

November 6 Answers

- 1) Jesus' farewell discourse and prayer. The disciples were struggling to reconcile Jesus' talk of betrayal, death and departure with their **expectation** that He would soon restore the kingdom. Jesus, knowing their confusion, told them, "Let not your hearts be **troubled**. Believe in God; believe also in me" (John 14:1). Jesus wanted the disciples to **trust** Him in spite of their doubt and uncertainty, and we should do the same. Jesus then affirmed some of the most vital truths of the gospel. First, He declared Himself to be: "The **way**, and the **truth**, and the **life**. No one comes to the Father except through me." This means that there are not many paths to God—there is only **one** way, Jesus Christ. Next, He claimed **equality** with God: "I am in the Father and the Father is in me." This means that Jesus is God-of-very-God, as well as man-of-very-man. He is the **God-man**, the exegete of the Father, the One who reveals and expounds God to the world. Last, Jesus explained that it was better for Him to **leave** so that the Holy Spirit could come and take over the role of "helper" to the disciples (John 14:16; 16:7). Jesus went on to tell the disciples that their spiritual **union** with Him could be compared to branches in a vine. As long as they would **abide** in Him, they would be able to bear fruit, for apart from Him they could do nothing. How can we do this? By **keeping** His commandments, for Jesus said, "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love" (John 15:10). **Obedience** is the key to a fruitful life in Christ.