



**The Upper Room: Jesus Comforts
John 16:1-33**

The Disciples' Emotions

The disciples began the evening arguing over who was the greatest. (Luke 22:24-30). Jesus showed and taught them the greatest was the one who serves. (John 13:1-17). Did they feel guilt or shame over their argument? Jesus told them one of them would betray Him (John 13:21), and Peter would deny Him (John 13:38). They must have felt anxiety and dismay over those predictions. Jesus warned them about persecution. He told them the world would hate them, ban them from the synagogues and kill them (John 15:18-16:3). Fear would have been a normal response to Jesus' words. They felt sorrow (John 16:6) and loss over Jesus' numerous statements that He was leaving them. (John 13:33; John 14:2, 12, 18, 19, 28; John 15:5, 10, 16, 28). Additionally, the disciples were confused as they tried to understand everything Jesus was saying about His death, resurrection, and ascension. Considering the circumstances, it's likely the disciples, were confused, fearful, dismayed, discouraged, mournful, anxious, and ashamed.

The Counselor

Jesus told the disciples that it was a good thing He was leaving them. Foremost (although Jesus doesn't mention it), Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension would bring salvation for all who believe! Secondly, Jesus said if He didn't leave, the "Counselor" wouldn't come. In the Upper Room, Jesus taught about the Counselor in John 14:16-17; 26; 15:26-27; 16:7-11, 12-15) "Counselor" translates the Greek word *parakletos* which in Greek society referred to a "legal assistant" or "advocate." Some translate the word into English as "Advocate (NIV)" or "Helper (ESV)," or "Comforter" (KJV) – [see Isaiah 40:1]. It's clear from Jesus' reference to the Counselor as "The Spirit of Truth," the Counselor's relationship to Jesus and the Father, and His purpose that He is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament came upon people temporarily for a specific purpose. Now, since the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit indwells every believer (Rom 8:9, 1 Cor 12:13) from the time of salvation. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgement. He teaches, He glorifies Jesus, and testifies with Christians and through Christians about Jesus (John 15:26,27). We can grieve Him by sinning (Eph 4:30) and quench Him by saying no to Him (1 Thess 5:19). We have all the Holy Spirit, but He has more control of our lives as we yield to Him (Eph 5:18).

Jesus the Victor

Jesus laid out the plan, "I have come from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father (John 16:28)." The disciples would for a moment experience, sorrow, pain, suffering and spiritual failure. But soon they would have joy and peace because Jesus has conquered the world!" (John 16:33). When we're overwhelmed, we can trust the Father, rely on the Holy Spirit and know that Jesus has won the victory!