

Message #1058  
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"YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE"  
{ "The Divine Helper" }  
{ John 14:15-31 }

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
May 30, 2004

#### INTRODUCTION

Our first daughter, Christine, was born while we were living in St. Petersburg, Florida. Once and awhile Irma and I hired a baby-sitter when we would go out somewhere together.

Christine never liked it when we left her behind. I can remember the baby-sitter arriving and she immediately became suspicious that something was going on...and she didn't like it.

...I would disappear into the garage to pull the car out ...Irma would give her a kiss and disappear and join me It was about then it would begin--Christine would belt out a deafening scream and cry...and, we'd both look at each other and feel so guilty that we were leaving our little one behind. We could hear her as we pulled the car out of the driveway { all the windows were wide open and I'm sure the neighbors could hear this as well }.

When we returned home later in the evening we'd ask the sitter how long she had fussed. She's reply, "...until you were out of the driveway..." and we'd breath a sigh of relief...until the next time! { That even happened when we took her to the church nursery. }

As I read through and studied John 14 this week, I believe something like that was happening.

...Jesus had told His disciples that He was going away

...He was leaving them

...but, He was going to bring a baby-sitter to look after them

However, Jesus' disciples weren't the least bit interested in having a baby-sitter.

...their only concern was that Jesus was leaving them

...they don't understand what's going on

...they are perplexed

...they are worried

...there was a sense of impending tragedy and disaster

Their lives have been intertwined with this man for the past three years...and now He's going to leave and send a baby-sitter. The chapter begins with these familiar words--

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me!" { 14:1 }

And later in the same chapter He says-- "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid!" { 14:27b }

He recognizes their bewilderment and tries to assuage their fears... "I will not leave you as orphans" { 14:18 }

In chapter 13 He referred to His disciples as "little children." Now, He tells them He is not going to leave them as little children bereft of a father.

So, Jesus gives them a series of promises--

"If I go...I will come back and take you to be with Me." { 14:3a }

"I will come to you!" { 14:18b }

"I will love you and show myself to you!" { 14:21b }

In a way it appeared as if Jesus was speaking in riddles.

...He was talking about being absent...yet present

...hidden...yet visible

...dying...yet living

Yet, Jesus is saying that somehow in the midst of these paradoxes, their despair would turn to hope ...however, this concept seemed to elude them.

"I'm going to send you another one. Someone else--a baby-sitter will come and take My place. The name of the baby-sitter is 'Paraclete'--one who comes along side to walk with you."

So, to this small band of disciples together in the Upper Room Jesus gives an epoch-making promise--a promise that was to affect their lives...AND, the life of EVERY believer.

...He was promising much more than life after death

...He was promising life here and now!

...we don't have to wait until Heaven to embrace this

...the promise of the "Paraclete" brings hope to enable us to live our lives to the fullest

...to help us face life's besetting perplexities!

He had promised...

"I have come that you might have life and have life abundantly!" {John 10:10}

This "baby-sitter" that Jesus promises--the "Paraclete" is to be our "helper," our "counselor," our "advocate," our "strengtheners," our comforter!" Let's look at...

1. Who the "Paraclete" is
2. How the "Paraclete" is related to Jesus
3. What the "Paraclete" will do when He comes

#### WHO IS THE "PARACLETE"--SIX FACTS

"If you love Me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him, but you can know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you!" {14:15-17}

In these three verses we discover six remarkable facts about the Counselor--The Holy Spirit.

1. He is a gift from the Father to true believers.

...this is a promise to ALL believers

...not just a select few.

2. This "Counselor" will be separate--but similar--to Jesus

...the word He uses for "another" in Greek means: "another of the same kind!"

...this is a clear reference to the Trinity

...three Persons in One--Father, Son, Holy Spirit

...all distinct and separate from the other

...yet, forming ONLY one God!

...He promises "another" who will do His same work

3. This "Counselor" will NEVER leave them--they'll never be alone!

4. The Spirit will be a Revealer of Truth

...He can be relied upon explicitly

...no confusion...deceit...disillusionment is possible

5. Available ONLY to the believer--not to the nonbeliever!

...our resource

...our strength

...our guide

6. The Holy Spirit is an incredible resource WITHIN each believer: "He lives with you

and is in you!"

...when that Day of Pentecost came...ALL believers were filled and indwelt by the Holy Spirit

...the same is true today--when you come to Christ, the Holy Spirit indwells your very being--you're not alone--you have a divine helper within you!

...we're given the same Spirit as were those disciples at Pentecost

...we're infused with the same Power

No wonder these who were so fearful when Jesus shared this news became so fearless at Pentecost!

HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT RELATES TO JESUS

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long the world will not see Me anymore, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you. Whoever has My commands and obeys them, He is the one who loves Me. Whoever loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love them and show Myself to them."

{14:18-21}

The good news Jesus shares is that they will not lose Jesus when the Spirit comes.

...Jesus will be WITH them...IN them...via the Holy Spirit

...they indeed were NOT orphans!

...another paradox: He was leaving them...but would remain present with them--amazing!

These verses promise life...vitality--not a dull and meaningless existence! The joy of the Lord will be their strength via the Holy Spirit IN them...and...IN US!

Jesus tells us that when we are IN Him {via the Holy Spirit} he is in turn IN us {via the Holy Spirit}.

...this speaks of a tremendous intimacy between us as a follower of Jesus with Him.

"Then Judas {not Judas Iscariot} said, 'But, Lord, why do You intend to show Yourself to us and not to the world?'

"Jesus replied, 'If anyone loves Me, they will obey My teaching. My Father will love them, and WE will come to them and make our home with/in them. Whoever 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!"

{14:22-24}

Once again the formula for intimacy with Him is given--loving obedience.

So, Jesus has shown us WHO the Spirit is and HOW He relates to Him...now...

WHAT WILL THE SPIRIT DO WHEN HE COMES?

"All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 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." {14:25-27}

1. He will be our TEACHER

...we are His students

...He will remind us of the promises in God's word

Let me remind you again of that Day of Pentecost. Until then, they did not understand what Jesus was telling them in the Upper Room; however, now they understood!

...had it not been for Pentecost...the coming of the Holy Spirit--we would not understand.

Let me remind you of Paul's words in I Corinthians-- "It is written: 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who live

Him'--but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit.

"The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among us knows the thoughts of an individual except the person's spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words." {2:9-13}

...Jesus sends us the Holy Spirit who becomes our teacher

## 2. HE WILL REMIND US OF WHAT JESUS SAID

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me!" {John 14:6} "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." {Matthew 11:28-30}

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." {Acts 1:8}

He will remind us of all of Jesus' promises!

## 3. HE BRINGS TO US THE GIFT OF PEACE

...not an absence of confusion

...not absence from noise

The peace He offers is a deep, lasting, internal peace...

...the same peace that enabled Him to go to the cross in a sense of calmness

It's the peace that assures us that...

"...we know that in all things God for the good of those who love Him who have been called according to His purpose." {Romans 8:28}

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." {Philippians 4:13}

"God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus!" {Philippians 4:19}

God gives us His peace...in the next chapter He talks about His love...and later about His joy

## CONCLUSION

The scene begins to fade from view as Jesus leaves the Upper Room and walks off into the distance. He's going away in the mind of His disciples. The last inn of the roadside has been passed. He pauses, looks over His shoulder and shouts back to His disciples. AND...He shouts through the centuries to us this morning: "I am leaving. Wait for the Holy Spirit. He will bring you My peace. He will bring you My love and He will bring you My joy." The disciples waited in the dark until the light came...and came it did!

The good news I have for you this morning is that you no longer need to wait. The gift and the giver are here. The age of the Spirit is now. "O spread the tidings 'round, wherever man is found.

Wherever human hearts and human woes abound.

Let every Christian tongue proclaim the joyful sound:

The comforter has come!"