

I. Introduction

A. Review what we have covered so far.

- I. In the upper room, Jesus knows that it is His last hour.
 - a. The disciples, soon to be apostles, do not know, although He has been telling them for months (Matthew 16:21).
 - b. They are still arguing/discussing who will be greatest in the kingdom (Luke 22:24-27).
 - c. They are still infected by the leaven of the Pharisees and the teaching of the Judaism of the day.
 - d. They have a hard time conceiving of a Messiah that will die and not overtake Rome and exalt Israel:

Luke 19:11

11 While they were listening to these things, Jesus went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately.

Acts 1:6

6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”

- II. Just 4 days earlier, the entire city seemed to welcome Him into the gates of Jerusalem.
 - A. That was Monday afternoon.
 - B. The next day, He entered the Temple and scattered the money-changers and reprimanded them for their sacrilege.
 - C. On Wednesday, Jesus then cursed the Pharisees and ended the day with a teaching on His second coming in a private conversation with the disciples under a tree on the Mount of Olives.
 - D. Thursday comes and Jesus is continuing to debate and deride the religious leaders because of their wicked motives and practices to His people, Israel.
 - E. All the while, we read of things like this:

Luke 20:20

20 So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, in order that they might catch Him in some statement, so that they *could* deliver Him to the rule and the authority of the governor.

*Theology: New Covenant-pp. 450, 477, 749, 852, 870, 874-5, 878=80, 933,
Church age – 880.*

Matthew 26:3–5

3 Then the chief priests and the elders of the people were gathered together in the court of the high priest, named Caiaphas;

4 and they plotted together to seize Jesus by stealth and kill Him.

5 But they were saying, “Not during the festival, otherwise a riot might occur among the people.”

a) *Jesus knew their hearts.*

b) *He knew their plots.*

c) *He knew their deceptions.*

d) *He also knew their chief aid will be His own close friend-Judas.*

(1) Judas was with the Lord and the disciples when He washed their feet.

(2) Judas was with the Lord when He took the Last Passover supper.

(3) Judas was identified by the Lord to John alone as the betrayer.

(4) Judas went out, with the permission of Jesus and the power of Satan, and conferred with the Pharisees to turn Jesus in by stealth.

F. In the nighttime.

G. In the garden on the Mount of Olives where Jesus would go at the end of the day for rest and prayer.

H. Without crowds around.

I. And those who were around would think nothing of a cohort of Roman soldiers walking by with a prisoner.

II. All of this, and what is to come, was taught by Peter as:

Acts 2:22–23

22 “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—

23 this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

III. It is the hour.

- A. Jesus is going back to the Father.
- B. He has revolutionized the lives of these men and their families.
- C. He has completely turned their lives upside down.
- D. He has acquainted them with trouble as they are now known as those who accompanied Jesus.
- E. Now, He talks about going away, them not coming, and Him returning again.

IV. What is it that Jesus is most concerned about now?

- A. Now, Jesus understands that in His absence, the disciples would:
 - I. Be transformed into apostles.
 - II. Be filled with the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and perform miracles like He did.
 - III. Be the start of a group of elect people, Jew and Gentile, who would be re-created by the work of the Spirit.
 - IV. Write the NT.
 - V. Lead the church through decades of life in the world.
 - VI. Learn, learn, learn how to conform the church to the image of Christ.
 - B. But, the disciples don't know this.
- V. And, as I have said before,
- A. What is the one thing that Jesus must teach them?
 - B. And why does He need to teach this?
- VI. In order to help you understand the answer to these two questions, we need to go back and review the Lord's earthly ministry.
- A. We need to do this from three perspectives:
 - I. Prophecy
 - II. Ministry
 - III. Ascension
 - B. Let's review each in order:
 - I. Prophecy**
 - a. It was taught in the OT that a Deliverer would come and establish a worldwide presence of renewal.
 - i. On the back of Genesis 3:15, the OT spoke of One who would come and destroy the wicked one and reverse all that he did.
 - 1. He was called "the Seed" in Genesis 22:17.
 - 2. He was called "Shiloh" in Genesis 49:10
 - 3. He was called "the One from Jacob" in Numbers 24:19.
 - 4. He was called "the Anointed, King, and a Son" in Psalm 2:2, 6, 7 respectively.

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5. He was called "God-with-us" in Isaiah 7:11.
 6. He was called "the Branch" in Isaiah 11:1; Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15; Zechariah 3:8; 6:12.
 7. He was called "LORD" and "King" in Zechariah 14:1, 9.
- ii. All of these titles describe the One to come who would restore the earth to glory.
 - iii. This one goal is the point of Genesis 12:1-3
Genesis 12:1–3

1 Now the Lord said to Abram,
“Go forth from your country,
And from your relatives
And from your father’s house,
To the land which I will show you;
2 And I will make you a great nation,
And I will bless you,
And make your name great;
And so you shall be a blessing;
3 And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the earth will be
blessed.”

- II. The Apostle Paul wrote of this in Romans:
Romans 4:13
13 For the promise to Abraham or to his
descendants that he would be heir of the world was
not through the Law, but through the righteousness
of faith.

- b. Jesus alluded to this when He said that salvation is from the Jews (John 4:22).

c. Ministry:

1. Whenever Jesus spoke of forgiveness of sins He spoke of this work of destroying the devil.
2. Whenever Jesus healed anyone, He attacked the devil.
3. Whenever Jesus raised someone from the dead, He reverse the curse.
4. Whenever Jesus taught truth, He contradicted the lies of the devil.

d. Ascension: And, while He is away with the Father,

1. He has sent the Holy Spirit to continually work in us for holiness.
2. He has sent gifts to men in order to make the church holy.
3. He has prepared a place for the church to live in His heaven away from the devil.

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4. He has designed a process by which the spread of His Word would be unstoppable.
- c. Now, all of these things are known to Christ as He speaks to these men.
- d. However, there really is one term that sums it all up.
 1. It is a term that is used often, certainly in Scripture and here at Berean.
 2. It is a term that is filled with confusion and alternative meaning by those who lack understanding.
 3. It is a term, however, that best describes all that we have just reviewed.
 4. Do you know what this term is?
 1. It is the word: "kingdom."
 2. It is the word: "kingdom."
- e. The OT spoke of the kingdom to come prophetically:
Daniel 7:13–14

13 “I kept looking in the night visions,
And behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a Son of Man was coming,
And He came up to the Ancient of Days
And was presented before Him.

14 “And to Him was given dominion,
Glory and a kingdom,
That all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language
Might serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
Which will not pass away;
And His kingdom is one
Which will not be destroyed.

Daniel 7:27

27 ‘Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of *all* the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom *will be* an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.’

- I. The NT speaks of the kingdom repeatedly:

Acts 1:3

3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over *a period of* forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

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Acts 28:23

23 When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening.

Acts 28:28–31

28 “Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will also listen.”

29 [When he had spoken these words, the Jews departed, having a great dispute among themselves.]

30 And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him,

31 preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

Revelation 12:10

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying,

“**Now** the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

Revelation 11:15–17

15 Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying,

“**The** kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.”

16 And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God,

17 saying,

“**We** give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign.

II. Revelation 20:1-7

III. And, the sum of it all is from the lips of God Himself:

1. Revelation 21:3-7

2. Revelation 22:1-5

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- IV. Now, what does all of this mean?
 - 1. What does it matter?
 - 2. How does it relate to John 13?
 - 3. Hebrews tells us:
 - 1. 7:11-24
 - 2. 9:6-7, 15-17
- V. The death of the Priest inaugurated the New Covenant as He is the One who attested to it in Jeremiah 31 etc...
 - 1. Therefore, in order to move the New Covenant into the scene of the kingdom plan. Jesus, who made it, had to die in order to get the provisions of the testament moving.
 - 2. Therefore, we understand, now, what Jesus understood when John tells us that Jesus knew that it was His "last hour." (13:1).

II. Why do we need to know this?

- 3. Because:
 - 1. With a new Priest comes a new covenant.
 - 2. With a new covenant comes a new set of laws (law).
 - 3. With a new law comes new means of obedience to that law.
 - 4. With a new obedience comes new life.
- 4. It is what Paul wrote.
 - 1. Galatians 3:1-15
 - 2. The promise to Abraham is now available to men and women who were never a part of the promise in the first place, as far as the legal arrangement goes.
 - 3. However, God is above the Law.
 - 1. Paul would tell us this was His eternal purpose in Christ from since before the foundation of the world.
 - 2. And, this is the mystery of the kingdom.

III. Therefore, we live by a new Law.

- 1. We who are under a New Covenant, even though never part of it legally, have been made a part of it by the will of God.
- 2. So, now, we are being made new by this covenant and that renewal transcends everything else!
 - Galatians 3:25–29
 - 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.
 - 26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
 - 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

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28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

A. Now, can you guess what that Law is?

1. John 13:34

2. This Law transcends, and fulfills, the "old Law" which is the greatest commandment.

B. Look at what the NT says about this Law"

Romans 13:8–10

8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the* law.

9 For this, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of *the* law.

Galatians 5:13–14

13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do* not *turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 6:2

2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

1. A good example of the distinctions in the OT Law and the NT Law of Christ is in 1 Corinthians 8:20-21

2. Paul understood that He lived according to the Law of Christ, but at times would be required to acquiesce to the Law of Moses in order to identify with the Jews and "win them."

C. The New Covenant: esp. 2 Corinthians 3:6

3. The glory:

1. 2 Corinthians 3:1-4:7

4. The limitation:

1. 2 Corinthians 4:8-18

1. The work:

1. Galatians 5:1-6

2. Galatians 5:16-26

3.

IV. The life of the church:

2. Now, in the church, we are called to display the glory of God.
3. According to Jesus, the ONLY way that the glory of God is going to happen is by all of us obeying the commandment of the New Covenant, "love one another."
 1. Shepherds love the flock:
2 Corinthians 11:10–11
10 As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia.
11 Why? Because I do not love you? God knows *I do!*
 - A. The flock love the shepherds:
1 Thessalonians 5:12–13

12 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,
13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.
 - B. Husbands love your wives:
 - C. Wives love your husbands:
 - D. Fathers and mothers love your children:
 - E. Children love your parents:
 - F. Saints love the collective body:
Hebrews 10:23–25
23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;
24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,
25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

V. Conclusion

- I. Warnings of love:
 - I. The curse of not loving Christ:
1 Corinthians 16:22
22 If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed. Maranatha.
 - III. The failure to continue in love:
Revelation 2:2–4
2 *'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;*

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3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.

4 'But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.

1. The command to love in sincerity:

Romans 12:9–13

9 *Let love be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

10 *Be* devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,

13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

2. And, in short:

1 Timothy 1:5–7

5 But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

6 For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion,

7 wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions.

B.