Study 17

The Gospel of John

Soon to depart

Introduction

In John 13vs31ff Jesus' attention turns from the cross to His return to the Father and what that departure will mean for His disciples. As we shall see, Jesus' return to His Father is for the good of His church, but it also creates challenges and tensions for them. By returning to His Father, He prepares a place for us and sends His Spirit as our companion and guide. But His absence requires real faith on the part of His disciples – faith to trust Him in the midst of a hostile world; faith that He hears and answers our prayers; faith that He will return to take us to be where He is.

Study Questions

These questions help you to see clearly what the text is saying. This is a vital first step towards understanding what the text means. The questions should be answered from the text itself.

Read John 13vs31-14vs4. Answer the following questions:

1. How is Jesus' impending death to be interpreted and resurrection to be interpreted? (John 13vs31-32)

2. What will this mean for Jesus' disciples? (John 13vs33)

3. What must characterise their lives during His absence? (John 13 vs34)

4. What result will this have for the watching world? (John 13vs35)

5. What hinders Peter from following Jesus to glory immediately? (John 13vs37-38)

6. What effect did Jesus' words have upon his disciples?

7. What is the cure for their 'troubled hearts'?

8. What assurance does Jesus give His disciples?

Think it Through

1. What has this study taught you about living as a Christian in a world where Jesus is not physically present?