

March 14 - John 14:15-16:14

Promise of the Holy Spirit

Disciples won't be left as orphans, another paraclete will be sent to them.

Having the love of the Father is conditional upon loving the Son and loving the Son is conditional upon obeying his commandments.

For us this includes not only the teachings of Jesus as found in the Gospels but also the rest of the New Testament and for that matter the Old Testament spirit of the law, if not it's letter

Except for a few places, the New Testament writers, especially Paul, claimed to writing the words that Jesus had given them through the Holy Spirit. What they are writing isn't anything new or secret because we're told that the Spirit will only speak what He hears from Jesus.

Wherever Paul states his own opinion or refers to the tradition of the churches, he clearly identifies it as such.

The Old Testament both refers to Jesus and proclaims the nature and character of God through the prophets, the law, the psalms, and the history as He intervenes in human history.

Just last week in our Bible readings there were at least five Messianic references, not counting all the talk about sin and guilt and other offerings.

1. Jesus was the rock that Moses struck and then disobeyed and struck again.
2. Jesus was the one along with King David whom Balaam saw during his final oracle.
3. Jesus was the red heifer sacrifice, whose sacrifice administered through water (symbolic of the Spirit of God) cleanses people from the defilement of death.
4. Jesus was the bronze or copper serpent lifted up that brought healing to those who looked to it.
5. There are those who identify the Angel of the Lord with Jesus
6. There are those who see the Jesus as the cloud and the flame over the tabernacle.

Jesus confuses the disciples when he tells them the world will not see him in a little while but that they will because it was commonly believed that the Messiah would appear suddenly and to the whole nation, the exact opposite of what he's just said.

Judas' question can be seen as wanting to know what has changed in Jesus or his mission that he won't be fulfilling this Messianic expectation of the people.

Jesus answers by explaining that the Kingdom he's bringing in isn't a military or political or even a national one, but one that lives in every believer.

They were expecting a return of national glory but instead are promised a love that they will return that will be Jesus and God living in them and making them their home through the Spirit that hasn't yet been given.

In our daily readings, God lives in the midst of His people but hidden away in the Holy of Holies and blazing or shading over the camp from the tabernacle, speaking to them through Moses and requiring the intercession of the priests. Now He's promising to fulfill prophecy and tabernacle within them, speaking to them through Jesus as Jesus directs the Holy Spirit and without need of any intercession because they've been given the ultimate sacrifice by the ultimate High Priest.

The Role of the Holy Spirit

1. remind them of everything he's told them and teach them what they've forgotten and explain what it meant.
 2. to be a Paraclete - no good English word to translate, the basic idea is that of someone who's there to help when needed. Comforter, Counselor, Advisor, Advocate, Lawyer, are some terms that have been used.
 3. Is the instrument of the peace that Jesus promised to leave with them; a peace not based on external circumstances, but on the indwelling.
 4. method of pruning or cleaning so that they bear more fruit
 5. Reveals truth about God
 6. Testifies about Jesus to the believers
 7. Brings glory to Jesus
 8. will tell disciples all that they can't bear to hear now
 9. convicts world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.
- world is wrong on all those counts because it doesn't recognize the truth about sin but believes that they either don't have any sin or that it can be dealt with or cured or taken away by any other means other than Jesus
 - the world is wrong about righteousness because that generation will fail to see the righteousness of Jesus and will condemn him, but the proof that the Holy Spirit will generate through the indwelling in the believers and the work of the church will be enough proof to the world that Jesus was righteous and did indeed raise from the dead and go back to the Father
 - the world is wrong about judgment because it doesn't believe that it's condemned, but the crucifixion of Jesus was the judgment of Satan and the ones who follow him will be judged even though they don't believe it.

the fate of the world is also a warning to us: Hebrews 2:1-4

The True Vine and the branches - sign of abiding in the vine is bearing fruit.

The branch that doesn't bear fruit is like a wild shoot that grows from a graft or maybe a sucker on a tobacco plant.

Is the branch cut off or lifted up?

The word translated as pruned to bear more fruit actually means to clean. They've been declared clean already, so the Father will continue to clean them more (more sanctified or Christlike) so they bear more fruit. Jesus will later tell us through Paul what the fruit is and that it too is a function of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:19-26

Ephesians 5:1-11

Philippians 1:9-11;

The branch that tries to do things on its own dries up and is only fit to be burned.

Disciples are told that they can ask for anything in Jesus' name and it will be done for them. Is that meant to work for us?

Key concept is abiding - sorta like the Borg on Star Trek

one commentary said: it is rather a statement of causation than a promise of reward. If by communion and the study of the word we abide in Christ, our prayers will be of such a nature that it will fully accord with the divine counsel to answer them, for they will be prayers tending toward fruitfulness.

The cost of abiding can be high and Jesus warns the disciples all that they'll face because of their faith.