

Peace I Leave

John 14:16-29

March 26, 2023

Last Sunday's study took place the day before Jesus' crucifixion. Jesus and the disciples had finished the Feast of the Passover, Jesus had washed the disciple's feet, and Judas had been told, "What you do, do quickly." With Judas' departure, Jesus began His last instructions to the disciples. Some authors refer to this time of instruction as Jesus' farewell discourse with the disciples.

Today's lesson continues with Jesus' after-dinner preparation of His disciples to face the turmoil and confusion that is about to engulf them. In doing so, Jesus promised that the Father would send believers another Counselor who would be present with them. Then He told them they did not need to be troubled or frightened because He gave them peace. Jesus promised the disciples that when He returned to the Father, His followers would do even greater works than He had done (14:12).

Love for Jesus is the motivation for obedience. T, F, A, DA.

Keeping Jesus' commands is an outward demonstration that a person loves Jesus. It is because of the love for Jesus that obedience takes place.

A believer can manage peace on his own. T, F, A, DA.

Jesus has been talking about "love" in our earlier lessons but this is the first time He mentions "peace" in John's Gospel. What Jesus tells His disciples about peace, troubles, conflict, and fright can be applied to our lives today.

Read John 14:16-21 "The Counselor"

If there is a need for "another Counselor," who has been filling that role? Up to this point, Jesus was the Counselor. "Another" means another of the same kind. "Counselor" refers to one called alongside someone else. Jesus was sending a Counselor, just like Himself, who is the Spirit of truth.

What does "another Counselor" have to do with the Trinity? This Counselor is the Spirit of truth. He reveals spiritual truths to believers. This is the Holy Spirit that never contradicts what Jesus taught. This Counselor lives in believers as the Holy Spirit and completes the Trinity known as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God's plan from the beginning was that the Holy Spirit would remain with the believers forever.

What does the Holy Spirit do for believers? The Holy Spirit replaces Jesus' physical presence and brings truth to the believer. The Holy Spirit enters the believer at the moment of salvation and remains with us forever.

If we bring the lesson to our world today, why can't the world receive the Spirit of truth? The world has rejected the revelation of God through Jesus so the world is not able to receive the Spirit of truth because the world "doesn't see him or know him." It is the same issue Jesus was addressing two thousand years ago.

What is proof that a believer loves Jesus (14:15)? Obedience to Jesus' commands is proof of love. A believer understands the nature of Jesus' commands and willingly obeys them. This obedience does not initiate with the believer but rather comes from the working of the Counselor (Holy Spirit) in the believer's life.

Read John 14:22-26 "The Teacher"

I am surprised Thomas did not ask the question in verse 22. I wonder if this Judas (not Iscariot) is as pragmatic as Thomas. Judas may have been struggling with understanding the relationship between those who believed in Jesus and the world, which largely rejected Him.

Who is "we" and how will "we will come to him and make our home with him" occur? Remember we just read in v.17 that Jesus said "He remains with you and will be in you." "We" is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Triune God takes up residence in the life of the believer. The believer is the dwelling place of the Trinity.

What will the “another Counselor” (the Holy Spirit) do in the absence of Jesus? Jesus explained that the Holy Spirit would teach and remind them of the truth taught by Jesus. One role of the Holy Spirit was to bring to mind things that had not been clear during Jesus’ ministry and to instruct the disciples on what those things meant. The Holy Spirit was not teaching new and different things, but just as Jesus spoke the words of the Father, so the Holy Spirit speaks the words of the Son. The workings of the Father, Son, and Spirit are interwoven.

Read John 14:27-29 “The Peace”

Do you know the Hebrew word, Shalom? Shalom indicates an overall state of peace or well-being. This peace comes as a gift from Jesus; it is not something that the believer can manage on his own.

Can Jesus’ love and peace function independently? No. He loved His followers and did not want them to be troubled or frightened so He gave them peace. Peace was a gift. I think we see that concept in our world today; believers have a different outlook on troubles and conflict because of Jesus.

How is the peace Jesus gives, unlike the peace which the world gives? Jesus’ peace is found in the Triune God. The world is powerless to produce such peace. The world can only produce hatred, anger, selfishness, greed, and moral impurity (Gal 5:19-21). The uncertainty experienced by the disciples led to Jesus’ promise that He would give His disciples His peace.

Why were the disciples experiencing sadness? It would seem normal for any of us to be sad at the thought of losing someone near and dear to us, particularly someone we looked to as Lord and Savior. Their sadness would also grow out of a failure to understand Jesus’ love for and obedience to the Father. As we discussed earlier, it is love that stimulates obedience. Jesus was facing the toughest obedience challenge imaginable.

What was Jesus’ final reason that the disciples should rejoice? Jesus’ obedience to the Father showed His true love for the Father. “If you loved me you would rejoice that I am going to the Father because the Father is greater than I.”

How would the statement, “because the Father is greater than I” be correct? The Father in His infinite glory is without question greater than Jesus in His incarnation. However, Jesus was returning to the glory that He had shared with the Father since the beginning (17:5).

What is the way out of fear? Faith and love. Jesus taught His disciples that He would be betrayed so that their faith would not be shaken when it happened. Our study thus far in John has shown us that Jesus’ heart was to prepare the disciples to face the events that would soon come to pass. They would need love for Him, love for each other and they would need the peace only God can provide.

Jesus offers peace to those who trust in Him.

- Believers have peace knowing that the Holy Spirit is with them.