

The Gospel of John: Another Advocate

John 14:15-31

The Paraclete (v. 15-21)

- Obedience to Jesus' teachings is the demonstration of our love for Jesus & the Father (v. 15, 21)
 - It is how we continue His mission of making God known to the world
- But we are not alone in this mission because Jesus will ask His Father to send us a helper, the Holy Spirit
- Jesus repeatedly calls the Holy Spirit *paraclete* throughout this final teaching (14:15, 26; 15:26; 16:7)
 - *Paráklatos*: Lit. "one who comes alongside"
 - Advocate/Intercessor: One who appears on another's behalf
 - Comforter: One who provides support
 - Helper: One who helps us in our weakness
- The Holy Spirit's presence will be permanent
- He is the Spirit of Truth because:
 - He communicates the truth (14:26; 16:12-15)
 - He is the Spirit of Jesus, who is the Truth (14:6, 18; Acts 16:7)
 - Thus, Jesus's claim that He will not orphan us but will come to us (v. 18)
 - Jesus is present with His disciples through the Holy Spirit
- The Spirit is unknown to the world because they are lost in darkness & lies
 - But those who know Jesus will recognize the Spirit just like those who know the Father recognize Jesus
 - This reflects the Tri-unity (Trinity) of the Godhead
 - Jesus invites us into the intimacy God shares in Himself (v. 20)

Obedience & Peace (v. 22-27)

- The question arises: *How* can Jesus reveal Himself to just the disciples and not the world?
 - The expectation for the Messianic reign is that it will be evident to the whole world
 - However, Jesus' kingdom is demonstrated through His disciples' obedience to His teaching through God's indwelling presence in the person & work of the Holy Spirit
- While Jesus walked the earth, He taught the truth of God
 - Now that He is going away, the Spirit will teach this same truth
- Jesus promises His peace, which is administered through the presence of the Spirit (Gal 5:22)
 - A serenity in our spirits based on our restored relationship with God & one another (Rom 5:1; Eph 4:3; Col 3:15)
 - This means we can have peace even amid the turmoil of this world (14:27; 16:33)

Going & Coming (v. 28-31)

- Jesus will continue teaching, but for His mission to succeed, the time has come to leave. This refers both to:
 - Leaving the upper room where they are having the Passover meal (v. 31b)
 - Jesus' imminent death, resurrection, & return to the Father
- Jesus' statement "the Father is greater than I" is NOT a claim of a hierarchy of divinity or value within the Godhead

- Rather, in context, Jesus is claiming that His disciples should rejoice that Jesus is returning to the realm of the Father, where He was before His incarnation, because He is then able to be ever-present through the Spirit
- Jesus then tells His disciples that the enemy is about to launch his attack
 - The Prince of this World: Satan
- And despite the initial appearance of the enemy's triumph, he has no true power over Jesus, the source of life
 - Satan plots to have Jesus killed, yet it is through His death that He secures victory & salvation

So What?

- To continue His mission, Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to all who trust in Him. Have you put your trust in Jesus?
- The Holy Spirit empowers us to live in obedience to God. We cannot be godly without Him. Are we relying on the Spirit?

Meditation Verse: John 14:26

Next Week: John 15:1-17