

**Find Life in the Son:
Parting Assurances
John 14:25-31**

Introduction

Whenever we find ourselves in a time of crisis and turmoil, we long for peace—some anchor for our souls, a lifeline to keep us from drowning. In our text this morning Jesus continues to give assurances to His followers before He leaves them to go to the cross. They are shaken. They are fearful. But He gives them what they need to hang on with resolute faith through the storm. What we need, as well.

John 14:21

“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.”

John 14:28a

“You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’”

John 14:29

“And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.”

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring

to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹ but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

1. The Spirit's Instruction (26)
2. The Son's Peace (27)
3. The Father's Will (28-31)

1. The Spirit's Instruction (26)

You remember that over His three and a half years of public ministry, the teaching of Jesus drew large crowds. No one else ever taught like him. But some of what He taught was not well received, not even by those who were His disciples for a time.

John 6:66-69

66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. **67** So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" **68** Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, **69** and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

The defection from Jesus reached even into the twelve. Judas has on the very night left the group in order to betray Jesus to the authorities. Now the disciples who stayed with Him for the very reason Peter had expressed earlier are facing the prospect of His leaving them. How can they possibly endure the loss of their divine teacher and mentor, especially in such a critical time? Jesus assures them that through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, His teaching will continue to lead them.

John 14:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

He's already introduced this divine Helper to them.

John 14:16-17

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, **17** even the Spirit of truth, whom the world

cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

The Holy Spirit, sent by God the Father at the request of God the Son, has been called alongside the apostles to teach them all things and bring everything Jesus taught them to their remembrance.

That's why they will be able to preach the gospel accurately to people everywhere from the day of Pentecost onward. The Spirit will empower them to do so. That's why they will be able to write down with perfect accuracy exactly what Jesus said and did. The result will be the New Testament. *Before the last of the apostles dies, the record will be complete and utterly trustworthy. The Spirit would come alongside the apostles to make this possible. That is why we can count on the apostolic testimony to this day as absolute truth.* Jesus would largely have been forgotten but for the power of the Spirit manifest in the apostles' lives and their Spirit-inspired record of the words and works of Jesus.

The apostles were often confused and perplexed by what Jesus taught when He was with them. They did not understand how it all fit together or the full significance of what He

did and said. The Holy Spirit was the one who gave them a more complete understanding.

The NT was written roughly between A.D. 48 and A.D. 95. Jesus ascended to heaven in A.D. 30. That means the apostles are writing some 18 years after Jesus has returned to heaven, clear up to 65 years after He departed. The Spirit helped them remember exactly what Jesus taught, so that generations to come would have access to Jesus and His gospel.

The Holy Spirit carried along the holy prophets of the Old Testament so that what they wrote did not originate from man's ideas but from God Himself. He did the same with the apostles of the New Testament.

He continues to empower their words in the lives of those who hear the gospel. He convicts and convinces. He illuminates and regenerates. He empowers and transforms. All using the word He breathed out through the pens of these men to whom Jesus makes this remarkable promise.

We don't remember everything. We weren't there. We don't have perfect understanding of truth. But we have ready access to the preserved documents that the apostles wrote. The Holy Spirit taught them all things and

brought all things Jesus taught to their remembrance.

If you want to know Jesus, you have to pay careful attention to what the Holy Spirit produced through these apostles. Otherwise, you descend in the quagmire of speculation and are tossed about by the changing tides of human opinion.

Applications

- Since the Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to remember all Jesus taught them and to understand it, in what ways are you giving adequate attention to their New Testament record?
- What common doubts and denials of the New Testament record contradict what Jesus promises here?
- In what ways does your daily lifestyle show reliance on the Holy Spirit as the Helper God has sent?

2. The Son's Peace (27)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

The life-and-death situation they were in was inherently troubling, full of agitation and anxiety. It is completely understandable they would be afraid, ready to run for the nearest

cover. That's exactly what the apostles did at first before the resurrection. The enemies of Jesus controlled Jewish politics, religion, and commerce. They did have to answer to Rome's officials, but Rome cared nothing about Jesus. Evil rulers had painted Jesus as an insurrectionist, and Rome was death on such rebels. To crucify Jesus His enemies had to have Rome's backing. If the enemies of Jesus could accomplish His execution, what hope did this little band of former fishermen and tax collectors have, especially with Jesus out of the picture?

Jesus gives them the cure for all this understandable anxiety and fear.

"My Peace I give to you."

Not the incomplete and transitory peace of the world that rises and falls on health, finances, popularity, and political favor.

What the OT calls "shalom"—not just the absence of conflict, but wholeness and stability, life as it should be

This is a peace that passes all human ability to put together. It is peace from God. A God who has become our Father through the redemptive work of Jesus, canceling our offenses before God, cleansing our consciences, assuring us of His steadfast love and leading. Whatever happens, He is with us

all the days even to the consummation of the age.

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Applications

- If the peace of Christ was adequate to bring the disciples through the horrific circumstances they faced, does it not stand to reason it will be sufficient for you in whatever you face?
- What can you do to turn your heart from whatever causes you anxiety and fear toward the supernatural peace Christ graciously gives?
- What worldly sources of peace are you drawn toward trusting in place of the perfect peace from Jesus, and why is it foolish to rely on such temporal supports?

3. The Father's Will (28-31)

²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you before it

takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹ but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

The ruler of the world—Satan himself—had filled the heart of Judas to betray Him and had inspired Jesus' enemies to murder Him. But Jesus wants His followers to know that what is about to happen is not because the powers of darkness have prevailed. Satan, the ruler of this world, has no claim on Jesus. There is no basis for any accusation against Him. There is no sin to establish Satan's foothold in Jesus' life. There is no lie from the devil that has ever taken root in Jesus' heart. And what Jesus is about to undergo will break the power of Satan over sinful human beings if they trust Jesus to save them. What is about to happen is exactly in line with the Father's will. Even the worst enemies of God are but are pawns in His hand.

Isaiah 53:10-11

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be

satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Jesus expresses this prevailing will of God the Father with these words:

Verse 28: I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

Verse 31: I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.

Everything Jesus, God's Son, was doing was to fulfill the will of the Father. Jesus' submission to the will of the Father was perfect. Even the best of other human beings deviates at times from the commands of God out of self-love. But Jesus' love for the Father is perfect and complete. He always said and did what the Father has assigned.

We love Jesus because He first loved us. He perfectly represented God the Father to us. He perfectly fulfilled the Father's will. His perfect righteousness takes the place of our sinfulness when we lean our trust onto Him to save us. The apostles loved Jesus, but it was hard for them to rejoice at the time because they did not yet understand why it was critically important for Him to leave this world to go to the Father. His shed blood would seal the new covenant on their behalf. He would

ascend to the Father to intercede at the throne for His own.

His perfect love for the Father would be proclaimed throughout the world. It was part of the good news that offered a sinful race the rescue we all desperately need. *Had Jesus drawn back from going to the cross, there would have been no gospel to spread throughout the world. But because of His perfect obedience, we have hope. We have news that brings great joy—the gospel.*

He told them that He was going away, but He promised, "I will come to you."

After His crucifixion He came back from the grave and taught them about the kingdom of God for another 40 days. After His ascension He came back to them in the Person of the Holy Spirit, who taught them all things and brought to their memory all Jesus had taught them. And at the end of the age He is coming again to bring His true disciples home to live with Him forever in the Father's heavenly home.

The darkness did not win at the crucifixion of Jesus. And the darkness will not win now or in the final day. The ruler of this world has been defeated and will one day be cast into the lake of fire. He now walks about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. But He could not conquer the Lamb of God who takes

away the sin of the world. He could not overthrow the Lion of the tribe of Judah, Jesus Christ. Everyone who belongs to Jesus is safe now and forever.

Applications

- Where does it appear the ruler of the world is winning today, and how can you remind yourself that Jesus will accomplish all He has promised?
- How does knowing that the will of God will prevail increase your joy despite those who appear to have great power for evil in the present time?

Conclusion

When Jesus finished with these assurances, He said to His disciples, "Rise, let us go from here."

He could well give that charge to us. He has given us His assurance of

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Because of all He has given us we have all we need to carry on in His name till we step into His presence in the heavenly city.

Applications Summary

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ways are you giving adequate attention to their New Testament record?

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