

August 16, 2015  
Sunday Morning Service  
Series: John  
Community Baptist Church  
643 S. Suber Road  
Greer, SC 29650  
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*To Ponder . . .*

Questions to ponder as you prepare to hear from John 14:25-31.

1. What is the significance of God the Father sending the Holy Spirit in the name of God the Son?
2. Describe the peace that Jesus promised to give.
3. How does a person gain this promised peace?
4. Does the Holy Spirit continue to reveal truth that is not included in the Bible?

### **THE SOURCE OF TRUE PEACE**

#### **John 14:25-31**

Our world has many ideas, theories, and imaginations that attempt to explain what we are, how we came into existence, and what our purpose in life is. In contrast, the Bible teaches the facts about how the universe and humanity came into existence, who we are, and what our purpose in life is. Great conflict arises when we are forced to believe one view as opposed to the other. Conflict is the opposite of peace. We like peace.

The Bible teaches that God created all things perfectly. The Bible teaches that Satan, being the chief of the created angels, was not satisfied with his privileged standing and rebelled against God. The Bible teaches that Satan influenced our first parents, the first humans, Adam and Eve to follow Satan in his rebellion. The Bible teaches that

every person since and henceforth has been born and will be born with Adam's and Eve's rebellious blood flowing in their veins.

Therefore, the Bible assesses our natural condition in life like this: *As it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." "Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known.," "There is no fear of God before their eyes" (Romans 3:10-18).*

Those words do not strike us as a description of peace and tranquility. It is an accurate description of the created being's conflict with his or her Creator. The words establish that no one has peace with God the Creator through natural processes. We are at war with Him.

"Not to worry," the sinners of the world conclude. "We will simply convince ourselves that there is no Creator." And so they go about teaching and convincing themselves that all of this amazing creation and the incomprehensible intricacies of the human body and psyche are the result of random coincidences. And having satisfied themselves with this exercise of phenomenal faith in the absurd, they embark on a search for peace and satisfaction. After a lifetime of searching and trying, if the people of the world were able to tell the truth, they would admit that they had not found true peace. They cannot because true peace is peace with our Creator God.

Therefore, we live in a world that is completely given over to searching for peace through materialism, relationships, unbounded attempts to fulfill lusts, and addiction to and dependence on substances and fantasies. After a lifetime of destroying their bodies and minds, the people who rebel against their Creator come to the end and leave it all behind, having found no peace.

This is such a sad story because our Creator desires for us to be at peace with Him. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit have worked together to provide absolutely everything that is necessary for us to know and experience true peace. It is there for the taking because of Their faithful work in our behalf.

Jesus unpacked many great truths about the divine work that leads to true peace in His last words to the disciples before He was tried and crucified. The disciples were understandably upset when they learned that Jesus was planning to leave in order to return to God the Father. But Jesus calmed their fears by telling them that He would authorize the sending of the Holy Spirit who would serve them as the Divine Helper who would teach them and lead them just like He had done for three years.

Here in a nutshell is the very important teaching that explains how people born in sin can have peace with our Creator. We have a Creator, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who in eternity drew up the plan for redemption from sin. God the Father provides forgiveness of our offenses against Him, through the sacrifice of God the Son. We have a Savior who is God the Son who came to earth, fulfilled God's law perfectly, died innocently to pay for our sins, rose from the dead, and ascended back to God the Father where He intercedes with His blood as the payment for sin. We have a Helper, God the Holy Spirit, who continued to teach the apostles so that they wrote down all the divine truth we need in order to understand how to have peace with our Maker. This was the great promise God the Son unpacked in some of His last words before He died for our sins.

### **The Trinity Has Provided Every Solution for a Troubled Heart (vv.25-27).**

Consider the provision God has made for us (vv.25-26). God the Son spoke to the apostles saying, "*These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you*" (v.25). Because the great "Comforter and Teacher" Jesus was still in their presence, much of what He said didn't register or didn't matter. *These things* is certainly a reference to the shocking truths Jesus had just related to the disciples. The term would certainly apply to the Lord's coming betrayal, death, burial, resurrection, and return to God the Father.

At the same time, the term *these things* must also be a reference to all the truths that Jesus had been teaching for three years. Therefore, the things Jesus taught are of great importance. Jesus would leave these men the responsibility of managing all the truth of the gospel, like good stewards of the King's possessions. We cannot

begin to know how much of the New Testament teaching (doctrine) and even narrative Jesus actually spoke to the disciples. But we can be sure that God the Son certainly spoke the necessary truths to His followers.

One of those very important truths is the fact that God the Father sent the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised, "*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name*" (v.26a). Because the apostles were responsible as stewards of Christ's truth, they would need help. Because they were human, they were going to forget what Jesus taught. That would also be sufficient cause for them to misunderstand what Jesus taught. Nothing could be more obvious than the fact that the disciples in their human wisdom did not grasp truth very often.

Therefore God the Son would return to heaven and ask God the Father to send God the Holy Spirit to help the apostles know. This was the prerogative of God the Son who came in God the Father's *name*. That God the Son came in the name of the Father means that He came with the authority of God the Father because God the Father had sent Him. It is the concept of well known New Testament concept of *apostello* which refers to being sent by an authority to represent that authority.

But this concept of God sending His authoritative messenger was also well known and experienced in the Old Testament. We find it in the prophet Daniel's meeting with God's angel. *And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you."* *And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling (Daniel 10:11)*. Like the *apostelos* of the New Testament, the sent one in the Old Testament was the *shaliach*. He was the emissary of the Sender. In this case, the angel was God's representative sent by God to deliver God's message. The same concept applied to God-called prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel who were God's *shaliach*.

But no one would ever fulfill responsibility of the *shaliach* of God like Messiah. He was the perfect messenger of God. That is what it means to "come in the Father's name." God promised through Isaiah, *Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations (Isaiah 42:1)*. Many years later, Jesus revealed

that Isaiah was speaking about Him in this message (Matthew 12:18). He was God the Father's *shaliach*. Therefore He confessed, *"I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him"* (John 5:43).

God the Son came in God the Father's name and accomplished the work and word of God the Father. That is an important concept in light of the fact we find in this text that God the Spirit came in the Son's name. God the Father sent God the Spirit in the name of God the Son. Therefore, God the Holy Spirit is not only the *shaliach* of God the Father but the perfect spokesman, emissary of God the Son. Indeed He is the same Spirit who abode with God the Son throughout His ministry. At His baptism, *John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him"* (John 1:32). The word translated *remained (meno)* means continued to be present. Therefore, we should expect to find evidence that God the Holy Spirit was present in the Son's ministry. We do. Matthew recorded, *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1)*. Luke recorded, *Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit (Luke 10:21)*.

That is why Jesus applied Isaiah's promise to Himself. Isaiah had declared, *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent [shalach] me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound"* (Isaiah 61:1). In Luke 4:18 we see that Jesus applied that precise prophecy to Himself. God the Holy Spirit was upon Him.

Now Jesus promised that this very same Spirit would come to help the apostles complete the ministry He began. The primary means of help from the Holy Spirit is manifested in that God the Holy Spirit reveals the Bible. That is what Jesus referred to when He told the apostles, *"He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you"* (v.26b). Think of the line of thought here. God the Father revealed His word to people through the Old Testament prophets. Peter explained that *knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21)*.

Coming to the Gospel accounts, we discover a very similar formula. God the Father revealed His word to the people through God the Son. The author to the Hebrew Christians wrote, *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world (Hebrews 1:1-2)*. Jesus did not spend three years teaching the apostles unimportant matters or just how they could be nice neighbors. Jesus clearly stated many times that He was speaking the words of God the Father. He taught, *"Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me"* (John 14:24). This is why Jesus' words were often misunderstood or why He sometimes purposely concealed the meaning of His words (as in parables, Mt. 13:13).

Now we find the third leg of the stool of God's inspired message. Now God the Son promised that God the Holy Spirit would continue this work of revealing God's Word. Here Jesus spoke specifically to the apostles, the men who would be born along by the Holy Spirit to write the bulk of the New Testament. Jesus promised that God the Spirit would do two things. He would bring to the apostles' remembrance the truths Jesus had already taught. Things like? *When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken (John 2:22)*. *His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him (John 12:16)*.

Second, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would reveal to the apostles new truths that Jesus had not yet taught them. Therefore, this is not a promise from Jesus that all Christians in all future ages will receive new and ongoing revelation. Rather, Jesus promised in practical terms the work of the Holy Spirit's inspiration of the Bible.

This becomes very important in the rest of Jesus' promise regarding peace. Many religious people look for God's peace expecting God the Holy Spirit to reveal to them something no one has ever heard or thought of. As a result, those people will either make up something the Bible does not teach to use as a crutch in times of trial;

or they will become frustrated by wrongly assuming that Jesus did not keep His promise about the Holy Spirit giving peace.

Consider the result of God the Son sending the Holy Spirit to teach and remind (v.27). Because of the Spirit's work, God the Son left peace with His followers. He promised, "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you*" (v.27a). If Jesus promised to leave peace with His followers, then He left peace with them. That is not arguable.

This promise applies first to the eleven followers who were about to find themselves in a violent storm of circumstances that was more fearful than any storm they had faced yet. Their immediate response indicated that they didn't understand what Jesus promised. Their responses later in life indicated that they fully grasped this promise of peace. All of them, according to the stories we have, faced death calmly and with confidence. That is the way God the Son faced torture and death also.

Based on what we know about these eleven fellows, it sounds like the apostles experienced the same peace Jesus experienced. That is because Jesus gave **His** peace. He owned it. He experienced it. He authored it. It's quite instructive for us to compare how all the possessions Jesus gave to His followers connect. For example, He promised to give *the peace of Mine* (v.27). He promised to give *the Spirit in My name* – the same Spirit Who abode with Him (v.26, 14:16). He promised to give *the joy of Mine* (15:11).

How does the follower of God the Son realize these promises? It is not through ecstatic experiences. He promised to give *the words of Me* (15:7). He promised to give *the commands of Me* (15:10; 14:21). All of these promises flow out of another gift: *the love of Me* (15:9-10). The connection is clear. We enjoy the peace of Christ, the joy of Christ, the love of Christ, when we know and keep the word of Christ, which we understand because He gave us the Spirit in His name.

Furthermore, when God the Son left peace, He left superior peace. He promised, "*Not as the world gives do I give to you*" (v.27b). The world's peace is well known and well sought after. The people of the world by natural design longs for peace. It talks about peace. It fights for peace. It maintains a quasi-peace through superior arms. But people generally find on a personal level that the world's peace is a costly peace. People sacrifice their future, even eternity to

buy a little of the world's peace. People sacrifice their character and conscience to get a little of the peace the world offers.

The people of the world also discover on a personal level that the world's peace is a fickle, temporary peace. It cannot satisfy because it does not come from God the Son. It cannot satisfy because it rejects the words of God the Son. Peace that does not flow from the truth of the Bible is not the peace of Christ.

How superior is the peace the Son gives! The Son's peace is peace with God. Paul concluded, *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1)*. The peace God the Son leaves with us is a peace that human wisdom cannot attain or explain. *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7)*. Therefore, the Son's peace is peace that keeps us in bounds even in the face of turmoil. *And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful (Colossians 3:15)*.

Therefore, since God the Son leaves this peace, there is no reason for troubled hearts. He said, "*Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid*" (v.27c). It is quite interesting that this is the same word that is used to describe Jesus' agitation of soul. At Lazarus's tomb Jesus *groaned in the spirit and was troubled* (John 11:33). After the Greeks had come to see Him, Jesus confessed, "*Now is my soul troubled*" (John 12:27). When Jesus exposed Judas as the betrayer, *He he was troubled in spirit* (John 13:21).

Why is it okay for Jesus' heart to be troubled, but it is not okay for our hearts to be troubled? Jesus did not tell the disciples to avoid ever letting circumstances stir them up. That was already happening. Jesus acknowledged that the impending circumstances had already caused disruption of peace in the disciples' hearts (14:1). In fact, it is impossible for us to avoid troubling circumstances. Satan throws us into trials and difficulties. Normal circumstances of life can be very troubling (relationships, health, unplanned disruptions). The key is how we respond to these tests and difficulties. Certainly in His humanity, Jesus Christ would experience a troubled heart. He was tempted in every way like we are. But He never succumbed to the agitation. Nor can we live with agitated hearts. Troubled hearts are at odds with the promises of God the Son. Troubled hearts do not fit

with God's promise, *You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you (Isaiah 26:3).*

### **The Ruler of this World Cannot Destroy God's Peace (vv.28-31).**

Satan could not thwart God's plan – regardless of his schemes and attacks, the Son went to the Father. He had promised that He would return to the Father. Again, Jesus reminded the apostles, *“You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you’” (v.28a).* That the Son was going to return to the Father was not new news. Jesus had been telling the apostles this for some time. If it did not register with them, it was because they were not paying attention or they were satisfied not to understand. It is possible that they were much like so many of Christ's followers in our day who are satisfied with a very elementary understanding of His teaching.

But Jesus had also taught that He would come to the disciples. That happened after He rose from the dead. In other words, this was not the final “good bye.”

How do the true followers of Christ respond to the promise that He would return to the Father? Jesus said that we should rejoice that the Son is with the Father. *“If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I” (v.28b).* This proof of love is now added to the keeping of Christ's commands. This proof was more specific in that it was directed to the apostles. It reveals the painful truth that the followers loved themselves more than they loved Christ. They wanted their plan for Messiah to be fulfilled. They wanted to be in the King's cabinet right away.

Since love like Christ's always seeks what is best for the recipient even at the cost of self-sacrifice, it is clear the apostles didn't have that kind of love. They failed to understand that God the Father was in a greater position or situation at the moment – being seated on His throne in heaven. The disciples should have rejoiced that Jesus was going there. Because it put the Son in the position to request the Father to send the Holy Spirit – who is of great benefit to the Son's followers. Because it put the Son in the position to intercede for our sins with His blood. Why would we not want Him there?

The Son's return to the Father should strengthen His follower's faith. Jesus had taught the truth. *“And now I have told you before it takes place” (v.29a).* At the beginning of the Passover meal, Jesus had predicted that Judas would betray Him so that the disciples would not be shocked when it came to pass. Now He predicted His return to the Father so that the disciples would know. By now the apostles should have been fully convinced that Jesus was God the Son, equal with God the Father, and, therefore, knowledgeable of the future.

That is why and how their faith should be strengthened. Truth enacted increases faith. Jesus told the men that He would return to the Father *“so that when it does take place you may believe” (v.29b).* The reason God gives prophecy and promises is not just so people can be prepared. God gives promises, predicts the future so that when it comes to pass our faith in Him is more deeply settled. It affirms our faith that God is controlling all circumstances according to His plan.

Therefore, because God is in control, Satan could not prevent God's plan for peace. The religious rulers carried out Satan's work. That is what Jesus referred to when He told the eleven followers, *“I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me” (v.30).* What did Jesus mean by “the ruler of this world is coming”? Satan had been trying to destroy God the Son since His incarnation. He attacked His birth through Herod. He attempted to thwart His obedience to the Father through desert temptations. But Satan began his most powerful assault against God the Son in the Garden of Gethsemane. He did not withdraw in the least until he had Pilate seal the tomb and place a guard.

Try as he might, Satan had no claim against God the Son. Not once had the Christ failed, fallen short, or sinned against God the Father and His law. Satan had some dirt on all the heroes of faith (Hebrews 11). Satan definitely has dirt on me and on you. But Satan had nothing at all on God the Son, the spotless Lamb.

Therefore, Jesus carried out God's work. Satan tried, but could not stop God the Son because, *“I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here” (v.31).* God the Son completed every detail of the divine plan of redemption. By this we know that the Son loves the Father. By this we know that the Son loves us His followers whom He has

redeemed. Because of this we enjoy the presence and work of the promised Holy Spirit.

Therefore, because God the Son finished the work the Father sent Him to do, we have peace. We do not need to try to be satisfied with the fickle, costly peace the world offers. We have the Word of God, the Work of God, and the promises of God to sustain us. The abiding Holy Spirit aids us to know God and trust His Word and thereby we have peace that the world cannot comprehend or explain.