

# **Our 40 Day Journey to the Cross**

## **April 7 - April 12**

### **Day 30 Tuesday**

#### **The promise of the Holy Spirit**

##### **John 14:15-18 NKJV**

**15** “If you love Me, keep My commandments. **16** And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—  
**17** the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.  
**18** I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

#### **He Will Give You Another Helper**

Helper translates the ancient Greek word "parakletos." This means "a person summoned to one's aid," and may refer to an advisor, a legal defender, a mediator, or an intercessor.

#### **Another Helper**

The word "another" is the ancient Greek word "allos," meaning "another of the same kind" not another of a different kind. Just as Jesus shows the nature of God the Father, so the Holy Spirit - being "another of the same kind" - will show the nature of Jesus.

Essentially, the Holy Spirit is sent to empower and help the believer live the Christian life. The greater work described in John 14:12-14 is impossible without the empowering described in John 14:15-18.

That He may abide with you forever: Jesus will give the Holy Spirit that He (a person, not a thing) may abide in us permanently, not temporarily (as in the Old Testament).

### **The Spirit of Truth**

Jesus prepares the disciples for His impending arrest and execution. In the prior verse, Jesus promised to send a "Helper" (John 14:16). Here, He specifies that this is the Holy Spirit, available only to those who believe in Christ. In fact, this Spirit "indwells" those who believe (Romans 8:9).

Recently, Jesus referred to Himself, using specific terminology, as "the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6). Each of those statements came with a definite article— translated into English as "the." Here, Jesus once again uses specific terms. In Greek, He literally calls this promised Helper "the Spirit of the Truth." This not only emphasizes that there is only one valid kind of "truth," it connects the nature of this Spirit to the nature of Jesus Himself.

### **“For He Dwells With You and Will Be In You”**

The Holy Spirit permanently resides in those who express faith in Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13). That indwelling will not begin until after Jesus is resurrected, which is why He says this Spirit "will be in you," rather than that it "is in you," at the moment He speaks to the disciples. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit will begin to live with all who believe in Christ (Acts 2:1–4; 10:47).

## **The Gift of His Peace John 14:25-27 NKJV**

**25** “These things I have spoken to you while being present with you.

**26** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

**27** Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

### **“The Helper and Peace I Leave With You”**

Jesus had no fortune or earthly inheritance to leave for His followers, but He gives them gifts that can't be bought - the presence of the Holy Spirit and the presence of peace.

How many a defeated and corrupt lives would buy the power of the Holy Spirit if they could? How many distraught and broken souls would buy the peace of Jesus? These can't be bought, but Jesus gives them as gifts to His people.

Jesus speaks of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which is only available to believers, and this Helper acts to guide, teach, and remind us. Both for the disciples, and for future Christians, these words are meant to be comforting during hard times

### **Again...Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled!**

These gifts do not grant us exemption from trouble, trials or the storms of life, but these gifts from Jesus promise us the power and the peace to weather any storm.

## **The Helper John 15:26-27 NKJV**

**26** “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

**27** And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

### **He Will Testify of Me**

Verses 26 and 27 form a preview of Jesus' next major theme: the work of the Holy Spirit. That explanation will begin in earnest in John 16:5. For now, Jesus mentions the Holy Spirit as part of His encouragement in the face of persecution.

Over the last several verses, Jesus has been warning the disciples—and, by extension, all believers—that the unbelieving world will hate them for their faith (John 15:18–25). Telling us about this in advance (John 13:19; 14:25, 29; 16:4) is meant to help us "hold fast" (Hebrews 4:14–16; 12:1–3). Instead of panicking, and wondering if Jesus was wrong, we can remember His words and know He is still in control (1 Peter 4:12–13).

### **Comforter and Helper**

Another aspect of comfort that Jesus brings is predicting the influence of the Holy Spirit. Jesus uses the same term He applied in John 14:16, *paraklētos*, also translated as "helper," "counselor," "comforter," or "advocate."

Part of the Holy Spirit's role in helping us endure persecution is reminding us of these teachings from Jesus (John 14:16; 16:13). The Spirit comes from God in exactly

the same sense in which Christ comes from God (John 8:42; 14:26).

This brief mention of the Holy Spirit also helps to take some of the sting out of what comes next. At the beginning of chapter 16, Jesus will give a much more specific, dire description of what persecution can look like.

### **The Work of the Holy Spirit John 16:5-15**

**5** “But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’

**6** But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

**7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

**8** And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

**9** of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

**10** of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

**11** of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

**12** “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

**13** However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

**14** He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

**15** All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

## **The Importance of the Holy Spirit**

Over the course of His ministry, Jesus has planted seeds of understanding that will take time to grow. He has spoken about His destiny, which is to be crucified and resurrected. However, most of those following Him have not fully understood this idea—they won't until later. The hardest part of this process for the disciples will be adjusting to life without Jesus, in person, to be seen with their own eyes.

After His resurrection, Jesus will ascend to heaven (Acts 1:8–9), and the disciples will be charged with establishing the early church (Matthew 28:19). As Jesus continues, He will explain how His absence on earth allows for the work of the Holy Spirit (John 16:7–11).

### **What About Jesus?**

In the short term, the disciples are too focused on their own fears to think clearly about what is happening. They aren't even thinking about what all of this means for Jesus.

Earlier, they had asked about Jesus leaving (John 13:36; 14:5). The real meaning of their question, however, was along the lines of "why are you leaving me? What will happen to me?" They have not asked because they want to know what will happen to Jesus (John 16:6). The disciples are worried about the fact that Christ plans to leave, not the destination to which He's heading, which is the cross of suffering and shame.