

## Learning from the Jesus' Last Message #13

### “God Who Guides My Future”

Message Notes, May 1, 2022

**Anxiety About the Future:** We envision plans for the future, but our fear of “what life will be like in the future” never leaves our minds.

#### John 16:1-15

<sup>1</sup>“I have told you these things so that you won't abandon your faith. <sup>2</sup> For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God. <sup>3</sup> This is because they have never known the Father or me. <sup>4</sup> Yes, I'm telling you these things now, so that when they happen, you will remember my warning. I didn't tell you earlier because I was going to be with you for a while longer. <sup>5</sup> “But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. <sup>6</sup> Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you. <sup>7</sup> But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. <sup>9</sup> The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me. <sup>10</sup> Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. <sup>11</sup> Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged. <sup>12</sup> “There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. <sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. <sup>14</sup> He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, ‘The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.’

◆ **Today's Passage:** As Jesus prepares to leave them to return to heaven, He tells his anxious disciples that the “Spirit of Truth” will teach and guide them in all things. Today we will learn what Jesus teaches his disciples and us about the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

#### ◆ The Ministry of “The Spirit of Truth”

1. **Guides Our Lives:** Guidance (v. 13) *hodegeo*, means to lead in the way, particularly regarding a sojourner who is traveling in new, unknown territory, to keep him from getting lost; to act as a guide.

##### Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. <sup>2</sup> He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. <sup>3</sup> He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. <sup>4</sup> Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. <sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.

- The literal translation of the second half of verse 3, “bringing honor to His name” is “in His name” or “swear by His name.” Since “His name” reveals God Himself, God is saying that He will guide us based on “His own responsibility,” that is, that He “must, absolutely.”
- First of all, we need to remember that on our life's journey it is God's responsibility to protect and guide us. Some challenges make us anxious: work, marriage, family, health, finances, and retirement, but God has promised to guide us by committing Himself to us.

2. **Encourage:** not abandon (v. 1), cause to stumble *skandalizo* from *skandalon*, root of scandal. Etymological study shows that this word comes from a “spring-loaded trap” that suddenly closes when brushed. Thus, “faltering” or “stumbling” refers to “being caught off guard,” leading one to turn away from trust (faith) in God (a trap set by Satan).

- As Jesus indicated, “I have told you these things so that you won’t abandon your faith” (v. 1), we will experience things in our life journey that cause us to doubt. It is inevitable that we will stumble, but the question is what we do at that point.
- Right after God’s promise to guide us, Ps 23:4 continues, “Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me.” If God leads us, this does not mean that nothing dangerous will ever happen. Rather, he indicates that along the way, we will walk through the “valley of the shadow of death.”
- The reason for peace is that the Lord is with us to protect and guide us. Some strange words appear in the second half of verse 4...God’s “rod and staff” comforted the psalmist. What does that mean? They reveal that he had reacted poorly in the past to an unexpected attack or temptation, rather than trusting in God, but that he had subsequently reflected on and learned from his mistakes.

**3. Response to Those Who Oppose** (vv. 8-11): When we Christians try to live according to God’s will, the world may antagonize us and persecute us. But we do not have to defend ourselves, because according to Jesus, God will do that for us.

- “He will convict the world of its sin” (v. 8): specifically, he says that God will show people whether it is about sin, righteousness, or judgment. He says that the Holy Spirit not only defends and encourages Christians, but also works simultaneously in the hearts of those who attack them.
- The way to make people acknowledge “sin” is to keep their hearts in a constant state of guilt and anxiety unless they accept Christ’s forgiveness. This process prepares the heart before a person comes to faith.
- The rightness of God’s plan is proven by the fact of Jesus’ substitutionary death for mankind on the cross and by his resurrection after breaking the bondage of death, just as had been prophesied.
- “Judgment” refers to the forces of evil that ruled this world which were proven to have been completely crushed by the victory of Jesus on the cross.
- Jesus says that these three facts (truths) not only encourage us believers, but they also weigh heavily on those who try to ignore them. Thus, there is no need for us to defend ourselves.

**Psalm 23:5** You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.

#### ◆ How Can We Hear the Holy Spirit’s Voice?

**Isaiah 30:21** Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, “This is the way you should go,” whether to the right or to the left.

**Philippians 2:12b-13** Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. <sup>13</sup> For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

- The result of Christ’s obedience is that we “obey God with deep reverence and fear, working hard to show the results of our salvation” is rendered “shrinking back from all that might displease him” in the Living Bible.
- We learn that to hear God’s voice, we must surrender to God the idols of our hearts that we have not yet let go of.

#### **Application:**

- ① What do you feel anxious about? Others’ eyes? The future? Family? Health? Finances?
- ② God will guide us in all these matters. Do you believe it?
- ③ What is God trying to teach you when you don’t rely on Him when you are suddenly attacked?
- ④ What can you do right now to attune your ears to God’s guidance?