



KNOW:TRUTH

# The Gospel of John

A New Covenant Study

WEEK FIVE | DAY FOUR

# JOHN 13:21-26

**Know:** Read John Chapter 13:21-26

**Note:** Mark keywords, including pronouns and phrases. (love)

Ask questions: (Use tools such as interlinear bibles to search the original meaning of words- [free tool here](#)) For example:

- Who is the disciple whom Jesus loved?
- What is Jesus teaching about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
- When is this happening?
- Where is Judas?
- Why did John not name himself?
- How were the disciples seated?

**Observation:** Hebrews 4:9-11

**What:** What does today's study reveal to you about the nature of God? What truth do I need to apply to my life today?

## **The Table of Shewbread**

**“You prepare a table before me.” Psalm 23:5**

Made of shittim wood and overlaid with gold, just like the Ark, it represents Christ in design and function. When God gave the instructions for constructing it, the word “Table” was first mentioned in the Bible (Ex 25:23). “Table” speaks of grace in redeeming fallen man back into an intimate relationship with God. Shewbread means “to declare.” Jesus declared He was the “Bread of Life” and gave the church the authority to declare His life, death, resurrection, and coming again in the Table of the Lord. ( 1 Corinthians 11:26).

## **The Last Supper**

**“Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.” John 13:23**

John begins with Jesus, the Son of God, face to face with Elohim, who came out from the bosom of the Father to gather his sheep and bring them into the embrace of the Triune God. In this final meal, the disciples had with Jesus, an unnamed disciple identified as “loved by God.” Although writing this at the end of his life, John did not name himself as the disciple; I believe because he wanted to include all who read his account as ones loved by God.

The other gospels give us a clue as to others’ perceptions of this disciple. Mark reveals John and his brother James’ nickname “Sons of thunder” (Mark 3:17). Perhaps named so because of their personalities reflected thus, as revealed by Luke’s account. “Now it came to pass when the time

had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" But He turned and rebuked them and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. The Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village." (Luke 9:51-56)

Mark, clearly annoyed with James and John, records an impertinent conversation that bothered him and the other disciples: "When James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He asked them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus told them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism, I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. (Mark 10:35-41)

Later, Mark gives us a glimpse of where the brothers may have gotten that boldness from by recording their Mother asking Jesus an audacious request: "Command that these two sons of mine may sit one on your right hand and the other on the left, in your Kingdom." (Matt 20:21)

The family was a bit of a hot mess.

And yet, every disciple had the same encounters with Jesus. They each lived in the same political climate; even the two brothers had the same upbringing, and the other disciples had similar—some more comfortable than others, but it was John alone who lived for almost one hundred years.

All the other disciples died brutal and violent deaths not long after Jesus' death under the reign of Nero, who believed himself to be the rock musician of his time. He used to force people to come to listen to him in the stadium. Often, when people couldn't take it anymore, they would throw themselves out windows and kill themselves. At his death (by suicide), he said, "What a wonderful artist the world is losing. He was a terror. He once set Rome on fire and blamed it on the Christians. He would make sport by putting Christians on stakes in his garden and lighting them on fire to keep his garden lit. The disciples considered it a great honor to die a martyr's death.

John, however, tapped into a part of God that was different. As a ninety-year-old man, in an attempt to kill him, the ruling Emperor, Domitian, lowered him, by a meat hook, into a vat of boiling oil. John was pulled up unharmed. Then, to silence him, Domitian exiled him to the island of Patmos, where John wrote the Revelation of Jesus.

What set John apart? What revelation did he receive that was different than any other disciple? I believe it was the same revelation Jesus lived from.

Jesus Lived from the place of identity. Before Jesus began his ministry, before he ever did a thing, His Father spoke, “This is my beloved (favorite) Son; in you, I am well pleased.” Jesus lived from a place of identity. He didn’t live in fear, wrestle with anxiety, or over the world’s happenings; he did not question sickness. He knew His Father loved him, and He did only what He was His Father doing.

I believe John discovered this same revelation. He identified as the “beloved of the Lord.” His identity was found in the love of Jesus regardless of the culture and threat of persecution and death. I believe John remained unnamed to invite us into that identity of “Beloved of God.”

What should life look like for us in this place of identifying with God’s love? Hebrews 4:9-11  
“There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labor therefore to enter that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.”

Before, coming into the Holy of Holies was reserved for the Priests, a holy and reverent act of sacrifice and confession. Jesus became for us the High priest, making us priests with Him. Safely carried in His arms, He takes us back into the Temple, into the Most Holy Place. We now have access to the Father and are not separated by a thick veil or by sin. The Temple had no seats for the priests to sit in because their job was never finished. Jesus, our High Priest, is now seated at the right hand of God because His job is finished.

Rest looks like continuous “sabbath” rest. The only thing God tells us to work at is to stay at rest- to stay tucked within His heart. Rest means to lean our heads on the bosom of Jesus and let Him do the work on our behalf.