

ANOTHER COUNSELOR

John 14:15-31

Key Verse: 16

1. **Read verses 15-16. To whom is Jesus speaking? What were his disciples troubled about?**

Jesus was still speaking to his disciples at the last supper and in the upper room of John Mark's house. Verse 15, "If you love me, you will obey what I command." Jesus repeats this two more times in verse 21 and 23. Jesus' disciples were troubled about Jesus leaving and going away. They were troubled still even with what Jesus promised. They were okay when they could just follow Jesus and let him lead their lives, but now that he told them he was leaving they became unsure of their future.

How can a disciple express love for Jesus?

A disciple can express his love for Jesus when he obeys Jesus' command. Jesus commanded in John 13:34, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." In this context obedience is a positive thing and not a negative experience. If we love Jesus Christ - as Christians we should love one another.

What does Jesus promise those who love and obey him?

Jesus knew that obeying commands would be difficult. Especially when he was leaving it would be even harder. For us as modern disciples who never lived in the presence of Jesus, it is even harder. But Jesus promised another counselor to take care of us and guide us. John 16-17a, "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-the Spirit of truth."

Who is the other Counselor?

The word "Counselor," can mean also "Comforter," "Helper," "Advocate." The other counselor is the Holy Spirit. He comes from God to help guide us, teach us, and protect us.

Who was the first Counselor?

The first Counselor in this context is Jesus. Isaiah 9:6

In what way is "another Counselor" better? (16b)

Another Counselor is different because Jesus had a mission from God. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. The Holy Spirit can overcome time and space. Jesus was just one man.

How can he be there forever?

God's Spirit is forever and of divine nature. The Holy Spirit is infinite and would be with them forever and with the Church forever.

2. Read verse 17. Why is it important that the Counselor speak the truth?

The Holy Spirit leads people to the right way. The Spirit speaks the truth otherwise we are deceived. All others who are not from God speak lies and false truths but the Counselor, who came from God, speaks the truth.

Why can the world not accept him?

The world doesn't know him. The Holy Spirit is working mightily in the world but since he is the Spirit of Truth people cannot accept his work. The work of the Holy Spirit might be attributed to something else by the world.

Why can it neither see him nor know him?

Because the world is not on the side of truth. The world cannot see the Holy Spirit. To unbelievers the Holy Spirit makes no sense and therefore is foolishness.

How will disciples be different?

Jesus' disciples are different. They know the Spirit, for they had lived with Jesus who was led by the Spirit.

Read verses 18-19. What does Jesus promise?

Jesus promised that he would not leave the disciples alone as orphans. Jesus promises that the disciples will see him. Because he lives they will live. When the disciples met the Risen Christ, suddenly everything made sense to them. Now the disciples had a promise that they would have an eternal promise from Jesus.

How will the disciples see Jesus? (19)

The disciples will see Jesus through the Holy Spirit. They will know him because the Spirit of Truth will reveal Jesus.

How does he give life?

Because of the resurrection Jesus has power to give life.

3. Read verses 20-21. What is "on that day?"

Jesus strongly emphasized that the relationship between God, Jesus, and the disciples is a love relationship. That day that Jesus refers to is the day he is resurrected.

What will they realize?

They will realize God's love for them and that he cares about them when they meet the risen Lord.

What difference will the coming of the Holy Spirit make?

They will know the love of the Father and transforms man into a new creation. They will realize that Jesus' words are true and that God can cure their anxiety problems.

What difference does love make?

It makes a huge difference. When we realize Jesus' loves us we can obey his words and receive the Holy Spirit.

How do we show our love for Jesus?

We show our love for Jesus through obedience to his commands. We can do many things but the mature believer obeys Jesus' commands.

How does he show his love for his disciples?

Jesus showed his love by sending another Counselor to be with us when we obey his commands.

4. Read verse 22. What did Judas ask?

Judas asked in verse 22, "Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, 'But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?'"

Why did he ask this?

Judas wanted to know why Jesus didn't just show himself and his miracles to everyone in the streets? Judas wanted the easy way where Jesus just did all the work himself of world mission and the disciples didn't have to work hard and worry.

Read verses 23-25. How does Jesus answer Judas' question?

Jesus has revealed the unfailing and unconditional love of God to mankind. Now it is up to each person to make a decision. Jesus wanted each man to make a person decision to obey the words of Jesus' and receive the Holy Spirit.

What is the Father's best blessing?

That the Holy Spirit will indwell in a believers heart.

Why is his indwelling a blessing?

The Spirit will not be abstract but is real and dwells in us and lives in us, changing our lives, effecting our lives, and helping us live our lives according to the word of God, not our own will.

What is special about the words Jesus is speaking? (24b)

The words Jesus are speaking are not his own, but God's words.

5. Read verse 26. Who is the Counselor and who sends him and what does he do?

The Counselor is the Holy Spirit and he is sent by Jesus. The Holy Spirit comes to represent and make Jesus known. The Holy Spirit reminds us of what Jesus taught us and reminds us of the words of God.

What else does the Holy Spirit do? (Ro 8:26,27; Jn 3:5-6)

Romans 8:26-27

²⁶In 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 with groans that words cannot express. ²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."

John 3:5-6

⁵Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit^[a] gives birth to spirit."

The Holy Spirit helps us to pray. When we don't have the energy or the spirit or we are too proud to pray, the Holy Spirit helps us to pray. May God help us to be reminded of his grace and to accept his words through testimony. May God help us to find personal time with the Holy Spirit to listen to and accept Jesus' word.

Read verse 27. What does Jesus promise to give?

Jesus promises to give us peace. Not peace like the world gives but peace because his peace comes from his perfect fellowship with God.

How is Jesus' peace different from that of the world?

There is no guilt or shame because Jesus has solved our sin problem and then we can have peace because of Jesus. Having a right relationship gives us peace with people.

6. Read verses 28-31. Why should disciples be glad that Jesus is going away?

When Jesus goes back to God the Father, he then sends the Holy Spirit. If Jesus did not leave the Holy Spirit could not come.

Why did he tell them before it happened? (20:31)

John 20:31

³¹But these are written that you may^[a] believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Jesus told his disciples what would happen so that dark part of Jesus arrest and coming death, the disciples would know that Jesus was in control and then they could believe.

Who is the prince of this world?

The Devil.

Why does he not have any hold on Jesus?

Even though the Devil is the prince of this world, the Devil has no control over Jesus. Jesus had always submitted himself to the work of God and pleased God by his obedience. Jesus obeyed the coming trouble and trials with peace because he knew the Father. Also the Holy Spirit is stronger than the prince of the world. When the Holy Spirit rules our hearts we can have true peace no matter the circumstances.

What can we learn from Jesus about how to defeat the world and its prince?

There is one simple way to learn how to defeat the prince of the world. Obey the commands of Jesus. Whenever we are challenged by the prince of the world, we must obey the commands, and then we will be victorious.

Where did they go after this?

Jesus had faith in God and he knew that God is in control. So he left the safety of the upper room and went out to the Garden knowing what fully would happen.