



LENT IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

SACRIFICE

SOW

SURRENDER



G3 Devotional Week 3 BEHIND CLOSED DOORS (John chapters 12-16)

I must admit that I have a profound appreciation for a private Jesus. We are used to reading about Jesus traveling as an itinerant preacher, teacher, prophet, and healer; however, the chapters we read this week show us Jesus behind closed doors. Ironically, chapters 12-16 occur in pretty much a week or more. It picks up on the heels of raising of Lazarus from the dead. Most of us know that miracle because of its mammoth profundity; however, we often gloss over the fact that this miracle was a tipping point and trigger that led to Jesus' execution.

To that end, Jesus spends most of his time in private with friends and disciples, especially once entering Jerusalem for the Passover feast and for what will eventuate in his crucifixion. In these chapters, Jesus argues further with those opposing him, finds spaces of respite, and prepares his disciples for his departure.

What's the point? Jesus spends his time pouring into those who are close to Him. That alone is a message. It suggests that there is space the Lord reserves for those who are truly in relationship with Him. Despite Christ living his final days with mixed emotions, he thought enough of others to pour Himself into those close enough to listen.

Do you really think that you could share intimate relationship with Jesus and He not take time to respond to you? Not possible! I write this week to encourage you to believe again that Jesus cares enough about you to spend time with you. He cares so much that He will get behind closed doors to prepare your heart for what is next. Maybe next for you is success. Maybe next for you is something like a struggle you will have to tunnel through. What I do know is that God will never send you on a journey for which he leaves you without revelation! Just as the Master taught his disciples the value of the Holy Spirit in their lives, He wants to remind you of the value of the Spirit in yours. In the spaces where you cannot seem to channel the transitions of life, you have not been left comfortless. So be encouraged as you embark upon Lent this week, knowing that Jesus is with you in secret places, too!

Happy Lent!