

The Inner Sanctums of Communion

The Significance of John Chapters 13-17

Nearly every word contained in John 13-17 is red. The text is dominated by Jesus' words and His alone. With an exception to Peter's refusal to have his feet washed, the disciples questions concerning the traitor in their midst and Thomas' insistence to see the Father, Jesus has the floor for the entire evening.

This makes this portion of Scripture extremely significant. But that's not the main reason why it's so precious. These chapters record the eve of Jesus' betrayal and crucifixion. They replay the last night of fellowship.

Fully aware of what was to come Jesus spent His final hours in the world speaking into the lives of 11 young Jewish men who had followed Him for the previous three and a half years. He focused all His strength, energy and emotion on making sure that "His own" would be able to stand the onslaught of what was to come before the sunset that next night.

That evening left indelible scars on the heart and mind of the youngest of them, John. Having been so impacted by the wonder of that night, this man, John, would sit down to record, some decades later, what Jesus said to them. The words spoken to them that evening eventually drove all of these young men to shed their blood for their leader in the prime of their lives. John would've died a martyr if given the chance. But the Lord had other plans for him. Writing this Gospel at the end of his life was one of them.

John recorded in his Gospel Jesus' greatest concerns and desires on the eve before His death. We read of what Jesus saw as the most important things to say to His disciples (13-16) and to His Father (17).

If lovingly studied and humbly embraced, these chapters will lead us into the inner sanctums of communion with the One who loved us so well and gave Himself for us. If neglected, we do nothing but disservice to our weak hearts that require these consoling, satisfying and life-giving words.