**JESUS PROMISES THE HOLY SPIRIT**

May 28, 2017

John 14:15-31

Key Verse 14:15&16 “*If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever*.”

In John 14, Jesus comforts his troubled disciples. In the first part, Jesus promised them a place in the Father’s house. This is all believers’ ultimate future security and hope. This will be our eternal home with Jesus Christ. Jesus also taught them the way to come to God our Father. Jesus himself is the way. If we follow Jesus, Jesus will surely lead us to reach to our eternal home; our Father’s house safely. While living on earth, Jesus is the ultimate solution and answer to all our problems and many questions about our life. In the second part which is today’s passage, Jesus makes another promise to his disciples: the promise to send the Holy Spirit. Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do for us? How can we receive the Holy Spirit? Let’s learn all of these in today’s passage.

**I. To love Jesus is to obey Jesus’ command (15)**

Look at verse 15. “If you love me, keep my commands.” This teaching is repeated two more times in verses 21 and 23. Here Jesus teaches what love for Jesus is. Love for Jesus is a matter of obedience. We live in the time of post modernism. Modern man has become very sensual. Many people live for pleasure and fun. To them love is understood as a feeling. But human feeling is very changeable and can become destructive because of fallen man’s self-centeredness. To Jesus, love is not just a feeling. It is will and decision. It is a decision to treat his word as absolute truth and obey it. To love Jesus is to obey his command.

Then what command must we obey? Jesus said in John 13:34: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” What did this mean to the disciples? Soon, Jesus would leave them. They would experience the pain of his death. They would confront the open hostility of the Jews; their lives would be threatened. They would feel that their dreams as Jesus’ disciples were broken. In short, their bond as one family in Jesus could be very vulnerable and fragile. In such situation, they might want to escape from the hard life of discipleship and go separate race. But this was the reason why Jesus emphasized a new command. In the midst of hardship, they would have to think of one another and love one another instead of thinking only themselves and being overcome by their feeling of misery.

As I feel that serving campus mission becomes harder and harder, frankly speaking I have felt that my love for coworkers in Christ becomes lukewarm more and more. But here, I hear Jesus’ voice that I must love my coworkers in Christ as Jesus has loved me. Love is a commitment to Jesus, his people, and his work. In western Christian countries like Canada and US, many so called Christians say that they are Christians but they never commit to a body of believers who are dedicated to carry out God’s mission. Here, We need God’s help. Without God’s help, we cannot be faithful or effective to the commitment to Jesus and his people. Jesus knows this very well and he promises us his help. What is his help?

**II. The Father will give you another Advocate (16-21)**

Let’s look at verses 16-17a. “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to help you and be with you forever-the Spirit of truth.” Here his help from the Father refers to the Holy Spirit-the Spirit of truth. Jesus calls him “another Advocate.” Notice that if the Holy Spirit is another Advocate, there was an Advocate to the disciples. Who was he? He was Jesus. Jesus was really a Wonderful Advocate to the disciples. Jesus fully understood them, helped them, taught them, defended them, and protected them. He showed many examples for them to follow in his footsteps; such as how to humbly serve one another by washing the disciple’s dirty feet. Now soon Jesus would leave them but the Holy Spirit would take over Jesus’ role as eternal Advocate. Here the word, “Advocate” in the NIV is translated from the Greek word, “Paraclete,” which has also been translated, “Comforter,” “Helper”, and “Counselor.” The KJV says “Comforter.” We usually think of comfort as emotional aid to overcome sorrow. A fuller meaning of the word is, “to be with in order to fortify or to make strong.” The Comforter would be a source of strength when they were weak. Apostle Paul experienced this and he wrote in Romans 8:26-27. ““In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.”

Jesus stresses in verse 16 that the Advocate would be with them forever. The Holy Spirit would be with them in a way the incarnate Jesus could not be with them. The Holy Spirit is not limited by time and space because he does not his own physical body. He also can be with many people in many places at the same time because he is the Spirit. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Spirit of truth. The Spirit of truth teaches us all the truth enabling us to discern all the counterfeit truth. We are living under a deceiving spirit’s influence. There are many false teachings in the world influenced by Satan; the father of lies (8:44). In campus, biology class teaches many things based on evolution theory which denies the existence of God. Islam’s Koran deceives people presenting a counterfeit to Christianity. My Muslim friend tells that even Jesus was a Muslim. I was shocked and did not know how to correct Islam’s false teachings. Secular humanism eradicated spiritual life from western Christian culture. According to verse 17b, it is expected that worldly people do not understand Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in verse 17b. “The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” Here the world is the world which rejected the word of Jesus. When Jesus came, he preached all over the Israel for 3 years. But many people rejected Jesus and his words. To them the Holy Spirit cannot be known. He was hidden to them.

But Jesus’ disciples are different. They know the Holy Spirit, for the Holy Spirit already lives with them and later he will be in them. Notice that the Holy Spirit had not come into them (inside them) yet because it would happen at the time of Pentecost after Jesus’ resurrection.

Look at verses 18-20. Jesus would leave his disciples soon by his death. But his death doesn’t mean that he would leave them as orphans. Jesus would come to them again. So they would see him again. This implies his resurrection. After they met the Risen Jesus, suddenly everything would make sense to them. Most importantly, they would realize that Jesus is God who had shepherded them perfectly. On that day they would realize that Jesus was in his Father, and they were in Jesus, and Jesus was in them. This is perfect illustration of inseparable and eternal bond of love with God through Jesus. This realization was the conclusion of discipleship with Jesus. With this realization they would be able to no longer follow the human Jesus by sight, but go forth by faith, guided by the Holy Spirit alone.

Look at verse 21. Jesus again repeats his teaching about what to love Jesus means. “Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.” As verse 15 says, again to love Jesus means to obey his commands and to obey his command makes a good cycle to grow us more in knowing Jesus’ love and enabling us to love Jesus more. In verse 21b, Jesus says when we love Jesus by obeying his command of love, we will be loved by Father and Jesus too would love us and show himself to us. If we are loved by Father and come to see and know Jesus more, it helps us to love others more and more. So this is good cycle and synergy effect. Obey his command; practice his love, and we will be loved by God more and come to know Jesus more. If you know Jesus and God’s love more, you will be able to practice his love more and more. This is the way how we can grow in knowing his love. Jesus’ teaching of what to love Jesus means is repeated in next passage.

**III. We will make our home with him (22-31)**

In verse 22, Judas (not Judas Iscariot) had a question. He said to Jesus, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?” In his question, it sounds like that he thought that it was Jesus who was responsible for the world’s unbelief and disobedience. He seems to think that Jesus should show himself to the world more to help people of the world to let them believe and obey him. How did Jesus reply? Look at verses 23-24. According to his reply, it is not Jesus’ fault that people do not obey Jesus. In his reply, obeying Jesus depends on people’s reaction. Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.” Jesus showed himself to the world more than enough with many miraculous signs and words of life. So people had enough evidence to believe, if they wanted to believe in Jesus. But many of them rejected Jesus because they loved things of world more than Jesus. God is not slow or stingy in doing his work and showing himself in Jesus. But it was people who were slow and hesitant to believe in Jesus and accept his great love. As verse 23b says, God’s heart is moved personally only toward the person who loves Jesus and obey his command. Though there are billions of people in the world, God shows his love to that person personally. God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit will come into his heart and make their home with that person in his heart. How does the Trinune God come into his heart and make their home with that person? The sequence is this. When we love Jesus and obey his command, Jesus will ask the Holy Spirit to the Father and the Father will send the Holy Spirit in Jesus name and the Holy Spirit will come and dwell in that person’s heart.

Then what does the Holy Spirit do for him? He will teach him all things and will remind him of everything Jesus had said to him. In John 16, Jesus said, the Holy Spirit will not speak on his own but only what he hears from Jesus and his main work is to glorify Jesus and make Jesus known to the people.

So the Holy Spirit is the best Bible teacher who helps us to understand the word of Jesus and enables us to remember Jesus’ words and makes us grow in knowing Jesus, his love, and his words.

Look at verse 27. Let’s read this verse. “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” Worldly peace is temporal and depends on things of the worlds. Money, worldly success and achievement, human recognition and honor give us temporal security and temporal sense of victory and satisfaction. But these kinds of peace are helpless when we encounter our inner sin and death problem. True and everlasting inner peace comes from our right relationship with God. No one can have right relationship with God because God is absolutely holy and righteous and we are fallen sinners. But Jesus will soon become the sacrificial Lamb of God who takes away all our sins to reconcile us with God. Through his death, Jesus will break the barrier of sin between God and men opening the way to approach to Holy God. Jesus guaranteed a place in the Father’s house for us. So because of Jesus, to those who believe in him, there is no condemnation, or guilt or shame, no future security anxiety, no separation anxiety. Jesus’ perfect love drives out all our guilt, shame, fear, sense of failure, sense of inferiority, habitually troubled heart, and anxiety. Jesus’ perfect love replaces all kinds of darkness by his heavenly peace that this world cannot give to us.

Lastly, look at verses 28-31. Jesus continued to say to the disciples. If they had loved Jesus, they would have been glad that Jesus was going to the Father, for the Father was greater than him and he went to the better place. Also according to John 16:7, it was for their good that Jesus was going away. Unless he went away, the Advocate would have not come to them; but if he went, he would send him to them. If human Jesus doesn’t go away and permanently stay with them, they would become very dependant to human Jesus not growing spiritually. But if Jesus went away, God would send the Holy Spirit to replace Jesus as the wonderful Advocate who can help them to grow as independent and strong and mature servant of God who lives only by faith not by sight. Now Jesus moves forward in his mission not saying much more to his disciples because God’s appointed time is closer and closer. Jesus knew the prince of this world-Satan was coming. He knew that Satan was behind all the evil that was about to happen. But Jesus knew that Satan had no hold over him. Satan gets hold of people through their sins. But Jesus was sinless. Jesus would submit to the arrest and upcoming suffering and death out of his willing obedience to God. Through this, he knew that the world might learn that Jesus loved the Father and because of love he would obey exactly what God the Father had commanded him. So, even in the time of his upcoming most painful crucifixion, Jesus’ heart was ruled by peace of the Holy Spirit because he loved God the Father and obeyed his command. This Jesus shows a best example how we can live the Spirit-led life; peaceful life even in the midst of painful suffering. It is to love God and to obey his command.

In conclusion, today Jesus repeats 3 times that to love Jesus is to obey his command; “love one another as Jesus has loved us.” In order to help us to know his love and obey his command, Jesus promises the Holy Spirit; the Spirit of truth; the wonderful Advocate. Jesus does not leave us as orphans but he is with us and in us forever through his Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us to remember Jesus and his word and love constantly so that we can have the cycle of love which leads us to grow in knowing his love and peace. Because Jesus has risen and lives, we are also made alive with Jesus. In Jesus and through Jesus, now we have inseparable and eternal bond of love with Jesus and with our God the Father and no one and nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ until we get to our eternal home where our Lord Jesus Christ prepared for us.