

Judas, (not Iscariot) said to Jesus, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?"

Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words.

And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

These things I have spoken with you while I am still with you.

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.

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.

You have 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 and the Father is greater than I.

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

I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, 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."

John 14:22-31

"I Will Not Leave You as Orphans"

Deacon Chair, Jason Justinger

In our Call to Worship this morning, and in the Scripture Lesson I just read, Jesus lays out a number of promises for us, five in fact. John MacArthur broke it down this way. First, Jesus promised us "A Supernatural Helper (verses 15-17). Second, "A Supernatural Life (verses 18,19)". Third, "A Supernatural Union (verses 20-25)". Fourth, "A Supernatural Teacher (verse 26)". And fifth, "A Supernatural Peace (verses 27-31)". The Key to all of this is Verse 15 which relates that these supernatural promises are for those who love Jesus Christ. Whose Love is evidenced by obedience". There is a lot to be unpackaged here, and to quote the famous, fictional philosopher Indigo Montoya: "Allow me to explain... no, there is too much... Allow me to sum up".

A Supernatural Helper - Jesus promised his disciples: "...I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper". There are a bunch of things here. First, Jesus prays boldly. "I will ask... He will give". There's no question, no doubt. Last week we heard Jesus tell us: "Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." This week, Jesus provides us with an example of how he prayed. Sometimes, in my prayer, most times actually, I waste quite a bit of time on "If its ok with you" or "If it's by your design and plan, could you possibly...". But not Jesus. Not here. Here, Jesus speaks boldly. I will pray. He will give. Which is so good because I think that all of us could use a little more boldness in our prayers.

Next, two words jumped out at me. Another and Helper. According to my commentaries the Greek words for these have a bit more nuance to their meanings, a bit more depth. The Greek word for "another" here specifically means "another of the same kind." The same kind as Jesus in this case. Someone distinct, but the same as Jesus to take his place and continue his works.

The word "Helper" has the meaning of literally "one called alongside to help." A Person. Someone who can pick you up when your down. Someone who can call you out when your wrong. One last note on 16. Our pew Bibles finish that verse with "to be with you forever." My New King James has it "that He may abide with you forever." I like that. I get a better sense of the relationship here. The Holy Spirit isn't just there hanging out, and watching TV with you. Or some bad tattoo you got on spring break that will be with you forever. He's acting in accordance with God, and encouraging you to act in accordance with Him. Abide. See what I mean?

In Verse 17, Jesus identifies the Helper as "...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 world cannot receive him. The world cannot know him. Apart from the Spirit, human beings cannot know God's truth. Paul will say exactly the same thing in verse 12 of 1 Corinthians, chapter 2, "Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God." In other words, this Helper isn't for the world. He is sent expressly to and for believers.

And here in John's gospel, Jesus does a little something with the word tenses at the end of verse 17. Jesus says, "You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you." Now Jesus is still talking about the Spirit of Truth here. So they "know him", currently. He "dwells with" them, currently. And he "will be in" them, sometime in the future. They know Jesus currently. They live with Jesus currently.

But some time in the future, the Spirit of truth, another Person of the same kind as Jesus will come along side to help. At Pentecost! And I think Jesus is making the distinction between what their ministry is now, and what it will be, something new, something yet to come. At the same time, he's also indicating this sameness that exists between himself and the Holy Spirit. Father, Son, Holy Ghost. Right? Three in One.

So the promise of a Supernatural Helper, the Holy Spirit, is a promise that was going to be fulfilled at Pentecost for the disciples and has been fulfilled for every believer since. This is one of the mysteries of our faith, and there is a ton more here to unpack here, but let's keep moving.

Next - **The Promise of a Supernatural Life.** Jesus went on to promise his disciples: "*I will not leave you as orphans.*" Orphans. Jesus is pointing toward his pending death on the cross. He said. "*I will come to you.*" There is definitely a double meaning here. They will indeed see him again after his resurrection, and as John MacArthur has pointed out, there is no record of any unbeliever seeing Jesus after his resurrection. But there is another layer here beyond what they'll see of Jesus after the resurrection.

Again Jesus looks forward to Pentecost. Again he speaks of "Another Helper". "*Yet a little while,*" he says, "*and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.*" This is another reference to the Trinity. Sameness with the Holy Spirit, and with God the Father. And there it is, not only the promise of a Supernatural Life, but of Life Eternal.

The Promise of a Supernatural Union - "*In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.*" Jesus says. What amazes me here is that these simple words, words I could walk over to Children's Church and have them tell me the meaning, these simple words are used to express a concept that is so far beyond our comprehension. "*In that day. You will know. I am in my Father. You are in me. I am in you.*" All this stuff that Jesus is teaching will click on the day of his resurrection.

In verses 21 through 24, Jesus says this: "*If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words.*" MacArthur wrote that these words of Jesus teach the "need for the habitual practice of obedience to his commands as evidence of the believer's love for Him and the Father."

Or as James put it, "*...faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*" Because, MacArthur writes, our obedience to the works Jesus taught us to do become "expressions of the love which the Spirit pours into the believer's heart". We obey his commands because we love Jesus. We do works because we love Jesus. Now good works don't move us up to the front of the line. They don't even get us in line. We do these things not to gain our salvation, but as an expression of love for our Lord, evidence of our love for our Lord.

A Supernatural Teacher - There are numerous cases where the apostles just don't understand what Jesus is talking about. Every Parable told comes to mind. The apostles would always go back to Jesus and ask him what he meant, and he would provide a clearer explanation. It is the thing that separates the apostles from the multitudes in those situations. They go back to the teacher for an explanation. And here in verse 26, Jesus promised that this relationship will continue.

He said, "*...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.*" So the disciples will have a teacher, another of the same kind who will come alongside and explain the meanings. More so, the Spirit will bring to them a "*remembrance all that I have said to you.*" In other words, the apostles would be able to come to, as MacArthur put it, "an inerrant and accurate understanding of the Lord, and His Work, and record it in the gospels and the rest of the New Testament Scriptures," and thank God for that!

Lastly Jesus promised, **A Supernatural Peace** - He said, "*Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.*" This is Jesus talking here. His Peace. That is tremendous, and we can, each of us, lean into that during our most troubled times. And Jesus has promised so much and said so much here at table in the Upper Room because, really, this is the last pep talk, the last time Jesus will sit at table with the Apostles before that heart wrenching trip to the cross. So it was a night filled, not just with promises and talk, but Jesus also did things that showed what it would mean to follow him in the years going out.

Not only did he wash their feet, but he looked death in the eye and never shrank from what his Father commanded him to do. His last words at table: "*...I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.*" It is the exact same thing he taught us to do way back in verse 15. "*If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*" Because Jesus wasn't just a "do as I say" kind of teacher. He was then and is now a "do as I do" type of guy.