

## DEVOTIONAL READING

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# Philip Yancey Devotional

## One Final Meal Together

### John 14

All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (John 14:25-26)

The apostle John devoted one-third of his gospel to the last twenty-four hours of Jesus' life. John stretched The Passover meal out over five chapters (13-17), and nothing like these chapters exists elsewhere in the Bible. Their slow-motion, realistic detail provides an intimate memoir of Jesus' most anguished evening on earth.

Leonardo da Vinci immortalized the setting of The Last Supper in his famous painting, arranging the participants on one side of the table as if they were posing for the artist. John avoids physical details and presents instead the maelstrom of human emotions. He holds a light to the disciples' faces, and you can almost see the awareness flickering in their eyes. All that Jesus had told them over the past three years was settling in.

Never before had Jesus been so direct with them. It was his last chance to communicate to them the significance of his life and his death. He refrained from parables and painstakingly answered the disciples' redundant questions. The world was about to undergo a convulsive trauma, and the eleven fearful men with him were his hope for that world.

"I am going away, and I am coming back to you," Jesus kept repeating, until at last the disciples showed signs of comprehension. God's Son had entered the world to reside in one body. He was now leaving earth to return to the Father. But someone else—the Spirit of truth, the Counselor—would come to take up residence in many bodies, in their bodies.

Jesus was planning to die, yes. He was leaving them. But in some mysterious way, he was not leaving. He would not stay dead. That night, Jesus gave them an intimacy with the Father such as they had never known; yet he promised an even greater intimacy to come. He seemed aware that much of what they nodded their heads at now would not sink in until later.

**Life Question:** This chapter contains many promises. Which have been fulfilled in your life?