

John 14.18-31—Promises Made Part 2

- I. Introduction
 - a. Several years ago, we came to Nashville shopping AFTER Christmas at Opry Mills. We had stopped at the Lego Store or the Disney Store. We step out into the mass of people and when you do you have move. Within a few seconds you are always looking around to make sure everyone is still together however Joshua was missing.
 - b. To the disdain of the flow of traffic, we turn around to go upstream. We find him standing right where we were. He hadn't moved. The people were just going around him as he stood his ground at 7 years old. The panic dissipated after we had his hand tightly held as we followed the flow of shoppers.
 - c. I can't help but think the disciples will be the same way. They will prove that they had nothing much to do with following Jesus but rather he takes them by the hand and leads to the promised land. At the end of the day, Jesus gets the glory and the disciples get the prize of all that Jesus accomplishes.
 - d. Be still and watch the salvation of God!
- II. Main Point
 - a. Again, I think the main point is clearly that Jesus makes promises. These disciples needed promises to stand on amid the impending departure of Jesus. They and you will have to decide whether Jesus makes good on those promises or not and if he is trustworthy or not.
- III. Outline
 - a. Jesus is leaving but the Holy Spirit will be sent
 - b. The Peace of Jesus versus the Pax Romana
 - c. Love would have wanted Jesus to leave but why?
 - d. The Ancient Foe seeks to work he woe but one little word shall fell him
- IV. Exposition
 - a. As we left off last week, we saw Jesus making numerous promises. I encouraged you to pay close attention to how Jesus treated his disciples. If he doesn't keep his promises, then he is not worthy to follow. However, we looked ahead and say that he did in fact keep his promises but maybe not to everyone's liking because his disciples suffered too. But notice in verse 25 it says, "These things (these promises) I have spoken to you while I am still with you" tell us his departure is coming very soon. And now, his leaving is contrasted with the Holy Spirit coming.
 - i. As we have notice, the disciples are troubled at the fact that Jesus is leaving. If they understood what was going on, they would be troubled but for different reasons which might have been far worse. Over and over again throughout the Gospels, we see that the disciples just don't get it. They are following Jesus but it is very important to observe that they never figure it out on their own nor would they have any reason to boast.
 1. Should this comfort us? Does their lack of understanding make us feel better about our own lack of understanding? Sure! But we should not be satisfied with not knowing. This should encourage you to seek all the more to grow.
 2. Yet, what stirs my heart in this is how Jesus responds to them even when they don't understand. And even more so, that he knows what lies ahead and yet his concern is for his disciples.
 - a. This kind of love changed me this week. When I saw how Jesus cared for them, it rescued me from my own selfishness.
 - b. You might think such love cannot be found in those who follow Jesus. Well, it can and I hope that we would be found in us too. Paul says in (Phil. 2:25-27) ²⁵ I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, ²⁶ for

he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, near to death.

- ii. As we should know, that's not possible without the aid of the Holy Spirit which is the promise we are looking. Some of the particulars of this promise are only for these disciples. (Jn. 14:26) 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.
 1. That doesn't mean you are not benefiting from this promise. In fact, all the teaching Jesus has poured into them over these three years and especially all that he has said in these last hours of his life will soon make sense and they will remember ALL that Jesus said to them.
 - a. All of the that can only happen because the Holy Spirit will come to them. And the Holy Spirit can only come to them and cause this to happen because of the cross and resurrection that will soon take place.
 - b. So, this Gospel that we have been working through is the product of all that I just mentioned.
 - c. If the Scriptures were produced merely on the basis of the ability of the disciples to remember then we would have reason to doubt what has been written.
 - d. However, "John included what Jesus said not to explain how readers at the end of the first century may be taught by the Spirit, but to explain to readers at the end of the first century how the first witnesses, the first disciples, came to an accurate and full understanding of the truth of Jesus Christ. The Spirit's ministry was to complete, to fill out, the revelation brought by Jesus himself" (Carson 505).
 2. Well, it's pretty clear that Jesus doesn't intend to leave them as orphans.
- b. And if that is true, the next point makes a lot of sense. Jesus will give them peace; something world cannot promise or keep.
 - i. The coming of the Holy Spirit and the understanding of all that has happened and is about to happen will settle their troubled hearts. (Jn. 14:27) ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.
 1. What is peace? Is it merely the absence of war? Is not this one of the promises of the coming Messiah?
 - a. Hear the longing in this benediction from (Num. 6:24-26) ²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
 - b. They sang about in (Ps. 29:11) ¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!
 - c. Israel was looking for the promised one to be what Isaiah foretold in (Isa. 9:6) ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 - d. Is peace not the focus of one of the most famous Christmas texts? (Lk. 2:13-14) ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"
 - e. Did Jesus bring peace and yet promised that there would wars and rumors of wars? (Lk. 12:51-53) ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵² For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided,

father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

- i. What are we missing here?
 - ii. Maybe it's like the Pax Romana, the peace of Rome, that was fought for and won by the power of the sword. However, can that peace be maintained?
2. It might help to see the peace Jesus leaves with the disciples is only given to the disciples. As in the Christmas text from Luke, the peace Jesus brings is only for those with whom he is pleased.
 - a. Who is pleasing to God? The only person I find in the Bible that God is pleased with was Jesus. At his baptism, the Father says that he is well pleased with him. On the mountain when Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus, the Father says he is pleased with his Son and the disciples are told that they should listen to him.
 - b. Well, that causes us a problem. How do these disciples get peace? How in the world could they be pleasing to God? They can't do anything right, it seems.
 - c. Is a mightier sword needed?
3. Well, the peace Jesus gives will be attained not by a mighty warrior but rather by "an innocent man who will suffer and die at the hands of Romans, the Jews and all of us."
 - a. In other words, the reason there is very little, maintainable peace in the world is because the people of this world are sinners. Adam and Eve disobeyed the Lord and sin entered the world. Until the sin issue is resolved, we are not only going to fight and argue with each other but even more dangerous is that we as fallen human beings are enemies of God.
 - b. These eleven disciples along with the rest of humanity are or were God's enemy because we are sinners.
 - c. But guess what? Peace between God and sinful humanity was purchased. (Rom. 5:10) ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.
 - d. How can you be pleasing to God? The writer of Hebrews makes it very clear that faith pleases God. (Heb. 11:6) without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
 - e. The world cannot offer this kind of peace people need. Peace with God comes through faith in Christ alone. That peace, which will never change for the one who believes, will then work itself out in areas of our lives.
 - i. For example, you might become very anxious and fearful about a diagnosis but then what can calm those fears is the rock solid peace that no matter what happens in this life you have eternal life with God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit!
 - ii. (2 Thess. 3:16) ¹⁶ Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.
4. If you think the disciples have heard enough to calm their fears you would be right.
 - a. But Jesus commands them (Jn. 14:27) Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
 - b. Does this mean that you will never be afraid again? Is the old song true that said, "Everyday with Jesus is sweeter than the day before"?
 - i. Not hardly. I wish that were always true.

- ii. It's not normal for us right now to be able to maintain two opposing forces. The flesh is at war with the Spirit.
 - iii. God is holy and therefore supremely happy. However, because of his holiness he must also be supremely angry at sinful humanity. Yet, only God can be completely happy and angry at the same time and neither influence the other. More about that another day.
 - ii. I will take the peace of Christ which is eternal over the pax Romana of this world that faded away.
- c. This next point should not be seen as a new topic even though it sort of feels like it. Off the heels of the commands for their hearts not to be troubled nor afraid, Jesus reminds the eleven disciples what he said back in verse 14 which he concludes if you had loved me, you would have rejoiced that he was returning to the Father.
 - i. First, don't miss this...Jesus told these troubled disciples that they did not love him. You might be thinking...how is that helpful? Warnings are a merciful gift.
 - ii. Now follow the train of thought. If you had loved me, you would have rejoiced.
 - 1. In other words, rejoicing is rooted in love. If I am not rejoicing then the root problem is that I am not loving Jesus. And if I am not loving Jesus, it's because I am loving something else which in my life usually reveals itself in love of self.
 - 2. That means these disciples are probably being selfish. They are only concerned about themselves. What am I going to do when you leave, Jesus? I gave up everything to follow you.
 - iii. Why should they have rejoiced? What are they missing? What are they not seeing?
 - 1. Well, Jesus gives the reason and it's not the reason I would have expected. But it is right and displays exactly how amazing Jesus is by the way he said it.
 - 2. He says the reason they should have rejoiced that he is going to the Father is because the Father is greater than he is.
 - a. They have no problem with that statement. And it probably doesn't make any sense to them. It may not make any sense to you.
 - b. How is that the reason for rejoicing? Though I don't think I have to explain how a father is greater than a son, let it be known that the Father sent the Son and he went, the Father commanded the Son and he obeyed perfectly. Just because the Father has authority over the Son doesn't change his nature.
 - c. So, when we read this Gospel of John, we probably fail to remember that John wrote this AFTER all of this was completed. The Spirit came just as Jesus said it would and gave him understanding and remembrance of all that Jesus had said.
 - d. So, when John wrote the first words of this Gospel, he didn't understand that right here nor did any of the disciples.
 - i. (Jn. 1:1-3) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
 - ii. The Word is Jesus. He is God. He was not created but rather everything was created through him and for him.
 - iii. Disciples, if you had known that the one who created you had come down and took on flesh, you would have rejoiced that he was returning to the Father where he belongs. Returning to the glory he deserves.
 - e. If I were Jesus, I would have said it like this: If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for don't you know that I am God...I

created the dirt you are standing on. I designed the ears that you are using to hear me. I placed the moon and all those stars in their places. I did that with my Father and the Holy Spirit. I have no beginning and no end.

- f. Jesus' humility is unbelievable. He simply puts his Father's greatness above himself. He turns their attention to him while maintaining the fact that they should have rejoiced that he was returning to his glorious abode.
- d. And finally, Jesus makes a claim that no one else can make but it seems to go unnoticed by the disciples. Satan has no claim on me!
 - i. Because we are lawbreakers, trespassers, and sinners the ruler of this world has a claim on all of us. But Jesus never sinned so the ruler of this world has no claim on him.
 - ii. Our lives without Christ are described by Paul like this in (Eph. 2:1-2) And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air (the ruler of this world—Satan)
 - iii. The only thing that can undo that claim the ruler of this world has on you is the amazing grace and mercy of God.
 - 1. If you have read C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia, you know that Edmund betrays his family and by law the white witch has a claim on his life. When she comes to lay claim on him which meant that he deserved to die for his crime but Aslan tells her that he will die in his place for his betrayal.
 - iv. Satan has a claim on every person...but that's not the end of the story. That claim can be broken if you are united to the One for whom Satan has no claim by faith.
 - v. And Jesus does all of this...did all of this so that the world may know that he loves the Father.

V. Response

- a. The Lord's Supper is our response