

Good morning everyone!

My name is Caleb Farrow and I serve as one of the Pastors here at Grace Auburn. It is my joy to share with you from John 14 as we continue in our year long series through the Gospel of John, entitled "Life in His Name". And this is the heartbeat of this gospel, as well as the lens in which we see and read it. This comes directly from John 20:31 which says, "these were written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

Last week, Pastor Matt Dean preached through the first half of John 14. It is there, Jesus reminds us that when our hearts are troubled, we must simply believe in him.

**John 14:1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.**

Put your hope, trust, and fate in the hands of the one who is the way, the truth, and the life. Rely on the work of Christ to bring you peace with the Father because no one comes to the Father except through Him.

**And this morning Jesus continues to reassure and comfort the disciples and us...**

**Read John 14:15-31**

Pray

As a teenager I remember having, lets all them, passionate discussions with my parents, mom in particular about doing routine chores around the house. The discussion would typically go something like this. "Caleb, do you want to help me with dishes, laundry, \*insert household chore"

To which I would respond, "No I do not want to do \*said chore"

To which my mom would, for some reason completely unknown to me, would get upset...

Upon further investigation she would say "I want you to want to help". But i just didn't understand in the moment what this was all about... Want to do the dishes more than the NOTHING I was doing at the time of her request just could not compute in my brain. I see now that it wasn't about wanting to do the chore as much as it was about wanting to show my mother love and honor by my willingness to help.

And this morning, we see a similar heart with Jesus.

**Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit**

**<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,<sup>17</sup> 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 in you.**

What an ask?! If you love me, you will keep my commandments. Thats tough! Theres a lot of them and so hard to remember them all!

Thankfully we are not alone in this endeavor. We have one another but even better, we have been given the Holy Spirit! And then to think about, well what are Jesus' commandments anyway?

Well thats an overwhelming task right? To think about how many commands are in these pages! There is no way I could remember all of these! If only there was a more simply way to consider obeying Jesus' commands.

**Matthew 22:36-40 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”<sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.<sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment.<sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.<sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”**

Love God above everything else, and Love the people around you. That is the heart behind ALL the law and prophets. That is the ask of Jesus. If you love me, love God and love others in everything you do!

At first glance we may be tempted to read this as a transaction of some sort. If you obey me, then I will love you. This is not the case here. While many of us grew up believing this to be the way of God, this is not the message of the Gospel. That moral gospel is not good news at all... Even when we want to, its impossible to keep all the commandments of God, and therefore God would never love us and be satisfied with us!

Instead, what we see is a loving heavenly Father saying to those who are His children, **obey me because you love me and trust me. Ill show myself trustworthy to you!** In fact what we see in the words of Jesus is that willing obedience is a reflection of true love for the Father and it is revealing that you have already seen the love of God! Especially as we get to the commands that require us to sacrifice our time, energy for people around us. This is what shows the unbelieving world around us that we love Jesus and trust his way over our way. That we love others in a way that shows them we consider them valuable, and important just as God, in Christ loves us. Love must be the motivation for our obedience, because obedience without love for God and others leads us to self-righteousness.

If we just strive to obey God without love for Him, we become what we distain so much in the Pharisees. Puffed up pride in what we have accomplished, but with love for the

Lord, our hearts are continually humbled at the thought of someone so good and great loving and caring for us!

**D.A. Carson: His true followers will love him, they will obey him, and he (Jesus) on his part will secure for them, from the Father who denies nothing to his Son, another Counselor."**

So Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to the disciples while also promising to send the Holy Spirit to both enable and encourage our obedience as well!

"Helper" is also translated Counselor or Advocate. Literally, the one who comes alongside.

Jesus promises the Holy Spirit that the disciples would know with confidence that his love **"will never falter or die but will grow and flourish, even though he is returning to the Father."** Matt Carter

In the same manner, Jesus is promising to the disciples that his leaving is necessary and good for them as He will send the Helper to come alongside each one of them reminding them of truth and the love of the Father through the life, death and resurrection of the Son!

And He, the Helper is doing that today for you who are believers. Confirming, reminding, sealing your hearts to trust and believe in Jesus that you may have life!

**<sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> 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." <sup>22</sup> Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> 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.**

The one whom they have loved and given their lives to follow is now telling them that he is leaving them. And Jesus doing what Jesus does, addresses the fear in their hearts. The one that promised to save them is now saying he will soon be gone. You can imagine the confusion and the anxiety. Seeing this in them, Jesus reminds them that He will return!

And this promise is of his returning from the dead! Not just leaving for a nearby city and coming back to visit, but leaving the land of the living to take upon Himself the sins of the world, that those who believe in his name might have life and be saved from the wrath of God!

Jesus even says it is because of His resurrection that the disciples (and those who believe in Jesus) will see him again and will live!

**vs. 18 the world will see me no more.** Back in vs 14 we see that "the world" is a clear distinction between those who love Jesus (obey His teaches) and everyone else (the world). They (the world) can never know real peace, never know real life without Jesus! Jesus, is telling us that after his resurrection he will return to the disciples. He is saying this so that when it comes to pass they will never doubt again that he is the Son of God and that he loves them! It is this very same act of death on the cross and resurrection that you and I can be confident in the power over death, victory over sin, and life are in the name of Jesus!

Vs 23 Jesus says that he and the Father will come to those that love him to make their home with them. Home is the same Greek word as vs. 3. **<sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.**

So Jesus has gone to make a place for his disciples in heaven, while he also has a place with us now! This is such a comforting thought. Jesus prophesying to us, that it is in his work on cross and resurrection that makes peace with God on our behalf and secures for us salvation. While at the same time, securing for us peace with God to the degree that he is living with us now!

I love this imagery of intimacy with God! Knowing fully one another. Jesus is both leaving to make a home FOR the believer and joining the Father to make a home IN the believer.

Believing and loving Jesus means we think that whatever happens is up to God and will be good. We live as though He is more trustworthy than our feeble minds. And once again Jesus is reminding you and I, it is not our obedience that brings favor but the mercy and grace of God in the work of Jesus! It is out of our love for God that motivates our obedience to him!

**<sup>25</sup> "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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.**

First off we need to consider who Jesus is talking to, his disciples, the Holy Spirit bringing to mind all that Jesus has said will be very important in regards to writing the New Testament and sharing the message of Jesus to the unbelieving world around them.

We also get a glimpse into the character and role of the Holy Spirit. He comes to point the spotlight of attention to Jesus, not Himself. The Holy Spirit comes in the name of Jesus to remind us of all that Jesus has done causing us to believe and thereby sealing our salvation!

It is by way of the Holy Spirit that we are shown who Jesus is, awakened from death and brought into the life that is knowing Jesus as our Lord and savior! So be cautious of religious groups that emphasize the work of the Spirit over the work of Jesus. He does not do this, so while we are wise to spend time knowing, understanding the work of the Spirit we must always remember His work is meant to teach us all things about Jesus, and remind us of the works of Christ.

So Jesus also is leaving us peace. Peace is a common farewell, but Jesus makes a significant promise. That not only does he leave them with peace, but he gives them HIS peace! We see here that true peace is not just the absence of conflict. But the presence of Jesus. Believing in Jesus brings a peace with God and a peace to our souls that no one and nothing else can bring. The world and the things of the world will try to offer you peace, but that can only truly come through knowing Jesus!

Even at the time of Jesus there was the Pax Romana. Peace of Rome that was brought about by the mighty military sword Roman. This had a lot to do with the Jewish people believing it had to be a much mightier sword than the Romans that would be needed to free them from the death grip of Roman rule, yet it was not a sword at all to bring a greater peace than the Romans offered. It was the sacrifice of Jesus' very blood, that freed them and frees us from the reign and tyranny of this world. The very one that rules this world, but has no power over our king and savior because Jesus is the one who gave him that power to begin with!

**<sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. <sup>30</sup> I will no longer talk much with you, for the**

**ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, <sup>31</sup> 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.**

The kingdom of God is entirely upside down! In order to bring peace and victory over sin, Jesus must sacrifice himself! He must go away, but He promises to send the Spirit on his behalf and for our benefit to remember all that he has done to save! Jesus claiming that the Father is greater must not be understood as in essence better but greater in the sending nature of the Father to the Son.

**Wyatt Graham TGC "In the form of God, Christ is equal to God. In the form of a servant, Christ is inferior to God. Christ took humanity, a created form to himself. The Uncreated God took on a created human nature. It is obvious that God is greater than any created nature. What a mystery! But it is what the Bible says. Christ is both God and man. As Word, he is equal to the Father; as man, he is less than the Father. "**

The apostle Paul says it this way in Phil 2:6-11:

**who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

It was and is the humility of Jesus to be sent by the Father that he may live as human, fully flesh and fully God, then die a human death for the sins of the world, three days later being raised from the dead that the disciples might see him, confirm their belief and trust in him as Messiah and savior long ago prophesied about in the Old Testament! So Jesus tells the disciples what will happen, so that when he accomplishes the most grand miracle ever, they would know that it was all on purpose. In this moment we also can know, the things that we go through are on purpose as well. The tragedies we face, the hard things we go through are not wasted. They have a purpose and God is faithful with his purpose! It may seem like the enemy is in charge and evil is winning, but Jesus reminds us that while Satan has his own plans, he is subject to the rule and reign of Christ!

Jesus is not subject to Satan. Satan cannot force Jesus to do anything, he has no claim. Satan lost before time began and his defeat will be realized at the resurrection of Jesus! Then completed at the second coming of Christ!  
So it is out of obedience to the Father, that Jesus subjects himself to the suffering that is to come.

The obedience of Jesus is a flag to the world of His love for us and Gods pleasure in His son and for us today that Gods ways are trustworthy and right. Even the hard commandments, like going to the cross or giving up our desires for glory of God and the love of our neighbors!

Have you gone through something lately that make you question the sovereignty and goodness of God? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you remember the work of Jesus on the cross! Ask the Helper to bring to mind and to your heart the grace and love of God to send his one and only Son. Trust that the Lord is working, even in the worst of circumstances and even when we cannot understand what He is up to!

Pray out the sermon and pray in communion....

Discussion Questions:

How can love help you overcome sin and rebellion in your heart?

What role does the Holy Spirit play in your life?

How are we to reveal our love for Jesus?