

The Gospel of John

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

John 14:15-17

INTRODUCTION:

This morning we will be continuing in the Gospel of John. Please open your Bibles to chapter 14. Last week we finished with verse 15. It is still Thursday night. We are still in the upper room with Jesus and the eleven faithful disciples. This is a very important night. Jesus is providing them with truth that they will need to know in order to spread the Gospel to the whole world after He is gone.

The evening has become quite depressing. Judas has left. Peter has been told that he will deny the Lord three times that very night before the rooster crows. And they are all going to scatter and forsake Him. Jesus has told them that He is going to be arrested, beaten, and murdered. He will be leaving them.

They have been with Him for three full years. They love Him and believe in Him, but they are **very** confused. Their entire sense of what was supposed to happen has disappeared. According to **their** theology, Jesus was supposed to be setting up an earthly kingdom. This kingdom was supposed to bring glory for the Lord and for them. But now it seemed there was not even going to be a kingdom. This is **not** how it was supposed to happen!

How could Jesus die?

We have forsaken **everything** to follow You and now **You** are going to abandon **us**?

Jesus understood their anxiety. They were continuing to see things from an earthly perspective. They do not understand the spiritual implications of what was about to take place. They are about to experience the arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane that night and He will be tried and hung on the cross by tomorrow afternoon.

So He takes a break from His effort to prepare them for what was about to occur in order to **comfort** them. He tells them "**Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in me.**" I am leaving so I can prepare a place for each of you in heaven. You cannot go with me now, but you will be able to come in the future and you know how to get there.

Thomas spoke for the group and said "**Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?**"

And Jesus tells him, "**I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.**"

Thomas acknowledges that they still do not grasp that He is talking about His death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven. If we do not know where you are going, how can we know the way to get there?

They are still trying to process this from earthly terms. Will we have to build a spaceship and follow a Google map?

You see, Jesus is telling them of His impending death and resurrection so that when it happens they **will** understand. It is at the cross where Jesus will provide the **way** for their and their and our salvation. They couldn't go now because He had not yet paved the way.

What He is about to teach them is that there is a transition that is about to take place. You have spent the last three years with me. You have walked with me and listened to my teachings. You have experienced the miracles that I have performed. You were able to ask questions and get answers directly from me. But now I am leaving and I will not be with you in person. You have believed in Me because you could **see** Me. Now you must learn to believe by faith. Even though I die, you must still believe that I am the Messiah, the Son of God. You believe in an invisible God whom you cannot see. Now you must learn to believe in Me even though I die and leave you behind.

In our scripture text this morning Jesus is going to promise them that although He is leaving, they will not be left alone.

Stand and Read Scripture

John 14:15-19 (NASB)

¹⁵ "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ *that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.*

Prayer

BODY:

I. THE RECIPIENT OF THE PROMISES.

I finished the message last week with the same verse that I started with this week. At first, when you read it, it seems out of place.

John 14:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

You may ask, "Why is this verse here?"

It is here because it defines for whom all of these promises are given.

Promises such as:

- You will do greater miracles than even I did. (Not in magnitude but in number.) Verse 12).

- Whatever you ask in my name, that will I do. (Verse 14).
- The Holy Spirit is going to come and take up residence. (Verses 16 & 17)

To whom does He make such promises?

To those who love Me and keep my commandments!

This is not just a promise to the eleven disciples with Him in the upper room that night but to **everyone** who loves Him and keeps His commandments! This is John's prevailing definition of a **true** Christian.

For example, if you just skip down to verse 21: “**He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me**” Or verse 23: “**If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word.**” And then in verse 24: “**He who does not love Me does not keep My words.**”

So how can you tell if one is a true Christian?

A true Christian loves and obeys! It is **not just** lip service.

Matthew 7:21 (NASB)

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who **does** the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.”

Luke 6:46 (NASB)

⁴⁶ “Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”

How do you know a true Christian?

A true Christian loves the Lord, and consequently obeys. Love is the **motive** and obedience is the resulting **action from** that love.

Go to chapter 15. John makes another statement that essentially says the same thing.

John 15:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

How do you know that Jesus **loved** the Father? Because He what? He **obeyed** the Father. That is our model.

You know, when **we** look at people, we look at their **action** and try to interpret their **hearts**. We try to understand their heart by their action because that is all we can do. But that is deceptive because people can do the action without the heart.

God doesn’t view people that way. He looks at the **heart** and interprets the **action**. We look at the action and interpret the heart. God looks at the heart and interprets the action. And what is God looking for? Not just obedience, but obedience motivated by love for Him that transcends love for self. **That is the love of a true worshipper!**

This message was made clear to Peter in John 21 when Peter decided he was going to defect from his calling and went back to fishing. You remember the story...the Lord

appeared to the disciples at the Sea of Galilee and after eating breakfast with them, He approached Peter.

John 21:15-17 (NASB)

¹⁵ So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus *said to Simon Peter, “Simon, *son of John*, do you love Me more than these?” He *said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He *said to him, “Tend My lambs.” ¹⁶ He *said to him again a second time, “Simon, *son of John*, do you love Me?” He *said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He *said to him, “Shepherd My sheep.” ¹⁷ He *said to him the third time, “Simon, *son of John*, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus *said to him, “Tend My sheep.

Can't you feel sorry for Peter? He was told that he would deny Jesus three times before the rooster crowed and he did. I am sure he never quite got over that. And now Jesus asks him three times if he really loved Him. This is the prerequisite for works. “In other words, don't talk to Me about sentimental love. Don't talk to Me about some kind of sloppy spiritual feeling or some emotion. If you love Me, **do** what I called you to do. **Do** what I commanded you to do.” **But do it because you love me!** Love and obedience are always the defining reality of true believers.

II. THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

John 14:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

Remember. the disciples are in a panic because Jesus is leaving. So Jesus says, “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper”.

Notice that the whole Trinity is involved in this on all levels. “I will ask the Father,” there is the Son and the Father, “and He will give you another Helper,” that is the Holy Spirit.

The Father is going to “give you another Helper, that He may be with your forever.”

Now notice this: “I will ask the Father and He'll give you another helper.” In the Greek language, there are two words for **another**. In English, there is just one. If I say, “Another something,” that doesn't tell you anything about it. It is just something other than the one that you have in mind.

That is not true in Greek. In Greek, there's a word *heteros*. *Heteros* means it is different; another of a different kind.

For example, Paul uses *heteros* In Galatians 1.

Galatians 1:9 (NASB)

⁹ As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel **contrary** to what you received, he is to be accursed!

So that word means another of a different kind.

Then they have the word *állos*. *Állos* is used here. It means another of the exact same kind.

Here in verse 16 Jesus uses *állos*. I will give you another exactly like I am, which is to say that I'm going to send you a Helper exactly like the Helper that I have been.

All you have to do is look at the ministry of Jesus. What did He do for them?

He did everything for them. He answered every question they ever had. He provided everything they needed. He supplied all their protection, all their provision, all their instruction, all their wisdom, all their knowledge.

Everything came from Him. He interpreted all their experiences. He not only told them the meaning of what had happened and was happening. He explained to them what was going to happen. He explained to them the significance of divine revelation in the past.

He was absolutely everything to them, and He says, "I'm going away, but I'm going to give you a Helper exactly like Me.

And here is the good news, He is coming that He may be with you forever. He is not going to be with you for three years like I have been. He's going to be with forever. He will be with you through your entire life here and through your entire life in heaven."

That's why in chapter 16 and verse 7, He said,

John 16:7 (NASB)

7 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

I could be in another town. I could be in another building. I could be down the road away from you when you need me, but I am going to send someone Who will be with you at all times. I am leaving only after three years, but I am sending someone exactly like Myself. And listen! He will do everything for you that I have done. He will be your teacher, your illuminator, and your alarm against temptation. He will draw you to God and teach you how to worship. He is exactly like Myself; and He will be with you forever.

And then we see the rest of the promise...

III. THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

John 14:17 (NASB)

17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

"He is the Spirit of truth."

Of course He is, because God is truth and Jesus and God are One. And the Holy Spirit is just like Christ. As said earlier in the chapter, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life**". He will be what I was to you. I am the truth and He is the truth. Everything He tells you will be the truth.

The world doesn't know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you."

What is that about? How did the Holy Spirit abide with them? **In the person of Christ!** That is the primary point of that statement. "He abides with you."

It was the Holy Spirit that gave life in the womb of Mary? It was the Holy Spirit who was at the baptism of Jesus, and descended from heaven, and rested upon Him. It was the Holy Spirit that led Him into ministry. It was the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted and the Holy Spirit empowered Him and enabled Him. Jesus committed all the credit for His ministry to the Holy Spirit.

You remember how, in Matthew 12, the Pharisees and the Jewish leaders said He does what He does by the power of Beelzebub, the Devil? That's proof that the world cannot receive the Holy Spirit because it doesn't see Him or know Him. The Holy Spirit was there three years, working through Christ, and they couldn't recognize the Holy Spirit at all, and they attributed His work to the Devil.

That is why Jesus told them, "You have not blasphemed Me, but you have blasphemed the Holy Spirit." Then He continues...

but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

"The Spirit of truth has been with you in Me. It is better for Me to go so that He can move from being with you **in Me** to being **in you.**" **What an incredible promise!**

CONCLUSION:

Let me just put this all together. The revelation of truth originates with God. God discloses that truth in Christ. Christ lives and teaches and ministers, and then the Holy Spirit comes, takes all of that and reveals it to the apostles, who then write it down. The entire Trinity is involved.

In fact, in 2 Peter, that's exactly what Peter said:

2 Peter 1:20-21 (NASB)

20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

So understand this: the Father has the truth. He discloses it initially in Christ who is the living revelation of God. Then Christ sends the Holy Spirit who brings to mind all that Christ taught and all that Christ did so that the gospels can be written accurately, and instructs all the writers of the New Testament about all the revelation of God so that they can write it down accurately. He is the Spirit of truth. Christ is the truth and God is true.

So as believers, you say, "How does this apply to us?" God has preserved the scriptures in order that we can hear the words of Christ as He taught them so many years ago. The Holy Spirit is living inside us to give us understanding, guidance, and direction in our lives. He will be continually with us for eternity.

We must love and obey!

He is Lord.