

EXPOSITION OF JOHN

Message #57

John 14:16-26

Years ago, when our boys were little, there were times when we would have to go out for an evening to some dinner or event. Some of these social things were not things children would enjoy, so they would need to stay home. On those occasions we would employ a baby sitter. Some trustworthy person from our church would be called upon to babysit our children until we came home. Now we would always tell our children that we were leaving, but we would tell them comforting news that we were providing someone who would stay with them and take care of them until we got home. That babysitter knew exactly where we were at all times and knew exactly what our wishes were in caring for our children in our absence and there was never any problem.

As Jesus Christ nears His crucifixion, He needed to give final critical instruction to His apostles. He was about to leave and go back into heaven and He wanted to tell them about a Divine baby-sitter who would not just take care of them, but would actually live in them.

There are some wonderful things we may glean from this text and some wonderful applications we may make, but we need to remember John is looking back on how everything came to be. He is giving us information as to how everything began, on what happened when Christ left. The teaching he received in that Upper Room was teaching that would influence him the rest of his life. He never forgot it; the Holy Spirit would not let him forget it.

The main thrust of these verses is this:

AS CHRIST NEARED HIS CRUCIFIXION HE GAVE CRITICAL INSTRUCTION TO HIS APOSTLES ABOUT THE COMING WORK AND MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THEIR CONNECTION TO HIM.

In this text, there are six very important theological truths that Jesus makes:

THEOLOGICAL TRUTH #1 – Jesus will not leave His disciples as orphans, but He will send the Holy Spirit to live in them. **14:16-17**

As we said, Jesus is about to physically leave. If He were to just take off and go back into heaven and then act in some deistic way which says, “You’re on your own, I am out of here to let you figure it all out,” they are in big trouble. Obviously, by what He has been telling them in this Discourse, proves they are a long way from figuring things out. Every parent who has any sense about them knows the importance of assuring their child that even though they may be gone for awhile, they may be assured they are in good hands and things will be okay. That is exactly what Jesus does for His disciples here. He tells them even though I am leaving, things will be fine because I am going to send another member of the Trinity to not only look out for you, but to live in you.

This is the first of several passages on the Holy Spirit that take place in the Upper Room Discourse. Up to this point in time, very little has been said about the Holy Spirit and Christ's ministry, but now The Spirit takes center stage. Now that Jesus was about to leave, the Holy Spirit became critical to their survival and critical to the Age of Grace, for He would be the specific dynamic of the Age of Grace. He would be their help and their guide.

Now Jesus uses some very unique terms to introduce the Holy Spirit and His ministry to His disciples. He identifies Him in **verse 16** as being the Helper. He identifies Him in **verse 17** as being Spirit of Truth and He identifies Him in **verse 26** as being the Holy Spirit.

The word "Helper" (παρακλητος) is used in **John 14:16; 14:26; 15:26 and 16:7**. The word means to come alongside someone as an advocate, pleader, and intercessor. The word has to do with a judicial setting, having to do with being a friend of an accused person (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, pp. 340-341). Jesus is saying that He and His Father are going to give them a special Divine assistant or helper, who will be "with them forever."

By virtue of the fact that He is the Spirit of truth (**verse 17**), this certainly implies any relationship with God will be based on truth and any in tune with the Spirit will be truthful and not deceitful.

By virtue of the fact that in **verse 26**, Jesus calls the Spirit "Holy" He is equating this Spirit with God and as God. This Spirit who would be sent to help us forever is Holy God. So what we learn in John is that God the Father is God, God the Son is God and God the Spirit is God.

Now in **verse 17**, it is stated that the world "cannot receive the Spirit" because it does not see Him or know Him. **The Spirit of God is real and present and active Person, but He is also unnoticed by the unsaved.** They don't know Him and they don't see Him. As Dr. Edwin Blum said, it is like a radio wave; it is there and unnoticed unless you have a radio. The same is true with the Holy Spirit; unless you are a believer in Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit is not known or seen. Even though it is the Holy Spirit who convicts and restrains, the lost world has no clue as to His existence or ministry.

But now notice, from **verse 17** the amazing words of Jesus Christ; **not only would the Holy Spirit be known and seen by the believer, but He would live in the believer.** Almost all religious people know something about the Trinity. Trinitarian doctrine is not new; it starts in the book of Genesis. These disciples knew about the Holy Spirit. In fact, there were special moments when they had been traveling with Jesus Christ when He permitted the Holy Spirit to do special things with them. However, the new exciting truth that Jesus presents to them here is that they would be permanently indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

This is exciting news for us all because prior to this, the Holy Spirit was at work, but He did not reside in the believer. But beginning with Acts 2, every single believer is permanently indwelt by the Spirit of God (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:13).

Just as the comfort our children received about knowing a good babysitter would come into our home to take care of them, so we receive tremendous comfort knowing the Holy Spirit will come into us to take care of us.

THEOLOGICAL TRUTH #2 – Christ will not leave us as orphans, but we will soon see Him. **14:18-19**

Now the simplest part of this is that Jesus says that He would not leave His disciples as orphans. We know that because of what He just said, He and His Father are sending the Holy Spirit to take up residency in them. He is not abandoning His people; He is leaving them in good hands, the hands of the Holy Spirit. The difficulty here is what did He mean when He said, “I will come to you”?

Various views have been suggested:

- 1) Some say He is referring to the fact that they would behold Him after His resurrection;
- 2) Some say He is referring to the fact that they would behold Him at the Rapture;
- 3) Some say He is referring to the fact that they would behold Him at the death of a believer;
- 4) Some say He is referring to the fact that they would behold Him in some mystical way;
- 5) Some say He is referring to the fact that they would behold Him by the Holy Spirit’s coming in Acts 2.

It seems to Me that even though there is some truth to all except number 4, the best view is number 1. It is the best contextually and logically and prophetically. Jesus is saying, before I go back up into heaven, you will see me alive again. I will come specifically to you and let you see Me again before I leave and when you do you may know with certainty that because I live, you also will live even if you die. Clearly **verse 19** states this very thing.

Jesus would die on the cross and the world would not see Him anymore. However, He did come back from the grave alive and show Himself to His disciples. They beheld Him alive and because of that they too could know that when they died they would have life.

In the context of this very appearance came the Holy Spirit. Shortly after Jesus had shown Himself to the Disciples and had ascended into heaven that Holy Spirit did come which brought a new dynamic life to this entire discipleship team.

THEOLOGICAL TRUTH #3 – You will come to know the connection I have with the Father and the connection You have with Me. **14:20**

The far demonstrative pronoun “that” as opposed to “this” refers to a future day that will happen after He has revealed Himself alive to His disciples and after the Holy Spirit has been sent to live in them forever.

The specific day that is referred to here is the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2. When the Spirit would come into the believer, the believer would realize that “you are in Me” (Spirit baptism) and “I am in you” (Spirit indwelling).

Jesus point here is after the Holy Spirit has entered a person that one will come to understand the connection He has with His Father. There will be, as Boice said, a “sure knowledge” that Jesus is God (*John*, Vol. 4, p. 1143).

That is why someone who refuses to acknowledge the Deity of Jesus Christ cannot possibly be saved. There is no possible way that a Spirit indwelt person can deny the Deity of Jesus Christ.

THEOLOGICAL TRUTH #4 – He who has My commandments and keeps them loves Me and will be loved by My father and I will love him and reveal things to him. **14:21-22**

I'll bet if we asked all people who went to church today if they loved Jesus Christ, the answer from most would be "yes." But what is it in the mind of God that actually proves that a person loves Jesus Christ? Some would say they can prove they love Jesus by what they say - they say they do. Some would say they can prove they love Jesus by how they serve - they are always busy at church. Some would say they can prove they love Jesus by how they live - they try to be meek and mild like Jesus was. But what does God say proves you love Jesus? What does Jesus, Himself say proves it? Don't miss this - you have an intense passion to know the Word of God and you seek to apply it and obey it. There are millions of people who go to church and could care very little about whether they hear sound, accurate teaching of God's Word. These people will tell you they love Jesus, but Jesus will one day tell them, "No you didn't."

There are two main issues here - have the Word of God or commandments of God in a way you can understand them and keep the Word of God or guard it and apply it to your own life. It is one thing to have the commandments, but it is quite another to obey them. It is one thing to own a Bible, but it is quite another to seek to carefully understand it and obey and apply the Bible.

What this verse teaches is that one who believes in Jesus Christ and then obeys the Word of God will be greatly loved by God and God will reveal many wonderful things to that believer. **This verse is not teaching a works salvation, it is teaching a highly developed sanctification.**

Now in response to this in **verse 22** - Judas (this is not Judas Iscariot) asks what has happened that You will disclose Yourself to us but not to the world? He was very puzzled by this statement.

THEOLOGICAL TRUTH #5 – Jesus teaches that God will have intimate fellowship with those who love Him and obey His Word. **14:23-24**

Years ago I got into a discussion with a minister who was questioning me about the fact that I believed God does not love all of His people equally. I said that through faithfulness to God, one entered into a much deeper sphere of the love of God. He said he questioned that. That is precisely what Jesus is saying right here in **verse 23**. Jude taught the very same thing (Jude 21). Through a love for God and the Word and through faithfulness to it, one enters into a deeper level of intimacy and love with God.

One who loves Jesus Christ and purposes to understand and obey the Word of God will discover that he/she goes to another level in their relationship with God. God will love that person in a very unique way and will have intimate fellowship with him as well.

In fact, Jesus says, We (the Father and the Son) will make our abode with this kind of person. Now the word "abode" (**v. 23**) is the singular of the plural word "dwelling places" used in **verse 2**. This word only occurs in these two references in **John 14**. The implication is that the one who obeys the Word of God will be one who will have intimate fellowship with God here on earth, before he gets to his abode in heaven. Instead of us going to heaven to fellowship with God, God will come to us on earth and fellowship with us.

It is possible to be a believer and have God's Spirit living in you and still not have close fellowship with God nor know much about God. God the Father will not manifest anything to one who is disobedient to the Word of God. Obedience to the Word is connected to a love for Jesus Christ. If you really love Jesus Christ you will be willing to obey the Word of God.

THEOLOGICAL TRUTH #6 – The Holy Spirit will come and will help you remember the Word. **14:25-26**

Jesus Christ was giving His disciples a cram course concerning many new subjects. The doctrine He is presenting is deep. He has taught them about His leaving, His dying, His resurrection, the Rapture, His Deity, the Trinity and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. He has used special grammatical prepositions, the Holy Spirit who has been "with" you shall be "in" you. How in the world were the disciples expected to ever remember all of this stuff? Jesus said, don't worry, The Spirit of God, that Holy Spirit will teach you and bring to your remembrance everything.

The promise in view of **verse 26** is that the Holy Spirit would enable these apostles to remember and understand the importance and the theology and the application of all they had been taught. By virtue of the fact that John is remembering these very words at his very old age is proof the Spirit did do this years later.

What I find so interesting is not once does Jesus say the real dynamic of the Holy Spirit will be that you will be able to speak in tongues. But what He says is you will be able to remember the Word. One, who is close to the Holy Spirit, loves the Word of God and loves to understand it.

Every believer is indwelt by a wonderful Holy Spirit who will take care of us as we are separated from God the Father and God the Son. This Holy Spirit wants us to carefully know God's Word and apply God's Word. Perhaps it's time we get to know our Divine babysitter a little better.