



TEXT SCRIPTURES

- John 14:17
- John 15:26
- John 16:13
- John 18
- Romans 8:14
- Luke 22

I. Introduction: (Main Text: John 14:17) Jesus is in the Upper Room speaking to His disciples for the last time in the flesh. Knowing that He is speaking to them for the very last time, He has very carefully chosen His words. He has an opportunity to speak of many things, but as He sits with His disciples in that room, Jesus chooses to speak to them about the ministry of the Holy Spirit. These were the last and the most important words Jesus could speak to His disciples.


A. The Spirit of Truth

1. John 14:16: I will pray the Father and He will give you another Comforter that He may abide with you forever. In verse 17, Jesus calls Him the Spirit of Truth.

2. John 15:26: Jesus continues speaking about the ministry of the Spirit, and He says, "When the Comforter is come whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of Truth." This is now twice in two chapters Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Spirit of Truth.

3. John 16:13: Jesus says, "Howbeit when He who the Spirit of Truth..." This is now three times in three chapters Jesus has called the Holy Spirit the Spirit of Truth.

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4. Jesus is driving this point into the heart of the disciples: He is the Spirit of Truth. He is not the Spirit of deception; you can trust Him. Anything that He says to you, do it. He will never mislead you or misguide you, because He is the Spirit of Truth.

B. The Holy Spirit: Your Tour Guide

1. John 16:13: Jesus says, “When He the Spirit of Truth has come He will guide you into all the truth.” This word “guide” means *to guide*, but it is the Greek word *odega*, which is not just any kind of a guide; this is a *tour guide*. Particularly it is a guide who is trained to take you into unknown, unexplored territory. He has already been there. He knows all the routes; He knows all the paths; and therefore, He is qualified to take you where you have never been before.

2. *Illustration*: I live in Russia. In the years that people have been coming to see us in the former Soviet Union, everyone wants to see the city of Moscow. And they all want me to take them on the tour because I know history. They believe that if I walk with them, they’re going to get a tour like no one else has ever given them because I know that territory so well. I’ve been there. I know all the routes; I w the fastest way to get you around; and I know the longest routes to take.

3. Jesus said how it would be when the Spirit of Truth has come: He will guide you into all truth. The Greek word for a tour guide means the Holy Spirit has already been out front. He already knows where we’re going. He knows the longest route. He knows the shortest route. He knows how to get us to the ultimate destination the fastest way and the safest way.

- Romans 8:14: We have one of the most wonderful promises in the New Testament. Romans 8:14 says, “As many as are led by the Spirit of God they are the sons of God.”
- The Greek text completely reverses the sentence structure. The *King James* says, “As many as are led by the Spirit of God they are the sons of God.” But the Greek puts the Holy Spirit at the very first of the verse. The Greek actually says, “As many as by the Spirit of God are being led.” It puts the picture of the Holy Spirit at the first of the verse, and we are at the end of the verse. The Spirit of God is OUT FRONT like the great Leader; we are behind like the tagalongs. *As many as by the Spirit of God are being led.*

C. The Holy Spirit Our Leader: The word “led” is the Greek word *ago*. This word *ago* has two meanings in the Greek language; both are correct in this verse. The word “led” has two meanings, and both of these meanings are correct. In the first place, the word *ago* is an agricultural term. It describes someone wrapping a rope around the neck of a beast, then taking the other end of that rope and leading that beast. And that beast faithfully just follows, being led on the other end of a rope.

1. *Illustration*: Soviet Union – When Denise and I first moved to the former Soviet Union years ago, one thing we saw in our early days that I had never seen before was people who walked their

cows. Little bitty grandmas would tie a rope around the neck of their cow, take the other end of the rope, and walk those cows all the way to the outskirts of the city until finally they found a little plot of green grass. The little grandmas would then reach in their pocket, pull out a stake, and knock it into the ground. Then they would take the end of the rope, and tie it around that stake, and then walk all the way back into town until about 5:30 that night, when there would be another mass exodus of little grandmas walking back out to where they had left their cow that morning.

2. The thing that amazed me first was that the cow was strong enough with one jerk of the neck to have ripped the stake out of the ground. The cow never even thought about that. It stayed exactly where it was led. So I said to somebody, “What’s up with those cows? Why do these big cows follow these grandmas?” And the answer: “Because from the time that they were young, the cows have been trained to follow the leading of a guide on the end of a rope.”

3. This Greek word **ago**, which was used here in Romans 8:14, is the picture of the Holy Spirit with a rope around us. He doesn’t put a rope around our necks; rather, He is attached to our human spirits. And if we’ll allow the Holy Spirit to be out front, He will tug on our hearts. And if we’ve been trained correctly, we will come to recognize the tugging and the pulling of the Spirit so that He can be out front and we can faithfully follow behind Him. And where He leads us to, we are to stay in that spot — even if we don’t like that spot. We are to stay where we had been led until He comes back to pull up the stake and lead us away.

4. **Ago** is also an athletic term. It is where we get the word “agony,” from the Greek word **agonidzo**, which describes *a great struggle*. Usually this Greek word **ago** describes a *struggle of the mind, the will, or the emotions*.

5. The Holy Spirit wants to be out front; He wants to lead us, He wants to pull our spirits. We should be sensitive enough that when He pulls on our hearts, we can sense His leading and His drawing. The problem is that our heads often do not understand the leading of the Spirit. Therefore, we enter an agonizing time where our hearts says one thing but our heads says another, and there is a great wrestle between our heads and our spirits.

II. The Spirit of Truth Leads Jesus

A. Luke 22 — Jesus comes into the Garden of Gethsemane and says to His disciples, “You stay here while I go yonder to pray.” That word “yonder” describes *a great distance*. Jesus wanted so much space between Him and his disciples that they would not hear Him when He began to pray. Yet when you study Luke’s gospel, Luke said that “when Jesus was about a stone’s throw from them.” The phrase “a stone throw” does not match the word “yonder.” So Jesus’ intention was to go far, but He didn’t make it there. Jesus only made it about a stone’s throw.

B. Matthew says that He began to be so sorrowful that He couldn’t make it all the way to the place where He wanted to pray. In fact, one gospel says that Jesus fell on His knees. The word “fell” in Greek

really means *to collapse*. This was not a religious picture of Jesus just gently lowering Himself down upon His knees. The weight of what was on Him was so heavy, Jesus literally *collapsed*. Luke says that He fell on his face. So now you see a progression. Jesus collapses under the spiritual weight, and then the weight becomes so unbearable that He literally falls on His face.

1. Luke (who was a doctor) says that Jesus “prayed the more *earnestly*,” which is the Greek word **ektenes**. The word Greek word **ektenes** describes *a person that is in emotional agony*. This is a person who is in such real physical pain that he cannot sit still or lay in one place — a person who is writhing in every direction. This is the picture of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. He wants to go pray yonder, but because the pressure is so great, He only makes it about a stone’s throw before suddenly He collapses on His knees and then falls on His face. And it becomes so excruciating in this moment that He begins writhing. He begins moving this way and that way, holding Himself as He cries out to God. And we know what He prayed: “*Father, if it be thy will, let this cup pass from me.*”

2. Matthew says that a second time and then a third time, Jesus said, “*Father, if it is possible let this cup pass from Me.*” That night in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was being tested by His own teaching. You will be tested by your own teaching.

3. Just before He came to the Garden, Jesus had told the disciples three times, “The Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, and you can trust Him. He will never mislead you. He will never misguide you. The Spirit is the Spirit of Truth; you can trust Him. You can trust Him. You can trust Him.” Now as Jesus is in the Garden of Gethsemane, He realizes this same Spirit of Truth is leading Him to the Cross. And before the Cross, this Spirit of Truth is leading Him to Pilate, where His body is going to be scourged and ripped open; where 300 to 600 soldiers will slap Him and spit on Him. All of this is in front of Jesus, and beyond the Cross is hell itself! And the Spirit of Truth is the One leading Him to this. Jesus cries out, “Is it possible? Can this really be You? If there is any way, let this cup pass from Me!” And finally He says, “*Nevertheless, not My will be done but thy will be done.*”

C. Luke 22 — Jesus’ emotional state was so intense that it says “...his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” The “sweat” is the Greek word *idros*. The word “drops” is the Greek word *thrombos*, a medical word that points to *blood that is unusually thickly clotted*. When these two words are joined, they depict a medical condition called *hematidrosis* — a condition that occurs only in individuals who are in a highly emotional state.

1. Had we seen Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane that night, He was a bloody mess. Before He ever went to the Cross, He was already a bloody mess. How I thank God that the Holy Spirit chose to include this in the Scripture because it tells us the kind of pressure that Jesus was under in the Garden of Gethsemane. And finally after winning the battle in prayer, He came to His disciples.

2. In Mark. He woke them up and the Bible tells us that as they went, Judas Iscariot came. In John 18, Judas Iscariot came with a band of soldiers. A Roman cohort consisted of 300 to 600 soldiers — never less than 300, never more than 600. So that night when the soldiers came into the garden to arrest

Jesus, this was not just a few soldiers; it was 300 to 600 soldiers with clubs and knives. Imagine the power they must have heard that Jesus had!

3. John tells us that when Jesus saw them, He stepped forward and said, “*Whom seek ye?*” In John 18, they answered, “Jesus of Nazareth,” and Jesus answered them, “I AM HE.” In Greek it says *ego eimi*. A literal translation is *I am*. The same words used in Exodus 3 when God identifies Himself to Moses are the same words Jesus used in John 8:58 when He said, “Before Abraham was, *ego eimi*.” (I am). When Jesus uttered those words, there was such a blast of divine power that John 19 says the soldiers staggered backward and fell to the ground.

4. “Staggered backward” in Greek describes *somebody trying to resist a force that cannot be resisted*. They were trying to resist as its power drove them backward, and finally — BAM — they fell to the ground.

D. Peter swings into action: The Bible says, “Peter, having a sword.” The Greek word for “sword” here describes *the sword of a Roman soldier*. This was not his sword. Peter looked, and scattered all on the ground were 300 to 600 Roman soldiers slain by the power of God. And lying there with them was Malchus, who was the spokesman of the high priest. Peter and all of the disciples probably had a real grudge against this man, because every time the high priest said something ugly about Jesus, he said it through his spokesman, who was Malchus. And when Peter saw Malchus lying there and so many available swords, he grabbed a sword. This was not the sword of a civilian; this was a Roman sword. And the Bible says he cut off Malchus’ ear. We know Peter was not trying to cut off his ear. He was trying to cut off his head and swiped his ear! And just about that time, the soldiers began to recover from the power of God. Little by little they begin to find their way back up on their feet.

1. The Bible says Jesus healed Malchus. He had to heal him. If He didn’t heal Malchus, Peter was going to die. He had committed two offenses: Number one, he had stolen military equipment. For that reason alone, Peter would have died. Number two, He assaulted the most visible member of the community. For that reason, Peter would have been killed.

2. No one had the power to take Jesus Christ — no one! At the very moment of His arrest, He was growing an ear on a man’s head! With his mere words, He knocked 300 to 600 soldiers flat on their backs! Not only that, but a man was accidentally raised from the dead! We know that later Jesus said that He could have called 10,000 legions of angels! All of this was at His disposal, yet He stood silent, and the Bible tells us they led Him to Caiaphas. That word “led” is the same word *ago* used in Romans 8:14, which means that night Jesus was not really being led by those soldiers.

3. Jesus already in prayer had said, “Not My will.” He had been through the agony in His soul. In His heart He knew the Spirit was leading Him to the Cross; in His mind He wondered how could the Father possibly require this. In His heart He knew this was His destiny; in His mind He did not want to. There was a struggle as He was following the Spirit of Truth. And finally that night they came. And because the word *ago* is used, we know literally they wrapped a rope around the neck of Jesus and they

led Him, as Isaiah 53 says, like a lamb to its slaughter. He was literally led with a rope wrapped around His neck. But that night it was not really the soldiers that were leading Jesus. It was the Spirit of Truth leading Him to the Cross.

E. Illustration: Several years ago, I was at a big conference in Chicago. On the last night of the conference, I began to be disturbed in my spirit. I said to Denise, “*Sweetheart, I don’t know why, but I am not supposed to leave this room tonight.*” She said, “Well, that’s kind of strange. I wonder why the Lord would want you to stay in the hotel room.” I said, “Well, that’s what I’m thinking.” I said, “Oh, this can’t be God. Why would the Spirit of God lead me to stay in the hotel room? This is just me.” I just felt, *You are not supposed to leave the hotel room tonight*, but in my head, I could not understand, so I dismissed it.

1. I began to put my clothes on and get ready for church, the whole time inwardly feeling like I was violating something, that I was supposed to stay in that room. Soon there was a little tap on the door. I said, “Denise, the driver is here to get us. We are late; we’ve got to get dressed. We’ve got to go quick!” So I finished getting dressed, went to the door, opened it, and looked out in the hall. But there was no one there. I said, “*Denise, we are so late that driver has already gone down to the car. I’m going to run down to the car. Come as quick as you can.*” So I went down the elevator, and when I got downstairs there was no car and no driver. Denise came down 15 minutes later, and there was still no driver. We were not late, but there was no driver. Finally, the driver came. We got in the car and began to drive across the city of Chicago. Sitting in the back seat the whole way, I kept saying to Denise, “I don’t know what this is. I’ve got to turn this car around. I’ve got to go back to the room. I don’t know why.” But then, I’d think, *No, this is not God! Why would God tell me to sit in the room? Does He want me to watch television while the rest of you go to church tonight?* I even got sarcastic about it. I couldn’t figure this out! I said, “This is just me. This is something silly. Back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. Finally, that driver got involved in the conversation. “Mr. Renner, you just give me the word; I’ll turn this car around.” Then I got embarrassed. I said, “No, just go just go.”

2. So we pulled up to the church and went inside. I visited with everyone and was just so grieved in my heart that when they all turned to go into the service, I waved farewell, went back, and got in the car. I said to the driver, “Take me home to my room. I don’t know why, but I’ve got to be in my room tonight.” As we drove back to the room, I remembered they were all going to have dinner that night after church. I thought, *I’m going to miss dinner because of this crazy leading that I don’t agree with and don’t even understand.* So I said to the driver, “Pull into Wendy’s.” Then I remembered that we needed some toothpaste, so I walked across the parking lot to the convenience store to buy some toothpaste. Finally, I got back in the car, rode all the way back to the hotel, walked in the front door of the hotel, stopped at the front desk to talk a few more moments with the lady at the registration desk, pushed the button on the elevator to go up to the second floor, walked down to my room, slipped the key into the door, opened the door, walked into the room — and our room looked like a tornado had gone through it. Our suitcases were opened, clothes thrown all over the room.

3. I looked over at the desk, and my computer was gone. In that computer were five brand-new books almost finished — of which I had no copies at all. I looked, and my briefcase was gone. In my briefcase

were the ten years of my most important notes, my passport, my Russian visa, my other documents — everything that I needed for the airplane two days from then. All of it was inside that briefcase. I turned and walked into the midst of all the clothes. The thief had had so much time that he had opened Denise's jewelry bag and separated the jewelry into four categories: nice jewelry, silver jewelry, costume jewelry, cheap jewelry. He'd had so much time that he was able to decide what jewelry he would take. I stood up and I heard the Spirit say, "Now you know why I told you to stay in the room tonight."

4. If I had stayed in the room that night, do you know what would have happened? Nothing. Do you know what I would have said to Denise when she came home after church that night? "Well, I don't know what this thing was about me staying here. Nothing happened. I guess I missed God. I stayed here and nothing happened."

5. It made me wonder how many times we have all obeyed our hearts and never known why the Spirit of God told us to do something. But He is faithful if we will listen to Him.

III. Application: Have you ever had a leading in your heart that you denied, and later you were regretful that you didn't do what your heart was telling you? Jesus said when the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide. He will lead us into the future. He knows all the routes. He knows the places to avoid. He knows the way to get you there faster, how to get you there safer. But He needs someone who's willing to follow.

A. In these days that we are living in, you better put this into practice in your life. Your life might count on it.

B. Conclusion: Prayer — Holy Spirit, You are our Leader. Father, we ask You to help us listen to our hearts and not let our heads overrule what You're saying inside our spirits. Help us be sensitive, and give us the courage to obey what You have dropped into our hearts. We thank You for this in the name of Jesus.

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