

Learning from Jesus' Last Message #7 "The Helper"

Message Notes, February 27, 2022

John 14:15-24 (NLT)

¹⁵ "If you love me, obey my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. ¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. ¹⁸ No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. ¹⁹ Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. ²⁰ When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them."

²² Judas (not Judas Iscariot, but the other disciple with that name) said to him, "Lord, why are you going to reveal yourself only to us and not to the world at large?"

²³ Jesus replied, "All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. ²⁴ Anyone who doesn't love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me.

1. Who/What is the Holy Spirit?

a. The Advocate *parakaleo* (16)

- *Para* means beside, *kaleo* means to call or to speak out. Thus, one who calls me next to him or one who speaks to me beside him. 1) Advocate, counselor (at the judgement seat in heaven)/ friend 2) One who empowers
- The first principle is that God sends an advocate, which means that He is not condemning us or angry with us, but rather that He is our redeemer. This is the foundation of our life and the reason we can move forward without being bound by our past.
- From now on it is the Holy Spirit who defends and empowers us. He advocates and gives us strength.

b. Another (different) (16)

- The Spirit is a different persona than Jesus, a close friend who is "always with you" (16) even after Jesus has left and who can be consulted regarding any matter. Just as Jesus answered the personal needs and questions of his disciples, so the helper will do for us.
- Through this other advocate, the Holy Spirit, we will experience the same reality of Jesus as did the disciples who walked together with Him 2,000 years ago.

c. Holy Spirit (17)

- Jesus explains about the Holy Spirit three times in this last message → 14:17, 15:26, 16:13
- In Chapter 14, He leads them in truth, not leaving them orphaned (never letting them go). The Spirit will remind them of Jesus' teachings and give them peace.

2. The Spirit Who Leads into All Truth (17)

- In v. 6, Jesus said that He is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life," meaning that if we walk along the "path" the Lord shows us, we will arrive at the right destination (Truth) that God has prepared for us.
- When the Bible says "truth" it refers to the "truth of the gospel." In other words, knowing and living the mystery of atonement through the cross by experiencing forgiveness through Christ's sacrifice and practicing its profound meaning in our daily lives.
- In other words, the "Spirit of Truth" is the Spirit of love who transforms us into people of love as we receive Christ's love ourselves. The Spirit has the power to change us.

Romans 5:5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

John 4:34 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

3. “I will NOT Abandon You as Orphans (18)

- His promise not to abandon us demonstrates His understanding of the underlying fears of humanity.
- The first principle of *parakaleo* was to defend us, and here God shows his deep understanding of our “fear of abandonment” and his willingness to encourage and help us as our close friend.
- Example: The healing of the man born blind began a controversy about Jesus, resulting in the exposure of people’s spiritual blindness. In the midst of it, the man is again pushed around and abandoned by society. John records in detail how Jesus became the very helper the man needed as soon as he knew about the way he was being treated.

John 9:1-41

¹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. ²“Rabbi,” his disciples asked him, “why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?” ³“It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins,” Jesus answered. “This happened so the power of God could be seen in him.” ⁴We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work. “But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ Then he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and spread the mud over the blind man’s eyes. ⁷ He told him, “Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam” (Siloam means “sent”). So the man went and washed and came back seeing!... ³⁵When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ The man answered, “Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him.” ³⁷ “You have seen him,” Jesus said, “and he is speaking to you!” ³⁸ “Yes, Lord, I believe!” the man said. And he worshiped Jesus. ³⁹ Then Jesus told him, “I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.”

- Look at things from this man’s perspective, “So the power of God could be seen in him.”
 - a. It is sad that no one was willing to share joy in this man’s healing
 - b. No one became this man’s friend (stand by him) when the controversy arose, including his parents. At the end, he was once again ostracized as a social outcast.
 - c. How did he feel when Jesus, who would not abandon him or leave him like an orphan, looked out for him and sought him out, encouraged him, and guided him? This is what the Holy Spirit does in our lives.
- To continue to reveal the work of God’s love
 - a. Jesus made it clear that the man had been born blind to demonstrate God’s power (the work *ergon*), and the verb tense (passive continuous form) indicated that God’s love not only healed him, but He continues to provide the help he needs long after that even.
 - b. Viewed through today’s lens, this incident perfectly manifests God’s love through a series of works whereby Jesus defends the man, becomes his friend, gives him needed strength, and guides him in the right path (Truth).
 - c. How did the man feel on the way to the Pool of Siloam? Did he have any doubts? What important lessons of faith life did his stepping out in belief teach him?

Conclusion

1. To what extent have you been aware of your friendship with God? How can you deepen it more?
2. To what extent are you daily experiencing God as your advocate and source of strength?
3. Based on Jesus’ compassion for the blind man, what do you think Jesus would say directly to you today?
4. Pray and ask God to open your spiritual eyes so that you, too, can realize that He continues to pour out His Spirit of Truth (God’s love) on you.