

A COMFORTER AND MUCH MORE / Sunday, March 8, 2015

Unifying Topic: JESUS PROMISES AN ADVOCATE

Lesson Text

I. Jesus Promises The Spirit (John 14:15-17)

II. Jesus Promises To Be With His Disciples (John 14:18-24)

III. The Ministry Of The Holy Spirit (John 14:25-26)

The Main Thought: But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (John 14:26, KJV).

Unifying Principle: There are times when people, know what is right, but they struggle to follow through as they should. What motivates one to make the right choices? Jesus said that He would send the Holy Spirit to help His followers love God and live according to God's commandments.

Lesson Aim: To help believers understand the significance of the Holy Spirit.

Life Aim: To help believers realize the power available through the Holy Spirit and to pray for His guidance in decision making

HISTORY:

Now, the clear promise is that the works that they have seen Jesus do, they will do greater works, with condition: they must believe Jesus. That's going to take faith. Faith and works always go together. As Jesus goes to the Father, whatever we pray or ask for, it's in Jesus' name that the Father may be glorified in the Son. He said "*I will do it*" (vv.12-14).

14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. Jesus gives a surprisingly great promise. You must be a believer to receive this promise. The believer shall do the very same works that Jesus did and do ever greater works. Three facts:

1. The genuine believer will do the same kind of works that Jesus did:
 - a. Loving and caring.
 - b. Ministering and healing.
 - c. Proclaiming and teaching.
 - d. Witnessing and testifying.
 - e. Sharing and disciplining.
 - f. Helping and performing miracles.
2. The genuine believer will work hard for the very same purpose as Jesus.
 - a. to show men the love and justice of God.
 - b. to help men in all their need.
 - c. to lead men to believe on the Son of God that they might be saved and delivered from sin, death, and hell.
3. The genuine believer will do even greater works than Jesus. This means that the true servant of God will reach more people and have broader results than Jesus did. While Jesus was here on earth the fullness of God was available to man only in one human body, in the body of Jesus. Greater works are possible only through Jesus, only because He has gone to His Father and is sitting at the right hand of the Father and the Father sends the power of the Holy Spirit to live within us. The whole world would eventually hear, and an impact would be made upon many societies and nations as a whole.

Jesus has proclaimed this to His disciples and to us as believers.

14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, — The verse is in connection with the above verse in doing greater works. The "*whatsoever*" is confined to prayer in Jesus' Name where the believer asks only those things that will bring honor, praise and glory ("*that the Father may be glorified in the Son*"). The Christian is given the power of attorney to use the name of Jesus. And in that "*Name*", there is "*His authority*." You have to be in accordance with His Word; praying in agreement with His desires. This does not give believers authority to ask anything that detracts, lowers, or lead away from the Father and the Son. Effective prayer is the "Will" of God to be done. Believers would need to pray in Jesus' Name to do greater works. Jesus says: "*that will I do*," because it's in His Name and in His Will.

- The only acceptance to God is in Jesus.
- The only Mediator between God and men is Jesus.
- The only Intercessor before God, the only Person asking God to accept man is Jesus.
- The only "*Name*" that is perfect enough to approach God is Jesus.

14:13b ...that the Father may be glorified in the Son. The result of prayer is the glorification of the Father in the Son, not self-glorification. The believer seeks to glorify the Father as we pray through the Son. When Jesus answers prayer, the Father is glorified, and so is Jesus.

14:14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. Therefore, when the believer prays and receives what he asked for...

- his attention is upon both the Father and the Son.
- his praise and thanksgiving are heaped upon both the Father and the Son.
- his loyalty and surrender to both the Father and the Son are deeper and more mature.

The condition to Jesus doing what you ask is in His name. The extent is to ask within the realm and scope of His work and His character. Therefore, it's not in our will, but it's bowing to His "Will" and His perfect "Will" will be done, in Jesus' Name. ¹We must come with a spirit of complete submission to the Father's "Will", feeling that His "Will" is best, and saying in our hearts, "*Thy will be done.*"

LESSON:

John 14:15-17 Jesus Promises The Spirit

14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. Plain and simple, to the believer, it is not optional: if you love Jesus, keep His commandments.

1. Obedience is not optional for believers. In this the believer is not claiming perfection, but he is claiming to love Jesus and seeks to please Him in all that he does by being obedient.
2. To love Jesus is not an emotional thing. It involves emotions, but it is not based upon emotions. This kind of love does not fluctuate—go up and down.
3. To love Jesus is not a rational or mental commitment. Of course it involves the mind, not a matter of disciplining one's life to keep the law and its rules and regulations.
4. To love Jesus is a matter of the heart and of the spirit: a matter of man's most vital part, man's innermost being, all that a man is. The heart is the seat of man's affection and Will (devotion). The heart attaches and focuses our affection and Will and devotion to an object or a person. The heart causes a man 'to will' to give himself either to good or bad. To love Jesus means that a man
 - a. gives his affection
 - b. focuses his heart and affection and Will (devotion)
 - c. freely accepts Jesus
 - d. cherishes and attaches himself to Jesus
 - e. sacrificially gives all he is and has to Jesus
 - f. commits all he is and has to serve Jesus and His cause...

...upon God by giving and receiving the love of God.

14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;—

Two things to note before getting to the verse:

- 1) The Holy Spirit is the Comforter, the other Helper. The Comforter is one called in; one called to the side of another to help in any way possible.
- 2) The receiving of the Holy Spirit is conditional.

Three other points in this scripture:

1. **And I will pray the Father...** Jesus prays for us. He is our intercessor, the One who pleads our case. It is not that God is unwilling to give the Holy Spirit. The person who truly loves Jesus he is given the Holy Spirit.
2. **...and he shall give you another Comforter...** The source of the Holy Spirit is the Father. It is the Father who gave the Son and it is the Father who gives the Holy Spirit to those who love His only Son.
3. **...that he may abide with you for ever...** The Holy Spirit abides forever with the believer. His presence continues and never ends.

14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. Three points in this scripture:

1. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth.
2. The **world cannot receive** the Holy Spirit, meaning impossible. Why? Because the world of unbelievers does not "*see or know*" the Holy Spirit. The world lives only for what it can see and know; only for the physical

¹ <http://www.studylight.org/com/pnt/view.cgi?book=joh&chapter=014>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

and material; only for what it can touch and feel, taste and consume, think and use. The point is this: unbelievers reject Jesus. They do not love Him and they care little if anything about Him. They are not interested in seeing or knowing Jesus.

3. The **believer does know** the Holy Spirit; knows the Spirit both by experience and by His presence.
 - a. The Holy Spirit dwells with the believer: giving assurance, looking after, caring, guiding, and teaching.
 - b. The Holy Spirit is in the believer: communing, fellowshiping, sharing, and conforming the believer to the image of Christ.

John 14:18-24 Jesus Promises To Be With His Disciples

14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. The Holy Spirit is the personal presence of Christ.

1. Jesus said *He would not leave us comfortless*. The word "*comfortless*" means to be orphaned, to be without parental help, to be helpless. Jesus will not leave us to struggle through the trials of life alone. Now, this presence with His followers begins at His resurrection and with the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was saying that He would come to the believer in person of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said *He will come to us*. He would return after He had gone away (after death). He would come back to give believers His personal presence.

14:19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me:

2. The world lost its opportunity to see Jesus. Jesus said that He would be present for only a short time longer, then the world would see Him "*no more*." The next time the world sees Him will be coming in judgment.

2b...because I live, ye shall live also. The presence of Jesus is a living, eternal presence. Therefore, the believer becomes eternal; he is made eternal by the eternal presence of Christ within him. When Jesus says I live, He means He lives abundantly and eternally; He lives life within the believer; He imparts the same kind of life to the believer—a life that is both abundant and eternal.

14:20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. The presence of Christ is a living union, a mutual indwelling between God, Christ, and the believer. "*At that day*" refers to after Jesus' resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit the disciples would really understand what this meant. He's saying that 'we are in Him' and 'He's in us.' We live in Him by means of our faith. Galatians 2:20 says, "*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*" And because the Holy Spirit lives in us, we have Jesus with us always. Jesus was bound to live forever and was bound to arise from the dead being in God, the Father.

14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. The believer who has Jesus' commandments, keeps them because of the love he has for Jesus. He keeps Jesus' commandments in his heart. And he that loves Jesus loves the Father and Jesus in turn loves the believer. The word "manifest" when used usually suggests a new thing has come to light; something never known or discovered. In this since it means that Jesus' presence is revealed (brought to light), illuminated, quickened in the life of the believer. It means that He manifests Himself to His disciples in a very special way. He discloses His person, His nature, His goodness. He illuminates Himself within their hearts and lives.

14:22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?—

This Judas was possibly a disciple of Jesus, but not of the twelve. Those who disciplined themselves and followed Jesus were disciples, but not necessarily of the twelve. This is certainly a legitimate question. Why is Jesus revealing Himself only to the disciples and not to the world? Because Jesus saves the deepest revelations of Himself for those who love and obey Him as we see in the next verse.

14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. The person who really loves Jesus will want to help Jesus by doing what He asks. Therefore, love and obedience are tied together so tightly that a person cannot love and not obey. A

person's love is proven and is clearly seen in his obedience. Both the Father and Christ come to abide in the believer in the person of the Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit, both the Father and the Son will make their home in the believer.

14:24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. If one doesn't love Jesus, he doesn't do what He says. Disobedience to Jesus' Word is also rejection of the Father's Word because that's all that Jesus speaks of. The Word we hear Him speak comes from the Father who sent Him!

John 14:25-26 The Ministry Of The Holy Spirit

14:25 These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. While Jesus was present with the disciples He gives them insight into many things. But there will be a time when He will not be physically with them.

14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. But the Comforter, the Holy Ghost whom the Father will send in Jesus' Name would teach them all things. The Spirit would cause them to remember whatsoever He had said. Therefore, the purpose of the Holy Spirit is to teach all things and to help bring remembrance of all things that's been taught by Jesus and even more.

SUMMARY:

Jesus states that if you love Him, you will obey Him, meaning you will follow Him. And to follow Him, you will need a Helper. The Helper will be your Comforter, who is the Holy Spirit, who will never leave you. He is the Spirit who leads you into all truth. The world cannot receive Him, for the world can't even recognize Him because He only lives with the believers and in the believers. He teaches us; He reminds us of Jesus' Word; He makes us aware of sin and shows us God's available goodness. The Holy Spirit is a powerful Person who is on our side working on the inside; working for and with us (**vv.15-17**).

The Spirit of God will not abandon us or leave us as orphans. Just because Jesus will be gone from the earth, He will still be present, for He lives again and so will His saints. Then, there will be no doubt that Jesus is in union with and in the Father and with and in us. Obedience comes because of your love for Jesus. The Father will see and love you, just as Jesus will see and love you, for then Jesus is able to reveal Himself to you. Judas, not Judas Iscariot wanted to know why Jesus was only revealing Himself to the disciples, and not the world. And Jesus sums it up to let us know that it's all about those who love and obey Him! One is not without the other! For the Father will love us, come to us, and live with us also. You can tell the ones who don't love Him, they don't obey! This truth comes from the Father who sent Jesus (**vv.18-24**).

Therefore, Jesus tells these truths while He's still with His disciples, but they are still truths for us today! The Father will send the Comforter—the Holy Spirit in Jesus' Name who will teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance of what was said by Jesus. You won't be at a loss. Trust and Obey Him because He is our truest Advocate (**vv.25-26**)!