

As you read...

Today we take a look at three passages from John 13, 14, and 15 as we listen in to His conversations with the Twelve disciples. To get a fuller illustration of what is happening in the Gospel of John as we continue, be sure to review the entirety of those three chapters.

At the beginning of John 13, we find the Twelve in an upper room where Jesus is about to eat His final supper with them before His crucifixion. Uniquely, John gives us one of the most thorough accounts of the conversation shared in the Upper Room that evening. Take to heart the weight of this moment as you explore these chapters and, specifically, these excerpts below. These are the final words that Jesus chooses to share with His friends before He goes to the cross, which means He will be choosing His words and conversations carefully.

Think about it: if you knew that you had one final meal and one final evening with the people you were closest with in the world, what would you say? Most likely you would share with them what you found most important for them to hear and take to heart.

So what does Jesus share with them?

He shares with them what it truly means to lay down one's life for someone else; that He alone is the way, the truth, and the *life*; and that like a fruit finds life when it is connected to the vine, so do we find life when we are connected to Him. Finally, in His parting words He also closes by sharing with them His desire that those who follow Him love one another.

Read [John 13:36-38](#), [John 14:1-7](#), and [John 15:1-17](#)

Peter's Denials Predicted (John 13:36-38)

³⁶ “Lord,” Simon Peter said to him, “where are you going?”

Jesus answered, “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow later.”

³⁷ “Lord,” Peter asked, “why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my **life** for you.”

³⁸ Jesus replied, “Will you lay down your **life** for me? Truly I tell you, a rooster will not crow until you have denied me three times.

The Way to the Father (John 14:1-7)

¹ “Don’t let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also. ⁴ You know the way to where I am going.”

⁵ “Lord,” Thomas said, “we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the **life**. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you

will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

The Vine and the Branches (John 15:1-17)

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.

Christlike Love

⁹“As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

¹¹ *"I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.*

¹² *"This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this: to lay down his **life** for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants anymore, because a servant doesn't know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.*

¹⁷ *"This is what I command you: Love one another.*

Questions

1. Jesus is sharing with His disciples that He is about to be leaving them. They are very concerned with where He is going. How would you summarize Jesus' response to their concern in the first two passages?
2. Once again there's a lot of conversation about "laying down one's life." What do you think the disciples are thinking about when this phrase is mentioned? What is Jesus thinking about? What are you thinking about?
3. There's a lot in these verses about relationships, specifically the relationship we have with God and the relationships we

have with others. When it comes to our relationship with God, it's like a fruit connected to the vine and a path that shows us where to go, leading to life. When it comes to others, we're called to love and lay down our lives for them.

- When you think your relationship with God and others, how do they compare to what Jesus describes for you here? How are they the same as His description? How are they different?
- Where would you like to work? How will you do it?

A moment to pray.

Jesus, You are the way, the truth, and the life. Help me to always hold tight to that reality of that so that I might always find life in You alone. You laid down Your life that I might have mine and be connected to You for eternity. Keep me connected to You, growing in Your love. In Your name. Amen.