same unusual manner. Children attending the meal ask four questions of the elders that invoke them to tell the story of the Passover by answering the questions. At the Last Supper, the disciples asked Jesus four questions, they were:

Simon Peter - "Lord, where are You going?"

Thomas - "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?"

Philip - "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."

Judas (not Iscariot) - "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us, and not to the world?"

Reading The Scripture:

John 13:36 - 14:31

The Four Questions

"Mah Nishtanah"

John 13:36-14:26

(Gospels forged together into one seamless story, in collaboration with New American Standard Bible,
authored by Michael Gibson, Founder of Spirit & Truth, dba Key 2 Changes: "Follow Me: A Message from God", a Journey with Jesus)

Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered, "Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you shall follow later." Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You." Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a cock shall not crow, until you deny Me three times. Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In **My Father's house** are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me; otherwise believe on account of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in

the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. After a little while the world will behold Me no more; but you will behold Me; because I live, you shall live also. "In that day you shall know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him." Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me. These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

Mah Nishtanah: The four questions are part of the maggid and are usually asked by children. The questions are asked in such a way that the answers tell the story of Passover. The four questions, the disciples asked Jesus are:

Simon Peter - "Lord, where are You going?"

Thomas - "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?"

Philip - "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."

Judas (not Iscariot) - "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us, and not to the world?"

My Father's House: "Heaven".

My Peace I Give to You "Bareikh" John 14:27-31

(Gospels forged together into one seamless story, in collaboration with New American Standard Bible,
authored by Michael Gibson, Founder of Spirit & Truth, dba Key 2 Changes: "Follow Me: A Message from God", a Journey with Jesus)

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced, because I go to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it comes to pass, that when it comes to pass, you may believe. I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; but that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go from here."

Bareikh: The grace after meals.

The Commands:

1. Let not your heart be troubled.
2. Believe in God.
3. Believe also in me.
4. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me.
5. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

The Lesson:

Jesus started the Maggid with a series of remarks. "*Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'*" This He spoke concerning His impending death for He knew full well that He

would redeem His people by stretching out His arms upon the cross. In order to comfort the disciples Jesus began to prophesy.

God has always used prophecy to comfort His people. It reminds them that He has a special relationship with them through His word. And that He willingly provides direction while assuring them that He is in control. The Scripture says, “*So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.*” (*Isaiah 55:11*) The Apostle Paul would later remark that prophecy should be the most sought after spiritual gift and that the “*one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation.*” (*1 Corinthians 14:3*)

Jesus spoke in the manner of a prophet that night by using both aspects of prophecy: foretelling (concerning the future) and forth-telling (declaring truth from God). He gave both short-term and long-term foretelling prophecies. Short-term prophecy was used to check the truthfulness of the prophet. If the prophet’s short-term prophecy did not come to pass then God’s people were to ignore the prophet, his long-term prophecies and any forth telling he did.

Since Peter had asked the question about where Jesus was going, Jesus responded to him first with a long-term prophecy. “*Where I go (to the cross), you cannot follow Me now; but you shall follow Me later.*” According to tradition, Peter was crucified upside down in Rome around 65 AD. Jesus followed that with a short-term prophecy. “*Truly, truly, I say to you, a cock shall not crow, until you deny Me three times.*” This happened within eight hours of Jesus speaking it.

Jesus issued a series of twenty foretelling prophecies to the disciples, which He introduced with the commandment, “*Do not let your heart be troubled.*” Then as if He were putting a parenthesis around them Jesus finished with a similar command, “*Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.*” And for good measure He punctuated it with the statement, “*Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe.*” Let’s look at the prophecies Jesus used to encourage, strengthen and console the disciples.

1. I go to prepare a place for you. (LT)
2. I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. (LT)
3. He who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also. (ST-55 days)
4. And greater works than these he will do. (ST- 55 days)
5. Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do. (ST-55 days)
6. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do *it*. (ST-55 days)
7. He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever. (ST-55 days)
8. He abides with you and will be in you. (ST-55 days)
9. I will not leave you as orphans. (ST-55days)
10. I will come to you. (ST-4days)
11. After a little while the world will no longer see Me, (ST-12 hours)
12. But you will see Me; (ST-4 days)
13. Because I live, you will live also. (LT)
14. He who loves Me will be loved by My Father. (ST-55 days)
15. He who loves Me I will love him. (ST-55 days)
16. He who loves Me I will disclose Myself to him. (ST-55 days)
17. We will come to him and make Our abode with him. (ST-55 days)
18. He will teach you all things. (ST-55 days)
19. He will bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. (ST-55days)
20. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. (ST-immediately)

Group Discussion:

1. Has Jesus ever comforted you when you were anxious or worried about the future?
2. If so, how did He do it?

The Lesson: continued

Jesus did more than just console the disciples He told them truth (forth-telling). The central issue of these passages of Scriptures we are studying today is what Jesus said concerning Himself. *I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.* To many this is a difficult statement! They like to say there are many ways to the Father.

Group Discussion:

3. What do you think the statement "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life*" means?
4. Do you believe that the statement, "*No one comes to the Father, but through Me*" is true?
5. What kind of statement do you make to others who contend with you that there is more than one way to come to the Father?

Jesus statement, "*I am the way, and the truth and the life*" was the sixth of seven "**I am**" statements He used in the gospel of John. The others were: **1**) I am the bread of life (6:35), **2**) I am the light of the world (8:12), **3**) I am the door (10:7 & 9), **4**) I am the good shepherd (10:11 & 14), **5**) I am the resurrection and the life (11:25) and **7**) I am the true vine (15:1 & 5). Each time Jesus used the "**I am**" He was invoking God's memorial name. For it is written:

Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM¹ has sent me to you.'" God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations. (Exodus 3:13-15)

Moses was chosen to deliver and lead God's people. He worked miracles and declared God's law (teachings or instructions). Like Jesus, Moses before he died, prophesied to God's people about the one² who would come. He would be like Moses, delivering and leading God's people, working miracles and declaring God's law (teachings and instruction). Listen to what Moses said:

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.³ This is according to all that you asked of the LORD your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, let me not see this great fire anymore, or I will die.' The LORD said to me, 'They have spoken well. I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name,⁴ I Myself will require it of him.' " (Deuteronomy 8:15-18)

¹ In Hebrew "I am" is pronounced "Yah".

² Moses prophesied concerning Jesus and Jesus prophesied concerning the Holy Spirit.

³ When the disciples were on the Mount of Transfiguration, a bright cloud overshadowed them and a voice out of the cloud said, *This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased: listen to Him.* (Matthew 17:5)

⁴ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, 'I am'." (John 8:58)

In order to help His people identify who the coming one would be, God had Moses appoint Joshua as the prophet who would follow him.

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, the time for you to die is near; call Joshua, and present yourselves at the tent of meeting, that I may commission him.” So Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves at the tent of meeting. Then He commissioned Joshua the son of Nun, and said, “Be strong and courageous, for you shall bring the sons of Israel into the land which I swore to them, and I will be with you.” (Deuteronomy 31:14 & 23)

The name Joshua (Yah-shua) means “I Am Salvation. And that is precisely Jesus’ name in Hebrew, Yah-shua. It was not Moses’ responsibility to lead God’s people into the Promised Land because he had sinned.⁵ It was and still is Joshua’s (Yah-shua’s) responsibility to lead God’s people into the Promised Land.

In chapter 7 of the book of Acts, Stephen a man full of the Holy Spirit, brought a railing testimony against the Sanhedrim, the ruling council of the Jews, concerning their treatment of Jesus⁶ and all God’s prophets before Him. For that, He was stoned to death, making him the church’s first martyr. The Israelites had refused to hear God speaking even when He spoke through men just as they had requested. Jesus had already spoken to the chief priests and Pharisees about their failure to hear and obey God’s voice⁷ and even used the parable of the landowner⁸ to make the same point.

Since Jesus was the one of whom Moses prophesied, He commands His disciples to, “*Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.*” Then He offered then two proofs as to His identity. The first proof was the words that He spoke⁹ to them: His forth-telling words could be verified in the Law and the Prophets and His foretelling words would come to pass. The second proof Jesus offered them was the miracles He performed. “*Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.*” (John 14:11)

Group Discussion:

Based on Scripture what “I am” statement can you make about yourself?

⁵ Moses disobeyed God (sinned) when he struck the Rock a second time to bring forth water. God originally told Moses to strike the Rock of Horeb with his staff when the children of Israel became thirsty and it would bring forth water (Exodus 17:6). When the children of Israel became thirsty a second time God commanded Moses to speak to the Rock instead of hitting it and it would bring forth water. But Moses became angry with his rebellious people and struck the Rock a second time. (Numbers 20:3-13) The reason God would not let Moses lead his people into the Promised Land was because, as a prophet, Moses had given Israel a false sign. From 1 Corinthians 10:4 we discover that the Rock from which the water came forth was Christ. Jesus said, “*If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.*” Since Jesus is the Christ, God was in effect saying that He would permit His Son to be struck by the rods of men only once for salvation and after that they merely needed to speak to Him. “*Whoever will call upon the Name of the Lord will be saved.*” (Joel 2:32 and Romans 10:13)

⁶ Acts 7:37 says, “*This is Moses who said to the sons of Israel, ‘God shall raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren.’*”

⁷ “*Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?*”(John 5:45-47)

⁸ Matthew 21:33-46.

⁹ God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. (Hebrews 1:1-2)

The Point Of The Lesson:

Since Jesus is the way, and the truth and the life, how important is it to believe Him and observe everything He commands us to do?