

XIV. The Holy Spirit in Biblical Perspective

Led by the Spirit

“The Last Sermon from the Last Supper—War and Peace”

John 14:25–31

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May 22, 2016 – Morning sermon

This study is in John 14 a second key text in our Lord’s farewell sermon, The Upper Room Discourse. This is God’s Word and it’s the truth. John 14:25–31 says [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.*

The grass withers, the flowers fades, God’s Word abides forever and by His grace and mercy may His Word be preached for you.

To get us started the one word I would say at this time would be ‘momentous.’ I am convinced that John thinks what is happening in the Upper Room is momentous, monumental. One reason I would say that is when John put together his gospel book he probably didn’t read Mark, Matthew or Luke’s gospels because I’m not sure it was even written yet but he clearly has developed his own format led and inspired by the Spirit of God at what he wanted to emphasize and it’s really interesting. There are 21 chapters in the book of John and the first three are devoted to the first week of Jesus’ public ministry. Then chapters 4 through most of 11 he then gives a series of encounters that Jesus has throughout His three year ministry. At the end of chapter 11 all the way to chapter 21 John is spending all of that time on the last week of Jesus’ ministry. He obviously has a fascination with the first week of His ministry covering two and half chapters and then an unbelievable fascination with the last week of His ministry using 11 chapters of his gospel book.

In between there is a lot of good stuff for he covers eight miracles, seven ‘I AM’ statements with many other things happening as well but what really interests me is that of all of those chapters from 11 to 21, half of those chapters are devoted to one night in the Upper Room. John 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 all deal with what happens in that Upper Room. Basically twenty percent of John’s entire gospel is devoted to the evening hours before Jesus would go to the Garden of Gethsemane and be arrested. It is a monumental place and I guess it is momentous because John realizes that not only was Jesus there, the Last Passover happened there, the First Lord’s Supper was there, He washed their feet there and He settled the argument of who was the greatest by teaching them. In the Upper Room was where Jesus gave His last sermon and talked about the Holy Spirit. In this room He tells us three different times not to be troubled or fearful or anxious.

The Upper Room is also momentous because it is also the first place Jesus appears to them as a group after His resurrection just a few days after His Discourse. He will also come

back to this room one week after that to appear again to His Disciples. He also sends them to this room for the fulfillment of the prophecy of Pentecost where the Holy Spirit would fall upon them. So this is a monumental place with monumental events and momentous content. I think another reason John is committed to this, led by the Spirit, is because it is in this text that Jesus is driving home to us the ministry of Holy Spirit so that we can understand who He is and what He is doing.

Jesus also keeps repeating something. He says 'It's good for you that I go away to be with the Father.' He says if He goes away He will give the Holy Spirit and we'll do greater works. The same Spirit who was with Him will be with us so it's better for us that He go away. So don't be fearful, anxious or overcome. He keeps telling them it is 'better for you that I do this' but in this passage we just read He keeps telling them that it is better He go away to the Father because of all the benefits it will bring to them – greater works, He'll be living within you, the Father will live within you through the Spirit of Christ who is within you – but now He doubles down.

Now He says 'if you loved Me you would rejoice that I am going to Father.' Now He turns from 'you ought to be rejoicing because of all of the benefits' to 'if you loved Me you would rejoice that I'm going to the Father.' Almost all of us have faced this same tension that the Disciples are facing as they hear this, haven't we? We don't want You to go. You are our Teacher, our Savior, our Lord. We left everything to follow You. Don't leave us Jesus for we want You here but He says it is better for you that I go because I'll come back to be with you by the Holy Spirit. He keeps telling them all the benefits of what they'll have when He goes but as He does that they are still anxious and concerned.

You have felt this when you have had a loved one who knew the Lord and went to be with the Lord. You were grieving but then you learned that we don't grieve as those who have no hope (I Thessalonians 4:13). Take it to another step. I'm going to rejoice that they have left me to be with the Lord because I love them. The reason this is so acute to me is because this is how I was saved. I wanted to date Cindy so I had to start going to church and act like I was a Christian. We went to a church that preached the Bible and the Lord started working on my heart. On Christmas day 1969 I got a phone call that one of the elders in our church, his wife had a cerebral hemorrhage and their four daughters had asked my wife Cindy and I to come over. God was gracious to allow us to do that and after the funeral I said to Mr. Elliott, "I'm so sorry for your loss of Mrs. Elliott and I want you to know I want to help you."

I never forget what he said to me. He said "Harry I think you need to hear this. If I could bring my wife back now I wouldn't do it." I didn't have a category for that. I said to him, "Were you having trouble?" He said "Oh no, we have known each other since we were 14, got married when we were 18 and I have these four girls to raise but you need to know something. Do you know all that she has now? I so rejoice for her. Why would I be that selfish to bring her back to me? Secondly, this isn't good but God has made a promise that all things work together for good so He is going to do something through this and it won't be much longer until I'll be there with her, will you?" I didn't leave that house until I came to Jesus that day. One of those was a man who clearly was grieving yet his love for the Lord and His wife was so great that he was rejoicing for what she had. Jesus says 'If you loved Me you would rejoice that I go to the Father.'

So let's see what He is bringing home to our heart from this very powerful part of His sermon in the Upper Room. John 14:25–26 says [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. So He is telling them as He is being their Teacher that He has been teaching them but when He goes away He will then be able to teach all of His people because He will send The Teacher, the Holy Spirit, to all of His people. He will teach them all things.

John 14:27 says [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.* His peace is different and distinct from the world's peace. He gives us His peace and the not the peace the world offers. The result of that is to not let your heart be troubled or afraid. So because He has sent the Holy Spirit who will teach us, we will have untroubled hearts and it will banish fear in your life. What He is going to say next He has already said six times in this sermon.

John 14:28 says [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.* What does it mean 'the Father is greater than I'? One might be thinking that we believe that the three Persons of the Trinity are equal in essence and that is correct. It is One God dwelling in three Persons, equal in substance and glory so what does it mean the Father is greater than I? There are two things He is reminding us of with that statement.

The first thing is that while the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are equal in substance, they have different offices and the Father is the One who sends the Son. The Son is the One who sends the Spirit. Then the Spirit brings us back to the Son and then the Son will bring us to the glory of the Father. So He is affirming the economy, the offices of the Trinity that He is here to do what the Father has instructed Him to do and He will go back to be with the Father when He has accomplished what the Father has commanded Him to do. There is something else here also which I think is the real essence of that statement.

Secondly, when Jesus was sent from Heaven and the Father what did He lay aside? He didn't lay aside His deity because we didn't have 33 years without a Trinity. He laid aside His glory. He laid aside the privileges of His deity. He humbled Himself. Where is the Father? He is still in glory and still has the glory that is around Him that is coming forth from Him. Where is Jesus? Jesus is in a humbled position. He has laid glory aside but not deity, to humble Himself to be found in appearance as a man. He humbled Himself to go to a cross and be buried and then God exalted Him. He will enter back into the greater glory in the presence of the Father, having humbled Himself now exalted Himself back into glory. He said "If you love Me you would rejoice that I return to My glory having humbled Myself to bring you to glory."

John 14:29–30 says [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.* Here is an affirmation. Satan in God's sovereign plan is allowed a position called ruler and some translate it as prince but not king. He is not God. He is a usurper. The title prince is used because it is a subordinate but yet it is greater than us. He is letting us know who Satan is – the ruler of THIS world. He was not the ruler of the world in the Garden of Eden. He will not be the ruler of the world to come but he is in God's purposes allowed to be and instituted to be a ruler with allies, demonic hosts and the world, the flesh are there to serve as allies and he comes to you.

Satan has an ally in you. If you're reading this today and you don't know Christ as your Lord and Savior he has an ally that is called the sin nature that is within you. If you're a Christian you have that sin nature that you have been born again from but you still have an old man that is within you and he is always appealing to it. Notice that when it comes to Jesus, Satan has no claim, no foothold at all. There is no shame or fear or inadequacies in Jesus. Satan

may be mighty but he has now come to the Almighty. Satan may be the accuser but he has now come to the One where there is no accusation to be made. Jesus is telling them that the prince of this world is coming and what is about to happen not long from these moments when Judas comes to betray Him in the Garden of Gethsemane which is where they will go from the Upper Room. Jesus says 'Game on. Rise up, let's go.'

I want to share with you a couple of things here. Because we love Jesus we should rejoice that He has gone to the Father but in this text He has given us five blessings that come to us because He has gone to the Father. I want to encourage you with this. The first blessing is that because Jesus has gone to the Father you receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit to be poured out upon you. In this text the Holy Spirit is known as the Paraclete. Para means alongside of for He is One that comes alongside of you. It is also translated Counselor and Advocate and we use those words for lawyers. There were no law firms in Israel during that time period. If you went to court you were allowed an advocate, a counselor and you called someone to stand alongside of you who knew you well. So the Holy Spirit is the Advocate of Christ who knows Christ because the Spirit searches the mind of God and the Holy Spirit had been with Him in His entire ministry. Now from the victory of eternity that Spirit of God is poured out upon you to be Christ's Advocate/Counselor to you. He is Christ's other Helper to you.

Now that He has come upon you then you have the Witness of Christ to you. You have the presence of Christ with you. The Holy Spirit has come to you so that the One that Christ has sent to you now knows you and He becomes your Advocate to Christ as He intercedes for you with groanings too deep to be uttered. All of us believers couldn't be directly with Jesus but now that Jesus has ascended all of us have Christ and the Father at work within us through the presence of the Holy Spirit who is the sent Advocate/Counselor/Witness of Christ. When He comes to us He is actually making us a home for Christ and the Father so that Christ will now abide within us. Stop and think about that.

Jesus who has gone away to prepare a place for us in the Father's House has sent the Holy Spirit who prepares us for the Father and Jesus to live within us, until we go there to be with Him. He has a home for you and He has sent the Holy Spirit to be the Homemaker in you so that He will dwell within you all the way to bringing you to be with Him for all of eternity. That is what happens when you receive the Holy Spirit from the risen Christ that has ascended on high.

The second blessing is as He is the Counselor to you the Holy Spirit becomes the Teacher to you. Let's say the Lord blesses you through the teaching here at Briarwood from the Lord's Day gathering and your small group time. Just think all teachers who are gifted by the Holy Spirit are there for you but the One who gifts the teachers is there within you and He is the Teacher in you 24/7. The Teacher is always with you and He will bring to your remembrance those words of Christ. He will give you a hunger for Christ.

I am so astounded by the honesty of the Apostles because I know if I was writing these books of the Bible, instead of what they tended to repeat of 'what He said at the time we didn't understand until later, after the resurrection,' I would have said 'I had a pretty good inkling of it myself.' They were honest about not getting it when He first told them. They got some of it but not all of it. Then they got it. Why? The resurrection, ascension and the Holy Spirit came upon them and then the full Light came on. That's what the Old Testament is about. It's about Jesus. Jesus is the Temple and Tabernacle. Jesus is the Prophet, the Priest and the King. All those offerings are fulfilled in Jesus. All of it just opened up to them and they began to scroll it all across the New Testament pages for us to understand it. The Holy Spirit is sent to them as the

Teacher, they now understand, it has been brought to remembrance and they begin to speak about it.

That same Teacher is sent to you so that Word that you have is there to teach you. One of the ways He teaches you is by gifting teachers and preachers in the congregation of God's people. Another way He teaches you is by taking residence within you 24/7. This is why Jeremiah says in the New Covenant in Hebrews 8:11, *[11] And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest* (quote taken from Jeremiah 31:34). They all have the Teacher right within them. That doesn't mean you don't make use of the teachers He has gifted in the body of Christ but you have within you The Teacher because Jesus went to the Father to send Him to us.

The third blessing is that He teaches you that you have the peace of Christ. You don't have the peace that the world gives. The world's peace is temporary, delusional and illusive. It doesn't mean we don't try to be peacemakers in this world. We are to be peacemakers in this world but when the world cries, 'peace, peace' do not believe them for sudden destruction comes upon them. There is no ultimate peace in this world but there is in this world a Gospel of peace that you can be right with God and God can be right within you. Romans 5:1 says *[1] Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

You have this legal, objective, forensic, absolutely sufficient peace with God. No longer are you His enemy. You are more than His ally for you are now His sons and daughters. His Son brings many sons to glory so you now have peace with God. We once were at enmity with Him but not like the world when they have enemies for they send out a king with an army to kill and subdue their enemies for a temporary peace. What does this King do? He doesn't send out an army to kill you for this King went to a cross and died for you. So now you have that legal, everlasting, eternal peace with God. There are no charges, no condemnation, no guilt or shame because it has all been paid for. My sin not the part but the whole is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord O my soul.

You not only have the legal, objective peace of God but you have the peace with God. Philippians 4:6–9 says *[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.*

[8] Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. [9] What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Jesus Christ Himself stand sentry by the Holy Spirit over your heart so that as you go through the rough waters of a broken world, with a broken body and brokenness all around you He never leaves you and you have the peace of God as well as peace with God. Please do not leave this study without Jesus. All you have is brokenness, despair and a judgment that is forever but if you come to Christ you can have peace with God and the peace of God. You can be right with God and God Himself will be right within you. That leads me to the fourth blessing from this text.

The fourth blessing that is based on all the other four blessings is that it is now time to go to war but you don't have to go to war because the war is going to come to you. The ruler of this world has come so let's rise to meet him. So you have the peace of God and with God in the midst of a war. Remember he is a ruler and not the King. He is greater than you but greater

is He that is in you than he that is in the world. This King has gone to the cross and defeated him. This King has told you to resist him and he will flee from you but there will be times that you are seemingly overwhelmed. Satan comes against you with the cultural, academic and media elite, with money, power, marginalization and all those things that is seemingly like a tsunami that rises up to overwhelm you.

It reminds me of the moment in the Band of Brothers series Dick Winters and his troop are marching into Bastogne. Coming down the road are line upon line of wounded men who are demoralized and they are taking off their ammunition as they go in. A lieutenant says “They have panzers, tigers and everything possible. A panzer division has just cut us off. Captain Winters you are going to be surrounded.” Captain Winters looked at him and said “Young man, this is easy company, the screaming eagles, the 101st Airborne. We are paratroopers, we’re supposed to be surrounded.” You are Christians, you are supposed to be surrounded but greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world, now rise up and let’s go meet them with the Gospel of saving grace in Jesus Christ.

The fifth blessing is you receive the victory because Jesus doesn’t ascend until the victory has been won. So you now have the victory. You have the battle and you are going to war but the war has been won. Christ has won it and now we go into the battle for Him who has won the victory for us. So now I want to give you the takeaway.

The takeaway is who or what we love supremely will be revealed by who or what we obey intentionally. Jesus said ‘if you love Me you’ll keep My commandments.’ If you love Me and I am the supreme object of your adoration, affection and allegiance you will keep My commandments. Will we keep them perfectly? No, but intentionally you will keep His commandments. The revelation that we love Christ is that we keep His commandments. Why would Jesus say that? He is saying that because the revelation that Jesus loves the Father is that He kept His commandment which was to save you. Let’s look back in the John 14 text.

John 14:29–31 says [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.*

Did Jesus go to the cross because He loves you? Absolutely. Romans 5:8 says [8] *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners (enemies), Christ died for us.* There is no doubt He loves you and died for you but it was the supreme love that sent Him to the cross was His love for the Father who sent Him to save you and love you. I will meet the prince of this world. I will defeat him, death, sin, hell and the grave. I love the sinners to save them but the supremacy of it, that the world will know I love the Father, I now go.

I want to ask you a question. Are we supposed to love one another? Who commanded us to do that? We are supposed to love one another because Jesus commanded it. I hope and pray that we do love one another but the reason that you keep His commandments, including this new commandment of loving one another as He has loved us, is because of the supremacy of your love to Christ. It is not your supremacy of your love to one another but to Him for Christ has loved you and He was compelled by His love to the Father. You are compelled by the love of Christ. The love of Christ compels us. The love of Christ banishes all fear for perfect love casts out all fear. The love of Christ propels us and moves us to keep His commandments and on the glory of this commandment that you love one another.

Take just a few moments in silent prayer as the Holy Spirit is your Teacher, your Counselor, your Advocate even now. Let’s pray.

Prayer:

Lord, I don't know who and how You are speaking now but I do know there are probably some reading this that do not know Christ. Would You let them hear that Your love of the Father sent You to the cross that You might love them relentlessly with an unstoppable love to save them and that when they come to You they can have peace with God and the peace of God, the Holy Spirit within them to go with them in life? They will be sent to a war that will come against them but their Savior has risen in victory. The King of glory has met the blasphemous prince of this world and has defeated him that we might be taken to glory with Holy Spirit as Advocate having the peace of God and peace with God. Father, we rejoice that our Savior has risen in victory and ascended because we love Him who first loved us and He loved us with an unstoppable love as He loved You to do what You commanded. We give You praise in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Power Point

Life Takeaway

Who or what we love supremely will be revealed by who or what we obey intentionally.