

The Gospel of John - #52 - 01/23/2022 - "Put Your Hope in God's Promises!" John 14: 15-31

Introduction- II- Different people have come to the same conclusion: It is easy to make promises, but even easier to break them!" Perhaps you're one of those who have had promises made and broken and your heart was or is still hurt because of that failure. Putting our trust in **God** to keep His Word, to follow through on His promises is a wonderful thing because one major precept or foundational principle in the Bible is that God always does what He says He will do! *If you know Jesus as your Savior, you can claim four promises in today's text because:

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit- 15-17 and 25, 26 ¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,¹⁶ to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be ¹⁷ in you.

²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while I am still 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 that I have said to you.

The context encompasses chapters 13 to 17 as Jesus meets privately in the upper room of a guest house on His final night before His false arrest, fake trials and brutal punishment- then the trek to Calvary to be crucified for our sins and later to rise from the tomb. Jesus knew He would soon be left all alone and all His disciples would forsake Him out of fear. But He challenged them in one very important area- love for the Savior shown by obeying Him. Passionately loving Him and consistently pleasing Him would be the hallmark of Jesus' disciples in the days, weeks months and years ahead. In John 13: 35 He had already told them- "By this shall all men know that you are My disciples if you have love one for another!" Loving like God wants us to and like Jesus modeled is impossible on our own. Jesus knew that, of course, and so He made them a promise of a divine source for love- the Third Person of the Triune Godhead- the Holy Spirit. He speaks of that amazing promise here in chapter fourteen and also in chapters 15 and 16. His teaching is clear and unmistakable. He will pray to the Father and the Father will give or send the Spirit, the Helper or Counselor or Advocate. If we need help when it comes to loving our brothers and sisters in Christ help is there. We cannot complain that we were left helpless when it comes to love or any other command of our Lord! This divine Helper, the Holy Spirit, is called the Spirit of truth, which tells us that we can know truth through His divine work within us. The disciples needed to know that though Jesus would soon be gone following His resurrection, the Holy Spirit would be there in them working through them, and would be with them forever! The world doesn't realize who the Holy Spirit is- it doesn't see Him since He is a Spirit, not in a bodily form. But the disciples knew of Him because they saw Him at work in and through the Son of God. Jesus now promises that the Comforter would not only dwell near them but would take up residence IN them, never to leave. But Jesus also wanted to be clear that the Holy Spirit would teach them all that they needed to know in the time ahead of them after Jesus would ascend back to Heaven. That teaching ministry would include working through some of those men to write down under the Spirit's illumination the very words Jesus wants all of His children to know

and live by each day! But there is another promise that helps focus our undivided attention on an amazing character trait of the Triune God- powerful love!

The powerful love of God- 18-24 ¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" ²³ Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ 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.

Soon, according to Jesus, the world would no longer see Him because He would rise from the dead and go back to Heaven to be with the Father. His disciples would see Him physically for a short time, but then with the eye of faith when Jesus would return to glory. Jesus outlines the close, loving relationship that exists between Him and the Father, but also between Him and His disciples. Then He repeats the earlier declaration from verse 15 but adds- "He who loves me will be loved by My Father and I will love Him and manifest myself to him." When Judas Thaddeus asks a question about that manifestation, Jesus says that not only will the Father and He love His disciples but that , like the Holy Spirit, will take up residence in those disciples- and in us too! The theme here is obeying Jesus because of who He is and because we are thankful for that ever-abiding love! Instead of being orphans without parental love and care, the entire Godhead will love us and minister to us and through us with the joy of the Lord in our hearts and on our faces!

The calmness of Christ's peace- 27, 28 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 hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

The next promise for our consideration is the promise of peace. The Bible speaks of the peace of God and of peace with God which anyone can have by faith, but these disciples really needed to know a settled calmness as they were about to join Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane where Roman soldiers and Jewish religious leaders would arrive to arrest the Lord. Facing well-trained soldiers and hearing the leaders arguing His case already under cover of darkness was enough to shake the disciples to the core. And of course they saw Judas Iscariot and watched him give Jesus a kiss to identify Him to the authorities. Jesus is simply preparing their minds for what was to come and for the early days of the church as they would travel here and there with the message of the Gospel which not everyone would gladly accept. Years later Paul would write, in Colossians 3: 15- "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." And certainly the indwelling Holy Spirit is the Giver of peace- it is one of His spiritual fruit in Galatians 5: 22- 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love joy, PEACE...' Jesus had already urged them, "Let not your hearts be troubled-believe in God!"

Here He says, "Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." There are SO many things that stir people's hearts to worry, frustration, downright fear as we see what is going on around us. But way more important than those things that can cause intense discouragement is the peace down deep in our souls. **IL-** Charles Spurgeon- "A little faith will take your soul to Heaven, but great faith will bring Heaven to your soul!" Jesus here in verse 28 makes a statement about Himself and the Father that concerns some Bible students. But it really is very simple. Jesus is not saying that He ranks under the Father and is a lesser God. He is referring to His time on earth when He willingly chose to be subservient to the Father's will, obedient even to the point of death on a cross. While He was on earth He was "under" the Father and completely obeyed the Father's will and plan. Now that He is back in Heaven the Father and Son are once again equal in every way! Knowing God as we read about Him in the pages of Scripture gives us great joy every day and in any situation that might disrupt us or try to defeat us- but through the Godhead living in us we are on the victory side moment by moment!

The joy of spiritual victories- 29-31 ²⁹ And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹ but 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.

One phrase stands out in these closing moments from that night in the Upper Room- "*He has no claim on Me!*" Jesus is referring to Satan and while Satan may have thought that Judas Iscariot may have helped the Devil in his nefarious plan, the reality was that Jesus won the battle and will win the war! I put it that way because if we choose to walk in God's power, relying on the indwelling Spirit and honoring God the Son each day by the way we obey and show our love for Him, Satan remains in the dark background, frustrated as the loser that he is while we can confidently proclaim that we are the victors! Satan is the accuser, but the Holy Spirit is our Advocate! Satan looks to hurt us while the Spirit is our moment-by-moment Helper.

Conclusion: 1 Corinthians 15: 56-58- "The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain!"