

In The Beginning Was The Word

John 14:15-31

INTRODUCTION: JESUS PROMISES THE HOLY SPIRIT

In John Chapter 13 to John Chapter 17, it tells us what Jesus said to his disciples the night before his death. These words were all spoken by Jesus in one evening, with only the disciples as his audience.

As this current feast of the Passover would be the last Passover on earth that the Lord would hold with his disciples before his death Jesus begins to teach them of many things to come. Including that of the Holy Spirit.

We need to therefore remember that the Passover meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples was before his death and resurrection and it was also before the Jewish Passover that was to take place . This is important to remember if you don't want to see a contradiction with the other gospel accounts of the Passover in Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

It was a meal to commemorate what God had done for the believers in the OT who had the faith in believing in God to deliver them from Pharaoh in Egypt. (Exodus 12).

1. Whereas the Passover for the Jews was to remind the Jews of what God had done for Israel in the OT.
2. Jesus now celebrated his Passover meal with his disciples, and it was going to be what God was going to do for them in the NT.

The Passover meal was significant in several respects.

1. It was the commemoration of what God had done for Israel's believers.
2. It was a living picture of redemption. It was going to be Gods Son that would accomplish that by Himself.
3. It was going to stand as both a witness and a memorial for all to see and believe in Jesus.
4. It was going to be a picture of the coming days in which believers in "Jesus", would sit down again at His table in His Fathers kingdom, judging all nations.

Between the Passover Supper of our Lord with his disciples and before His arrest in the garden of Gethsemane would be a time that He would teach his Eleven Apostles.

John 14

¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.

1. Many times in scripture we see this statement appearing in some form or other in relation to loving God. We see this in the OT scriptures as well as in the NT scriptures where God tells us all to keep his commandments.
2. For example in the OT Israel was told by Joshua....see verse below.

Joshua 22:5

But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the Lord charged you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all **his** ways, and to **keep his commandments**, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

3. Whilst here in the NT the Apostle John reminds the believer to do the same as he quotes many times the Lord in the NT. For example.....

1 John 2:2-4 ² And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. ³ And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 3:21-23 ²¹ Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. ²² And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. ²³ And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

1 John 3:24

And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him.

1 John 5:1-3 ¹ Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

2 John 1:6

And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

Revelation 22:14

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

4. The act of love towards God is to do.
5. The Apostle John echoes that statement of the Lord. That if we who call ourselves believers and yet do not act or show that to be the case, then we are really not believers, and our lack of that action testifies to that fact.
6. Do NOT lose sight of the fact that this occasion was when the Lord was teaching his disciples of what truth was. So he used this time to do so. It was on this occasion that he demonstrated that there are people who say that they Love him, like Judas Iscariot did, but in fact they had no love for him and were ultimately judged by the Lord. It was not the Lord who discarded them, but by Judas' lack of love to Jesus had discarded himself by that commandment. The lack of love had judged him.

7. Jesus did not say to his disciples that they had to love him. He gave them a choice. The choice was that **“if”** they loved him then they had to show it by “keeping” his commandments.
8. God does not force us to love him. He gives us the freedom to choose.
9. This act of choice that Jesus was teaching to his disciples would stand as the test of time and as a testimony all through the NT as a witness when the disciples went out to spread the gospel when Jesus left. (Matthew 7:21).
10. Today this is the same choice.

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

1. Jesus having established the relationship of love to show salvation is in loving God. (Jesus).
2. Having established the requirements to be a believer, Jesus begins to teach again on sustaining that love.
 - **How would it be possible to sustain that love?**
 - **Would it be by their or own power?**
 - **Would we have the capability to love unconditionally?**
3. The answer to those questions would rest in what Jesus would say next to his disciples.
4. Because of mans sin, he is not capable of performing a continuous act of kindness or love without some kind of help. Jesus knew this was the case and begins to comfort them with the following words.
 - First of all Jesus said I will pray.
 - He would pray to his father. His Father gave him the believers, so who else should he ask but the one who gave them to him. He would ask God the Father and..... **he shall give you another Comforter.**
 - In this verse Jesus says he..... **shall give you another Comforter.**
- A. This implies that **Jesus was already the existing comforter**, and that as Jesus would leave to bear the sins of many on “the cross”, he would not leave until there was another comforter in his place to oversee the ministry of faith in the believers.
- B. The comforter that Jesus would ask His Father to give the believer would be an eternal comforter. A.....**Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;**
- C. It would be a comforter from the triune Godhead. The Holy Spirit.

John 15:26 ²⁶ But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

5. The comforter was to be another witness of Jesus, because he is of the Godhead.
 - Notice the order of giving. It was from the Father to Jesus and from Jesus to the believer. The same with salvation.

6. The Holy Spirit is known by several names. (The Spirit of truth, the comforter).

17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

1. The Comforter is given another name by Jesus. And is called "**the Spirit of truth.**"
2. The reason he is given this name is very simple as the Lord said to his disciples. The Spirit of truth,as the comforter was called,..... "he will testify" of the "truth".
3. The- "**whom the world cannot receive**", is a term Jesus uses for the unbeliever.
 - The world who is sometimes called "Egypt" is a "type" for an unbeliever.
4. The world who are the unbelievers do not have truth in them therefore they cannot receive the "Spirit of truth".
5. As an unrepentant unbeliever cannot receive salvation so too an unrepentant unbeliever cannot receive the "Spirit of truth". Because the Spirit of truth only resides in a believer.
 - An unbeliever who is the "world" cannot have the Spirit of truth if there is no conversion, why? **because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him.**
6. The unbeliever has no clue of who God is at that stage. Therefore the world does not know the "**Spirit of truth**".
7. But as Jesus tells the Apostles who are under his teaching now at His Passover and before the Jewish Passover, **but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**
 - The reason being as Jesus says, because you know him. Therefore he dwells in you.
8. The reason why we know the Spirit of truth is in us as a believer is because he convicts us of our sin, which is one of the Spirit of Truths ministries. (The Holy Spirit).

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

1. Jesus understood and could understand what comfort is all about.
2. He himself would be comforted in the garden of Gethsemane when His Father would send an angel to comfort and strengthen him.

Luke 22:42-44 ⁴² Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. **43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.** ⁴⁴ And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

3. Jesus knew, that the flesh of man is weak, because he even told the Apostles that on the night of his arrest in the garden of Gethsemane.

Matthew 26:41

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but **the flesh is weak**.

4. Therefore Jesus knew it was imperative that man have a comforter as well as a reprover of sin to remind him of his commitment to God.
 - In this verse ¹⁸ **I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.** It showed the disciples and it clearly shows the believer today that Jesus was both a comforter like the Spirit of truth, and that he was also going to return to be that comforter again.
5. Later the writer of Hebrews in the NT would also capture this same statement made by the Lord.

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**

6. Even as Jesus made this promise to the disciples in the garden of Gethsemane he also made this promise to all believers as we see recorded here in Hebrews 13:5.
7. The presence of Jesus would never leave the believer as promised by Jesus.

¹⁹ Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

1. The world again is mentioned here in this verse.
2. It told the disciples that the unbeliever would not see Jesus (a spiritual absence).
3. It told the disciples that they would see the Lord. (a spiritual presence).
4. It also told the disciples that when Jesus would go from their presence and be arrested and crucified on the cross, his physical death would not separate them from him, because he would live again and they would live on spiritually with him as believers.
5. This again was the same message that the Apostle Paul preached to the Corinthian church about believing on Jesus.

2 Corinthians 13:4

For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, **but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.**

6. This term **Yet a little while** is very often used both in the OT and in the NT, especially here by our Lord.
7. It depicts his departure and his return. And in Hebrews the writer again records this for all believers in the Lord. This was not just a statement or teaching to the disciples but was for all believers. In John 7:33, John 12:35, John 13:33,

Hebrews 10:36-38 ³⁶ For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. ³⁷ **For yet a little while**, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. ³⁸ **Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.**

8. Jesus had earlier told the disciples about eternal life in him. But now he is teaching the principle to them again as we saw in John 11:26.

John 11:26

And whosoever **liveth and believeth in me shall never die**. Believest thou this?

9. **We cannot believe in Jesus after we die**, you must believe before you die. As the scripture says you need to live and believe.

²⁰ At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

1. The future of the believer is always the resurrection.
2. The resurrection of the believer was taught here by Jesus to His Apostles.
3. He told them in verse 19, that they would live because he lives. He was speaking there of the future resurrection of the believers.
4. Now here in verse 20, he concludes with **At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father**. This would be the time in the future resurrection when they would get to understand and **SEE** for themselves what Jesus was saying to them now would happen.
5. The words Jesus used when speaking to his Apostles in this verse was ²⁰ **At that day**.
6. Jesus often referred to **that day of Judgment** in this similar way. Such as seen in other scriptures like

Joel 2:10-12 ¹⁰ The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: ¹¹ And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: **for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible**; and who can abide it? ¹² Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

Joel 2:31

The sun **shall be** turned into **darkness**, and the **moon** into blood, **before the great and terrible day of the Lord come**.

Joel 3:15

The sun and the **moon shall be darkened**, and the stars **shall** withdraw their shining.

Matthew 24:28-30 ²⁸ For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together. ²⁹ **Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened**, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: ³⁰ **And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven**: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see **the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory**.

7. Here is another of those quotes in the book of Acts.

Acts 2:20

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come:

8. It is not my intent here this morning to give a sermon on the return of our Lord, but it is my intent to reveal to you what the Lord had revealed to his Apostles in that wonderful time of His Passover and before the Jewish Passover.
9. Jesus was to be the Jewish Passover, and the Jews did not even know it.
10. Even the high priest alluded to it when he spoke in verse 14 of John 18.

John 18:14

Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

11. Jesus was the Passover lamb.

- Even the Book of Revelation quotes Jesus' words of that great day to come.

Revelation 6:11-13 ¹¹ And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. ¹² And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

12. When Jesus said to His Apostles at that ²⁰ At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father. We see the results of what will take place for them to come to realize that they will know, because look what will happen as said here in these scriptures.

²¹ He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

1. Verse 21, is just the confirmation of the result of verse 15 of our text.
2. When Jesus said if you love me keep my commandments.
 - As a direct result of loving Jesus, Jesus says you will also be loved of my Father.
3. Also as a result of that love and because of that love, and because he is loved by His Father, Jesus himself will make himself known to that believer.
4. There will be a direct relationship and presence between Jesus and his disciple.

²² Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

1. A lack of understanding, which is poor theology always comes up with poor questions.

2. The short answer to this silly question, is that Jesus abides in the believer not the unbeliever.
3. His house has mansions filled with believers not unbelievers.

²³ **Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**

1. To make an abode with the believer is to share in the same accommodation as Jesus said.
2. Here Jesus said that both **my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**
3. This is for only the believer.
4. To **keep my words:** is to believe all that Jesus said. It is to obey him. His doctrine not mans.

²⁴ **He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.**

1. An unbeliever is one who does not do as Jesus commanded. Despite weather he says he does.
2. Jesus came to fulfil his Fathers word. It is the Word of God which shall judge.

²⁵ **These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.**

1. To answer Judas, question Jesus spoke of what he had already said to them.

John 12:47-49 ⁴⁷ And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: **for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.** ⁴⁸ He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: **the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.** ⁴⁹ **For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.**

2. This is a reference to all that Jesus had already told them.

²⁶ **But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**

1. But of the many things that Jesus had told His Apostles some things had not been said like here in verse 26.
 - The Comforter was not mentioned before until now.
 - Yet the significance of the comforter was now explained to the Apostles here in verse 26. It was what they had been looking for all along.
2. Something or someone to answer these long awaited questions. But here is the answer finally. ²⁶ **But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the**

Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

- ✓ This is why even today unless a person is born of the Spirit of God he cannot understand the spiritual word of God. The bible. To those it will just be a historical account recorded.
- 3. The Holy Spirit teaches the believer, it is his guide, it is his teacher, it is his comforter, it is his reprover and illuminator of sin in our lives.
 - ✓ It brings to remembrance the scriptures of what the Lord has said to us through his word.
- 4. This must have brought joy to the hearts of those Apostles.

²⁷ Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

1. When Jesus spoke of peace, what did he mean?
2. Well he was speaking of no ordinary peace.
 - ✓ There are two kinds of peace that he pointed out to his Apostles.
 - ✓ The peace of the world (the unbelievers idea of peace) and the peace that he would give.
3. The peace that Jesus gives is peace that passes all understand as he said in his word.

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth **all understanding**, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- ✓ He not only gives his peace but he leaves it with us. **Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:**
- 4. The worlds peace can never match up to God's because it comes from unbelief.
 - ✓ On the other hand God's peace is one that he gives, and leaves with the believer.
 - ✓ That peace is one of salvation that he gives, and he leaves that peace for an eternity with him.
- 5. Unlike the world, who are lost and dying and seek other alternatives to keep them happy and away from the idea or thought of dying.
- 6. God's peace is one of celebration in death to an eternity with him as he lives.
 - ✓ That's why Jesus said to his Apostles and to believers today **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**
 - ✓ Because we have peace and security in him.

²⁸ Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

²⁹ And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.

³⁰ Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

³¹ But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.

[John 15:10](#)

If ye keep my **commandments**, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's **commandments**, and abide in **his** love.

PRAYER.....CLOSE