



WEEK 5 HANDOUT – The Son’s Promise of the Spirit

BAND of BROTHERS SPRING/2021

Key Verse: *“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”* – John 15:5 ESV

- **Context: Thursday night in the upper room**
 - Jesus has just shared some **bad news**
 - “One of you will a betray me...”* – 13:21
 - “Where I am going, you cannot come...”* – 13:33
 - “...you cannot follow me now...”* – 13:36
 - “...the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times...”* – 13:38
 - “If you had known me, you would have known my Father also.”* – 14:7
 - But He also shared some **good news**
 - “Now is the Son of Man glorified...”* – 13:31
 - “...you cannot follow me now, but you will follow me afterward.”* – 13:36
 - “...if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”* – 14:3
 - “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”* – 14:6
 - “...whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do.”* – 14:12
- **The Upper Room Discourse**
 - “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”* – John 14:12 ESV
 - Jesus was returning to the Father
 - His return trip home would require:

- His betrayal and arrest
 - His humiliation
 - His suffering
 - His crucifixion
 - His death
 - And His resurrection
- His return would result in answered prayers
“Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do...” – Vs 13

Praying in “Jesus’ name” does not refer to some magic formula added to the end of a prayer. It means to pray in keeping with his character and concerns, and, indeed, in union with him. – Rodney A. Whitacre, *John*

- This is huge!
 - Jesus has just announced He is leaving
 - And they can’t go where He is going
 - So, how will they maintain their unity with Him?
 - How will they do greater works than He did?

- Help from above
And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever. – Vs 16
 - Jesus has just told the disciples that they will have to keep His commandments
 - But which ones?
 - The command to believe?
“Believe in God, believe also in me...” – 14:1
“Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in in me...” – 14:11
 - Or is He referring to ALL His commands?

 - Another helper
 - **paraklētōs** – comforter, advocate
“one who comes alongside another”
 - They are going to be “born from above”
 - They will receive the indwelling Holy Spirit
 - Remember what Jesus told Nicodemus

“Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.” – John 3:6 NLT

 - A departure and an arrival
 - Jesus would be leaving but He would not leave them alone
 - He would send the Spirit of truth

- And He would take up residence within them
"...for he dwells with you will be in you." – Vs 17

- The promise of His coming
"I will come to you..." – Vs 18
"...you will see me..." – Vs 19
 - Jesus promises to come to them
 - But to which coming does He refer?
 ...After His resurrection?
 ...The rapture of the Church?
 ...The Second Coming?
 ...Or none of the above?
 - He seems to be referring to the coming of the Spirit
 - The Spirit is the key to life
 - Remember what Jesus told the disciples:
*"I came **that they may have life** and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd **lays down his life** for the sheep."* – John 10:10-11 ESV

 - "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all."* John 6:63 ESV

- Don't forget what Jesus told Nicodemus:
"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." – John 3:61 ESV
 - Jesus would reveal Himself through the Spirit of God
 - The Spirit will carry on the work of Jesus in their lives

*"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. **He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me.** All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'" – John 16:13-15 NLT*

- The indwelling presence of the Son and the Father
"Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." – Vs 21
 - How would Jesus manifest or reveal Himself?
 - Through the indwelling presence of the Spirit

*But **if Christ is in you**, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.* – Romans 8:10 ESV

“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.” – Vs. 23

- They would each become a home for the Holy Trinity

...Christ in you, the hope of glory. – Colossians 1:27 ESV

*Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, **God abides in him**, and he in God. – 1 John 4:15 ESV*

- Jesus knew the disciples were ill-equipped
 - ...They were fearful and confused
 - ...They were having second thoughts
 - ...They were operating in the flesh, not the Spirit
- But Jesus would give them all they needed to succeed
- In the form of the Holy Spirit

- A change in topic, not location
 - “Rise, let us go from here.” – Vs 31*
 - Where did they go?
 - Chapters 15-17 are part of the Upper Room Discourse
 - They likely rose from the table, but stayed in the room
 - The Passover meal was over, but Jesus was not done

- **The vine and the branches** – John 15:1-7
 - This is the last of Jesus’ 7 “I am” statements
 - It is not a parable, but an extended metaphor
 - It explains the nature of their new union with Him
 - Made possible by the coming Holy Spirit

 - His focus is on fruit-bearing
 - The goal of the vinedresser is fruit
 - The branch exists to bear fruit
 - Fruit-bearing requires abiding
 - The word **abide** conveys...
 - Unity
 - Community
 - Dependency
 - Humility
 - Teachability
 - Conformity

 - Powerless to produce

*“As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, **neither can you...**”*
– Vs 4

*“...apart from me **you can do nothing.**”* – Vs 5

- He is preparing them for a life lived in the power of the Spirit
- The Spirit will enable them to do the “greater works” He promised
- But their future **fruitfulness** is directly tied to His **faithfulness**
- He must fulfill His Father’s plan by going to the cross

- The proof is in the fruit

*“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and **so prove to be my disciples.**”*
– Vs 8

- What FRUIT will prove that we are His disciples?
 - Converts?
 - Biblical knowledge?
 - Spiritual gifts?
 - Faithfulness?
 - Generosity?
 - The ability to preach?

*If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, **but didn’t love others**, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God’s secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, **but didn’t love others**, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; **but if I didn’t love others**, I would have gained nothing.* – 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 NLT

*“**Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.**”* – John 13:35 ESV

- They would receive a divine capacity to love
 - A love like that between the Father and the Son
 - Holy, pure, selfless, and sacrificial
- Greater love
- “This is my commandment, **that you love one another** as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”* – Vss 12-13

megas – great in weight, size, stature, or intensity

- This is the second time Jesus has used this word
*“...**greater works than these will he do**”* – 14:12

“Greater love has no one than this...” – 15:13

- Jesus is talking about supernatural, other-worldly power
- Available through the indwelling presence of the Spirit
- So, bear the fruit of love
“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” – Vs 12

“These things I command you, so that you will love one another.” – Vs 17

- **Love** is the greatest commandment

*“You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ **This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’** The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” – Matthew 22:37-38*

*Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and **the greatest of these is love.** – 1 Corinthians 13:13 NLT*

- **FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION**

- If love is greater than either faith or hope, how should that change the way we live our lives?
- According to Jesus, love is a byproduct of the Holy Spirit. We can’t manufacture or duplicate it. Why is it that important for us to understand?
- Read 1 John 4:7-11. What lessons do you take away from this powerful message from John?