



3 January 25, 2026
A Few Last Words Before I Go
Love and Be Loved
John 14:18-24

1. **Sermon Outline:**

- a. The Resurrection of Jesus Is the Foundation of Our Faith and Life.
 - i. Jesus was going to physically leave His disciples, but never abandon them
 - ii. His Resurrection is the foundation of everything we know to be true
- b. Live Fully In God's Circle of Love
 - i. You're invited to God's unending circle of love!
 - ii. The evidence you've actually entered the circle is your urgent desire to obey your Lord
 - iii. Be filled with the Holy Spirit to fully enjoy the circle of love

2. **Sunday Afternoon** – As soon as possible after the sermon, consider:

- a. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
- b. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
- c. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
- d. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
- e. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

3. **Monday:**

- a. Since it has been several weeks since we started this series, and we took a week off for Sanctity of Life Sunday last week, start this week's devotional study by reading John 13:31-14:17.
 - i. What issues were bothering the disciples that caused Jesus to tell them not to be troubled in 14:1 (consider 13:33 & 14:2b)?
 - ii. To what does Jesus point to reassure them?
- b. What evidence of the Trinity is contained in John 14:1-17 (see especially 14:12-17)? What does the passage tell us about the relationship between the members of the Trinity?
- c. In what sense is verse 15 both an encouragement (when combined with verses 16 & 17) and a frightening condemnation (in light of our lives as Christians)?
- d. With this background in mind, now read this week's focal passage: John 14:18-24.
 - i. How would you summarize these verses in a single sentence?
 - ii. To you, what is the most important truth taught in these verses?

4. Tuesday:

- a. Read and meditate on John 14:18-19.
- b. Verse 18a probably doesn't have the same significance to us in America as it does in many countries and probably to the disciples. Think of what it must be like in a world where there is no safety net to care for orphans (as is the case in many African and Asian countries).
 - i. What words would you use to describe orphans in such a situation?
 - ii. How many of the words you found would apply to those who do not have Christ as their Savior?
- c. What does Jesus promise to counter the feelings of being alone, helpless, abandoned, and without hope?
 - i. What are three possible events Jesus might have been referring to when He said, "I will come to you" (see 14:3, 16-17, and Luke 18:33)?
 - ii. How does verse 19 clarify which event Jesus was talking about in this case?
 - iii. While the Second Coming and the presence of the Holy Spirit are extremely important, why would Jesus' resurrection have been particularly important to the disciples at this point?
- d. What is the significance of Jesus telling the disciples that they would see Him, but the "world" would not?
 - i. Why is this different from what the disciples probably expected of Jesus after His resurrection?
 - ii. Instead of relying on His infinite power to spread the Good News that He has conquered death, what is He doing instead (consider Matthew 28: 18-20, Mark 16:15-18, and John 20:21-23)?
- e. What two critically important truths are taught by John 14:19b? How important does that statement make Jesus' resurrection to us? If there had been no resurrection, what would our condition be?

5. Wednesday:

- a. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-22.
- b. According to Paul, what is the core of the Gospel (the things of "First importance")?
 - i. How does the list Paul provides of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances support (agree with) what Jesus said in John 14:19?
 - ii. What was the result of Jesus' post-resurrection appearance to Paul, and how did it change his life (verse 10)?
- c. What does Paul say about the importance of the resurrection in this Gospel? (see especially verses 14 & 17)?
- d. Compare verses 21-22 with Romans 5:12-21. What important lessons are taught in both passages?

- e. After reading this portion of 1 Corinthians, what benefits can you list that are a result of the resurrection? What hope does the resurrection provide for your daily life? What assurance for the future?

6. **Thursday:**

- a. Read and meditate on John 14:20-21.
- b. When Jesus starts verse 20, saying “In that day,” what day is he talking about?
- i. How does Jesus’ resurrection demonstrate the unity between God the Father and the Son (see John 10:17-18 & 12:49)?
 - ii. What two additional facts does Jesus say the disciples will know because of His resurrection?
 1. What does it mean when Jesus says that we are in Him (“you in me” in the ESV)? Compare John 15:4-7 and 1 John 2:26-29 (if your Bible has a heading inserted between these verses, ignore it). Since He abides in us, what does John 15:4-7 tell us we should expect to happen?
 2. Jesus also says He will abide in us. How does this fact relate to what He told the disciples in verses 16-17? What does it demonstrate about the nature of the Trinity?
 - iii. How does Jesus use the proof that His resurrection will provide to tie together the other promises and teachings He gave earlier in chapter 14? How does this demonstrate the central importance of the resurrection to our faith?
- c. What is the primary subject of verse 21?

7. **Friday:**

- a. Read and meditate on John 14:21-24.
- b. As you read verse 21, how do you understand the order in which the events (obedience, our love of Jesus, the Father’s love of us, and Jesus’ love and manifesting Himself) occur?
- i. Is it in any manner correct to say that God and Jesus love us because of our obedience (see Romans 5:6-8, John 3:16, 1 John 4:10)?
 - ii. Is a “love of God” necessary for salvation (see John 1:12 & 3:16, Acts 15:11, Romans 10:9-10, Ephesians 2:5 & 8, 2 Timothy 1:9)? On the other hand, why would love be expected (be automatic) after salvation (see Ephesians 5:1-2)?
 - iii. According to Psalm 14:1-3, 53:1-3, and Romans 3:10-12, who is capable on their own of obeying God’s commands? What does Colossians 2:13-14 tell us must happen before we can obey?
 - iv. How do 1 John 2:5 and 1 Corinthians 2:12-14 explain the sequence?

- c. Since love of the Father and Son is so explicitly linked to obedience (see also 1 John 2:5-6), what does this suggest about how we should respond to those who teach that faith is the only thing we should be concerned with? In what way are “works” important?
- d. What enables us to love and obey (verse 23)? How do you see the somewhat circular relationship between love, obedience, and the Holy Spirit playing out in your life?

8. **Saturday:**

- a. Read and meditate on John 14:15-24.
- b. How does Jesus “manifest” Himself to us as believers but not to the world?
- c. Whose responsibility is it to “manifest” Jesus to the world (Matthew 28:18-20)?
- d. Although there will be more next week, what do these verses teach about the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

9. **Application:**

- a. Love and unity are (should be) characteristics of believers that point others to Christ. When we are fractured and unloving, we do the opposite. Spend time this week examining what your love for and relationship with other members of the body of believers says to the world.
- b. The Holy Spirit is fundamental to living the Christian life. In our zeal to share the Gospel with others, we sometimes lose sight of His importance in our own lives by placing all (or most) of our attention on the Son. Seek to enhance your understanding of and trust in the Holy Spirit’s working in your life.

10. **Pray:** Pray for the unreached people in the war-torn country of Sudan this week, especially these three people groups with less than 0.1% Christians:

- a. Sudanese Arabs. The approximately 16 million Sudanese Arabs originated in the Khartoum region of Sudan many centuries ago. Today, they live primarily in small rural villages consisting of clusters of mud-brick homes with dirt floors in northern and central Sudan. They grow grains, vegetables, and cotton, and raise livestock, all of which are used for food or trade, and some continue living the nomadic lifestyle of their Bedouin ancestors. As most Arabs, they are devout Muslims.
- b. Katla. One of the Nuba Mountain people, the Katla live in an area that has been a refuge for those fleeing oppressive government and slave traders for centuries, which is how they originally came to the mountains. Millet porridge is a main part of the Katla diet. They serve it with a sauce made from meat, okra, or kidney beans. The 33,000 Katla are believed to be 100% Muslim.
- c. Turuj. The Turuj are an animistic ethnic group that has historically lived in isolation, preserving their traditional way of life and spiritual beliefs. Seasonal rains dictate much of their agricultural activity, and their farming methods are based on traditional knowledge passed down through generations. Turuj villages are typically small, close-knit communities where extended families live together and work cooperatively. Ancestral worship is central to the 27,000 Turuj’s belief system.