

Jesus was preparing His disciples for what lay ahead that next day, His crucifixion. Last week we heard Him tell them not to let their heart be troubled. Jesus promised to return and take them to the place He would prepare for them. He declared that He was the only way to the Father. (John 14:6) Then He told them they would be doing even greater works than He did. (John 14:12) All of that must have been very difficult to take in. I don't think they could have possibly understood what He meant until much later. We'll pick up today where we left off last week with Jesus continuing to prepare His disciples for what lay ahead.

Jesus told them,¹⁵ *"If you love me, you will obey what I command.* In our Wednesday night study of Isaiah's servant songs, we saw that the Servant King is unique in that He conquers without the use of force. (Isaiah 42:2-3) He brings justice without the need to force it upon others. Instead of force, His love draws us to love Him in return. We love Him because He first loved us. (1John 4:19) It is our love for Jesus that gives us a desire to obey what He commands. We want to please Him, just like we want to please our spouse by doing what they ask of us.

Have you ever had doubts about your relationship with Jesus? Jesus tells us how to know if we love Him; we do what He commands. He just told them His command in the last chapter, to love one another as He loves us. (John 13:34-35; Deuteronomy 6:5-6; 7:9) We can conclude that those who do not love one another do not truly love Jesus. (1John 2:9-10) In a healthy marriage, a couple asks very little of one another because they are always trying to please their spouse. They learn to please one another. When a request is made, even though you may not desire to do it, you willingly do it out of the desire to please the one you love. So Jesus tells us that if we love Him we will obey what He commands.

¹⁶ *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--* ¹⁷ *the Spirit of truth.* If you love Jesus and you love one another, Jesus will ask the Father to give you the Counselor, the Spirit of truth, to be with you forever. In other words, you must truly be born again before you will be given the Counselor. It is only those who are truly born again that love Jesus enough to set aside their own will and obey His commands. (2Corinthians 5:15)

We have here a couple of descriptions of the Holy Spirit, Counselor and Spirit of truth. Counselor is also translated Helper or Comforter. The Greek literally means one who stands beside (*para*) and calls (*kaleo*). We see in Scripture that the purpose of the call is to exhort, encourage (2Thessalonians 2:16), console, and comfort. (1Corinthians 14:3) That is how the Counselor interacts with us. He calls to the thoughts of our hearts with thoughts of guidance and encouragement, often in the form of Scripture.

He is also called the Spirit of truth. Jesus just said a few sentences earlier that He is the truth. It is His very own Spirit that is with us. We'll see this again in the following verses. Of all the aspects of Jesus that He could have mentioned He referred to truth because that is the emphasis of the Spirit. Truth helps us determine what is of God and what is not. Truth clarifies doctrine. Truth discerns right from wrong. Truth

Commented [notes1]: 6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
John 14:6 (NIV)

Commented [notes2]: 12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.
John 14:12 (NIV)

Commented [notes3]: 2 He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets.
3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;
Isaiah 42:2-3 (NIV)

Commented [notes4]: 19 We love because he first loved us.
1 John 4:19 (NIV)

Commented [notes5]: 34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
John 13:34-35 (NIV)

Commented [notes6]: 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.
6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.
Deut 6:5-6 (NIV)

Commented [notes7]: 9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.
Deut 7:9 (NIV)

Commented [notes8]: 9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.
10 Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.
1 John 2:9-10 (NIV)

Commented [notes9]: 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.
2 Cor 5:15 (NIV)

Commented [notes10]: 2 Thessalonians 2:16 (NIV)
16 May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope,

Commented [notes11]: 3 But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.
1 Cor 14:3 (NIV)

enables us to understand the direction we should go. (2Thessalonians 2:13) This One who is beside us to call to us with encouragement and exhortation also directs us into all truth. (John 16:13) Most often, the encouragement or exhortation is a word of truth through Scripture. (John 17:17)

17^b The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. The Spirit is given to those who love and obey Jesus. The world does not discern the Spirit because it does not love or obey Jesus. The world cannot accept the things of the Spirit. (1Corinthians 2:14) It operates from a different spirit.

What is the difference between the Spirit in the Old and New Testaments? The Holy Spirit was present with the Old Testament prophets. (Numbers 11:29) He was with the disciples when they went out two by two. What changed at Pentecost? This verse explains the real difference. The Spirit came **upon** people before Pentecost, but at Pentecost He was **in** them. We'll see another difference later in this passage.

18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Jesus had been like a Father to these young disciples. He had adopted them as His own. He wasn't going to abandon them. He would be back, but not in the same capacity, ministering to the multitudes. When He returned, He would be seen and heard by them alone. Jesus is probably referring to His resurrection appearances as verse 19 seems to indicate. He may also be referring to the Spirit since He just said He would send the Spirit to them. He and the Spirit are one. The Spirit's presence in us is Jesus' presence in us.

Now for that rich expression, *19^b Because I live, you also will live.* Jesus' sacrifice for our sins was accepted by God, and the proof of that is the resurrection. (Revelation 5:9) The fact that He lives shows us that we are forgiven. We can have life! Jesus just said He is the Life. We can have Jesus' very presence within us in the Holy Spirit. Because He lives, we live! If the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf had not been accepted, we would never live. We could walk around and breathe but still not truly live. To get a life, you have to receive Jesus'. Get a life! Get Jesus!

20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. The day Jesus is referring to must be the coming of the Spirit. It is the fullness of the Spirit that helps us realize that Jesus is in the Father, that we are in Jesus, and that He is in us. This is an incredible thing, for us to be in Jesus and for Him to be in us. Jesus used the same language to describe His relationship to the Father as He used to describe our relationship to Him and His to us. This is a mystical union that we won't fully comprehend until we see Him face to face. (1John 3:2) When I struggle with a sense of connectedness in prayer, I often think of this verse. If I am indwelt by the Spirit of God, if I am in Jesus and He is in me, of course He hears me. Rely on that presence to direct your prayers. Sense the security of being in Him. This oneness that is pictured in marriage should be a wonderful love relationship, serving one another in love. That is the longing of the believer's heart and God's desire toward us.

Commented [notes12]: 13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.
2 Thess 2:13 (NIV)

Commented [notes13]: 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.
John 16:13 (NIV)

Commented [notes14]: 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.
John 17:17 (NIV)

Commented [notes15]: 14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.
1 Cor 2:14 (NIV)

Commented [notes16]: 29 But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!"
Num 11:29 (NIV)

Commented [notes17]: 9 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."
Rev 5:9 (NIV)

Commented [notes18]: 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.
1 John 3:2 (NIV)

21 Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." Because of that mystical oneness of the Father and Son, whoever loves God loves the Son. If one loves the Son, Whom the Father loves, He obeys His commands. The Father loves the ones that love the Son. You have to have already had a revelation of the Son to love Him. As you love Him, He will reveal/show/manifest more of Himself to you. The more you see, the more you love.

22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" 23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. Judas was thinking of a physical manifestation, such as Jesus may have been referring to earlier, a resurrection appearance, but Jesus is now talking about a heart revelation. The one that loves the Son and obeys Him will have the abiding presence of the Father and the Son in the gift of the Holy Spirit. There is as clear a reference to the Trinity as you will find. To have the Spirit in you is to have the presence of the Father and the Son.

What a wonderful expression, "make our home with him"! A real home is a place of fellowship. It's a place of sharing life, concerns and joys, struggles and victories. It is where we strive together for the good of the others. It is a place of solace and peace. But there must be a loving obedience before that is possible. The Trinity will not join the heart of one who is going to make it a place of strife. (2Corinthians 6:14) He lives in our house now, but the day will come when we will live in His!

Has the Trinity found a home in your heart? You would know if He has because you would be experiencing the fellowship of home life. You would be running there as a place of refuge and solace from the trials of life. You would be enjoying the fellowship found at home. (Psalm 46:11)

I think there are times after we have made our heart a home for the Holy Spirit, that we create an uncomfortable atmosphere because we have come to a disagreement with Him. He hasn't left, but we aren't on speaking terms. We stay in our corner of the house because we know the conflict that will erupt. (Isaiah 58:1) We are no longer at peace. We no longer are obeying out of love. There is a fresh need for repentance to restore the harmony in our home. (1John 1:9) Until we do, there will be a sense of uneasiness and we will avoid quiet time by staying busy. You know what I mean. We just don't take the time to be still and listen. What a shame, in both the physical home and the home in our heart. We are the ones missing out.

These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. How many times have we seen this already? (John 14:10; 7:16) Jesus only says what the Father directs Him to say and even says it how the Father shows Him to express it. That is the way to bring life to others. (John 12:50)

25 "All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 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. Jesus is about to depart. This is one more important message that they needed to understand. On the authority of Jesus, the Father will

Commented [notes19]: 14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?
2 Cor 6:14 (NIV)

Commented [notes20]: 11 The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah
Psalms 46:11 (NIV)

Commented [notes21]: 1 "Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the house of Jacob their sins.
Isaiah 58:1 (NIV)

Commented [notes22]: 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:9 (NIV)

Commented [notes23]: John 14:10 (ESV)
10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

Commented [notes24]: John 7:16 (ESV)
16 So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.

Commented [notes25]: 50 I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."
John 12:50 (NIV)

send the Holy Spirit. We saw a few moments ago what He does by calling beside us; here Jesus adds a few more important works of the Spirit. He is our teacher. Whenever we are unclear, we can go to Him for clarification. He gives a check if something is true or not. When we start to go the wrong way, He warns us. He teaches us all things. I hear something from a fellow Christian and my Teacher either confirms or rejects what I heard. Is this a subjective judgment? Only if I am relying on my knowledge. If I'm truly relying on the leading of the Spirit who is the Spirit of truth, it is the ultimate objective truth.

He is also assigned to remind us of what we have heard from Jesus. (John 16:13-14) This is another great difference from the work of the Spirit in the Old Testament. Though Old Testament prophets even saw Jesus, they did not yet have the words of the living Christ, the final perfect revelation. How do you think that years later John remembered all these important words of Jesus? The Holy Spirit reminded Him. It is the same for you. When you are led of the Spirit you, will find yourself recalling verses you never set out to memorize. You will remember past lessons at the right moment to help someone in need or to guide your steps. He makes His home in you to teach you and remind you of the important things.

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. As Jesus went to the cross, He left His peace with us. He repeats the opening line in the chapter, that because of what He was doing for us we can have peace. That is peace with God, but this word also includes blessing from God, even though it may be in the midst of this world's turmoil. (John 16:33) The repetition of "Do not let your hearts be troubled" means it is very important. Jesus' peace is not based on circumstances but carries us through all circumstances. (Philippians 4:7) He gave it freely and in love. (Ephesians 2:17) He expects us to rest in it. Are we?

When you ignore the peace of Christ, you not only short change yourself of the life He has for you and live in a way He did not intend for you to live, but you also become a poor example of what it means to live with Jesus as your Lord and Savior. This is one area of our life where the world should look on and wish and hope that they might someday experience. Knowing that all things are in His Almighty hands (John 13:3), knowing that He has made His home in us, knowing that all things work together for good for us who love Him (Romans 8:28), we should be living in His very own peace. That is the peace that He had with His intimate knowledge of the Father's loving care. The world should see it on our face every day. Come what may we are in Him and He is in us. We're home when we are in Him. We have no reason to fear anything! *What have I to fear, what have I to dread leaning on the everlasting arms. I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms!*

28 "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. Now how can Jesus be one with the Father and yet the Father be greater. Jesus had emptied Himself to become a man. (Philippians 2:7) That is why He always looked to the Father for all His actions and words and that is why the Father is greater. When Jesus returned to the Father He returned to all that He emptied Himself of to be one of us. If we love Him, we should be glad that He was returning to glory, not only for

Commented [notes26]: 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.
14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.
John 16:13-14 (NIV)

Commented [notes27]: 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.
14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.
John 16:13-14 (NIV)

Commented [notes28]: 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Phil 4:7 (NIV)

Commented [notes29]: 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.
Eph 2:17 (NIV)

Commented [notes30]: 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;
John 13:3 (NIV)

Commented [notes31]: 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28 (NIV)

Commented [notes32]: 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
Phil 2:7 (NIV)

His sake, but for ours too. (John 17:5) It is there that He ever lives to intercede on our behalf. (Hebrews 7:25)

29 I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. Jesus again stakes His case on His knowledge of the future. He told them of the betrayal, and now He is telling them of His departure, resurrection and the coming of the Spirit. When it comes to pass they should have no doubts that what He taught them were the very words of God. (John 16:4) Sometimes we need assurances like that to convince us and help us step out in faith. It is healthy to want to resolve your doubts, and as Jesus helped them, He can help us too.

30 I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, The hour of the betrayal had almost come. Apparently, they were still in the upper room. Jesus was telling them these were His last sayings and they needed to take them in. The prince of this world is Satan. (John 12:31) He took that title from Adam in the Garden of Eden. Soon, in another Garden, the course was being set to take it back for mankind in the second Adam. (Matthew 26:42)

Satan had no hold on Jesus. He could serve His Father with a whole heart and love Him with all His being. Is the same true for you? We each must examine our hearts to see if we've let some handle remain, a handle with which Satan can yank us in an ungodly direction. Does he have a hold on you?

31 but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. "Come now; let us leave. Why must the world learn that Jesus loves the Father and does exactly what God commands Him to do? Because Jesus is our perfect example of how God intended us to live. (1John 2:6) We are so messed up and needy that we didn't even know anymore what a righteous life looked like. I say "we" referring to mankind in the first century and today. They thought a righteous life looked like the self-righteous Pharisees. Today we might think it looks like a monk or Gandhi. The truth is it looks like Jesus! It looks like someone so in love with the Father that out of that love relationship they do exactly what the Father instructs. They only want to please the lover of their soul. We must let Him live in us. (Galatians 2:20) He is the only One that can live it. Nothing else compares.

Jesus didn't share this to condemn us, (John 3:17) but to invite us. He shares it this because He loves us and has so much more for us. Sin so distorts what is of value. I heard a statistic that 45% of last Fall's Freshmen applicants at ASU have an STD. I hear so much justification for immorality of every kind, handles for Satan to jerk our lives around with. Our nation has lost its standard of right and wrong, but we have One. His name is Jesus. He still declares, *the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.* There is a relationship of true love in a home we all long for. To enter it, we must let go of the self-love that has us so deceived, and enter into the love of Jesus. We must break off all the handles. We must abandon ourselves to His love, and we will respond in loving obedience. Our heart will become that home. It's Jesus' promise. He cannot fail!

Commented [notes33]: 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.
John 17:5 (NIV)

Commented [notes34]: 25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.
Heb 7:25 (NIV)

Commented [notes35]: 4 I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you.
John 16:4 (NIV)

Commented [notes36]: 31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.
John 12:31 (NIV)

Commented [notes37]: 42 He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."
Matt 26:42 (NIV)

Commented [notes38]: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.
1 John 2:6 (NIV)

Commented [notes39]: 20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
Gal 2:20 (NIV)

Commented [notes40]: 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.
John 3:17 (NIV)