Pentecost John 14:25-27
May 23, 2021 183-176-184/188-185

Jesus Blesses His Waiting Church
I. With the Holy Spirit.
II. With His peace.

Dear Christian friends,

These verses take us back NOT to **Pentecost** but to **Maundy Thursday** evening. They take us into a **long conversation** Jesus had with the apostles around the **dinner table**. Jesus was preparing them NOT JUST for the next few days – the HORRORS of Good Friday – the GLORY of Easter. Jesus was looking beyond that to **Ascension Day** and today – **Pentecost**.

Jesus would soon be leaving the apostles. He would no longer be PHYSICALLY or VISIBLY present with them. Jesus would leave them but WITH THE PROMISE to **one day come** again in glory. Jesus was leaving – but He was not leaving us ON OUR OWN. Jesus leaves us **with a blessing** as we wait for His **glorious return**. As He explains here Jesus BLESSES HIS WAITING CHURCH 1)with the Holy Spirit and 2)with His peace.

I. With the Holy Spirit.

"I have told you these things while staying with you." For the past three years Jesus had been with the apostles. They had followed Him on His **journeys** – had heard Him preach and teach – had witnessed His miracles. WHAT A TIME – what a BLESSING – that **must have been**! They couldn't have asked or had a **better teacher** than Jesus. But AS STUDENTS the **apostles** were just like you and me. They forgot things. They didn't always CATCH ON or **understand**. Earlier this evening Jesus had told them, ***"You do not understand what I am doing now, but later you will understand."*** Later on Jesus would tell them, ***"I still have many things to tell you, but you cannot bear them now."***

WHAT A BLESSING Jesus had for them! ***"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I told you."*** Or as Jesus put it later on, ***"When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth."***

The apostles needed the Holy Spirit – and SO DO WE – so do ALL people! ***"No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord!' but by the Holy Spirit."*** It literally takes a miracle **worked by** the Holy Spirit for anyone to believe in Jesus as their Savior. Nobody decides to **become** a Christian – the Holy Spirit makes us Christians THROUGH His Word. We NEED the Holy Spirit to make us **Christians** – to keep us **Christians** – to help us live **as Christians**. We need the Holy Spirit to LEAD US to understand and believe what the Bible says. To the unbeliever the Bible is FOOLISHNESS and **nonsense** – a virgin having a baby **who is God** Himself – dead people coming back to life. **To the unbeliever** the devil's lies are MORE BELIEVABLE than God's Word. Paul explained it this way in 1 Corinthians 2. ***"An unspiritual person*** (an unbeliever, without the Holy Spirit) ***does not accept the truths taught by God's Spirit, because they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually evaluated."***

WHAT A BLESSING to have the Holy Spirit to ***"teach and guide us into all truth!"*** The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Holy Trinity – true God **from all** eternity with the Father and the Son. He's called ***"holy"*** because He too is the ***"holy"*** God and it's the Holy Spirit's job to MAKE US HOLY by bringing us to faith in Jesus and then helping us live **holy** lives.

Jesus here calls the Holy Spirit ***"the Counselor."*** That's a hard word to **put into** GOOD ENGLISH. It's the Greek word **"paraclete"** – literally one called to your side. The Holy Spirit is AT OUR SIDE to do whatever **is needed** at the time – to ***"comfort"*** – ***"counsel"*** – correct – guide – teach, etc. I **had a professor** who compared it to a football or basketball coach. The coach calls you to his side – SOMETIMES to encourage you – or point something out to you – or even BAWL YOU OUT when

needed. SO WE HAVE the Holy Spirit **at our side**. Through His Word the Spirit comforts – encourages – guides and yes, even BAWLS us out **all as needed**.

The apostles especially needed the Holy Spirit as they became the leaders in the Church **after Jesus ascended** into heaven. They had the responsibility of **leading** people into God's Word AND **leading them** in sharing Jesus with others. The **apostles** were just like us this morning – a MOTLEY ASSORTMENT of **very imperfect, sinful** people. WHAT A BLESSING for them to have the Holy Spirit to ***"teach"*** them and ***"remind them of everything"*** Jesus had said! Look how the Spirit used Peter and the other apostles that first Pentecost. **Peter** the denier preached a BOLD, POWERFUL **no-nonsense** sermon to that crowd. The Holy Spirit especially guided the apostles as they TAUGHT and WROTE God's Word. By the miracle of **divine inspiration** the Holy Spirit so guided them so that they wrote GOD'S VERY WORDS without making any mistakes.

WHAT A BLESSING that we also have the Holy Spirit helping us share Jesus with our **neighbors** and **world**. We can be intimidated by the **task** – afraid of how people **will react** – convinced it **won't do** any good. We can come up with **all kinds** of GOOD SOUNDING excuses for keeping our mouths shut. But we have the **Holy Spirit**. He guides and leads and helps us **share Jesus** and **God's Word** with others. **Remember**, it's our job to TELL – that's it! It's the Holy Spirit's job to CONVERT people **through the Word** we share with them. We want to do the BEST JOB **telling others** about Jesus but the RESULTS are in God's hands **not ours**.

II. With His peace.

Jesus has another precious blessing for His **waiting** Church. ***"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you."***

Let's be clear here. Jesus' ***"peace"*** doesn't mean we WON'T HAVE **any problems** as we go through life. Jesus never promises us an EASY life - that life will BE FAIR – that we'll enjoy **good health**, prosperity, etc. Jesus **never promises** that life will always go JUST AS WE want it to. **Some** people get all ticked off at God when He DOESN'T DO **exactly as** they want – when their life **as they'd put** it, "STINKS!" Wait a minute! We can't hold God to promises He's NEVER MADE. **Just because** we don't understand what **God is doing** doesn't mean GOD DOESN'T KNOW what He's doing.

AS CHRISTIANS we have been so blessed by God. But God makes clear that **we Christians** are NOT EXEMPT from the **hassles** and **hardships** of life. In fact being a Christian will ACTUALLY BRING **more problems** into our lives! Jesus tells us, ***"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me first. If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you too. In this world you are going to have trouble. But be courageous! I have overcome the world."***

That's why it's SUCH A BLESSING to have Jesus' ***"peace."*** Jesus gives us ***"the peace of God that goes beyond all understanding"*** – peace WITH GOD Himself – real, lasting peace – peace that's a BLESSED FACT **no matter what** we may be feeling or going through at the time.

Jesus gives us the ***"peace"*** of sins – ALL SINS – fully and **freely** FORGIVEN. Take an honest look at your **heart** and **life** and compare it to God's call to ***"be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy."*** Does ***"holy"*** really describe the language you always use – the **way** you treat and talk about people? Is ***"holy"*** the PERFECT DESCRIPTION of all the shows and movies you've watched – the jokes you've told – the sites you've checked on the internet? Does ***"holy"*** describe your daily walk with God - your attitude and **priorities**? Remember, this is holy AS GOD DEFINES holy – not as we or others see it. Remember ONLY TRULY HOLY people are acceptable in God's sight. **Only truly holy** people will live forever with God in heaven.

ONLY Jesus can give us the ***"peace"*** of sins forgiven and a new relationship with God. This peace is not based on ANYTHING WE DO – on how sorry we are or how much we've **cleaned up** our lives.

This peace is based ONLY on Jesus and what He's all done **in our place**. We owed God a LIFE HOLY in every way – **every day** of our lives. Jesus actually lived that **holy** life and He gives us **all the credit** for it. We deserved death and **hell's** eternal banishment and **punishment** for the way we've treated God and His Word. Jesus – the sinless Son of God – took ALL THE BLAME for the sins of the whole world and was punished in our place. Jesus shed His **holy, precious** blood – sacrificed His **innocent** life on the cross – to personally pay for all our sins IN FULL. Jesus gives us ***"His peace"*** – the peace that trusting in Him **everything** is OK between God and us. The peace **that in Him** we can be absolutely sure that God LOVES us – has forgiven us – calls us His dear children.

"My peace I give you." Jesus gives us the ***"peace"*** of His PRESENCE – that HE is always with us as we go through life. Jesus gives us the ***"peace"*** of His ALMIGHTY POWER – that He is in control and working **all things** for our eternal good EVEN WHEN it doesn't look like it. Jesus gives us the ***"peace"*** of His comforting PROMISES – promises He will never go back on.

Jesus gives us the ***"peace"*** of ETERNAL LIFE in heaven. Our Savior who died for us rose triumphant from the dead on Easter morning and He shares His victory with us. WHAT PEACE **to know** that the very moment we die we will join Jesus in His heavenly glory. WHAT PEACE **to know** that when Jesus returns in glory He will raise our dead bodies back to life and we will then live **glorified** body and soul with Jesus in that ***"new heavens and new earth, where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain."*** WHAT PEACE **to know** that's not just a NICE THOUGHT or **good possibility** but **Jesus'** GIFT and promise to us.

With that peace Jesus continues, ***"Do not let your heart be troubled, and do not let it be afraid."*** **With Jesus** as our Savior we need not ***"be afraid"*** of what the FUTURE might all bring us. We have Jesus and ***"His peace."*** TOGETHER we'll face **each day** until we are FACE-TO-FACE in heaven.

"I have told you these things while staying with you." Thank You, Jesus for ***"telling us"*** this. Thank You, for blessing us with the **Holy Spirit** and **Your peace**. Amen.

EXPLANATION TO 3RD ARTICLE (in bulletin)