

The Promise of Power

It is a blessing of John's gospel that we are able to have such a full picture of the things Jesus shared with His disciples just hours before His crucifixion. At the beginning of chapter 14 He says to them, "do not let your hearts be troubled." Certainly they had many reasons for their hearts to be troubled. One disciple had already been declared a traitor, and Jesus was now speaking of going away. What could all this mean? Jesus responds to their troubled hearts with the truth of what His "going away" will ultimately provide for His disciples.

John 14:12-31

12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. **13** Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, 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 in you.

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.

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. **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. **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.

In the previous verses of John 14, Jesus has told the disciples that His going away involves two important things. First, that He is going to prepare a place for them. Secondly, that His going away is all a part of His complete revelation of the Father. In verses 12-31 Jesus now gives them the third thing that will happen in His going away. The Holy Spirit will now come to dwell in them.

I. **The Power of the Mission (vv. 12-14)**

In a truly amazing statement, Jesus tells His disciples that they will do "greater works" than He did. What Jesus means is that the work He has begun, namely the salvation of souls, will continue in greater and greater measure after the Cross. This mission will be accomplished by the power of Christ through His disciples. And so He challenges them to ask for great things in this mission, knowing that Jesus will do what needs to be done to accomplish it.

II. **The Power of Intimacy with the Triune God (v.15-26)**

Jesus has been a close and powerful friend to His disciples. He has cared for them, comforted them, protected them, and challenged them. Jesus now says that when He leaves, He will

send “another Helper,” the Holy Spirit, who will not only be with them, but actually in them. Jesus knows that the disciples’ understanding of all this will only happen once they have seen Him in the resurrection. The deep love of the Father will result in the Father and the Son, through the indwelling Holy Spirit, making their home with the disciples.

III. **The Power of the Peace of Christ (v.27-31)**

To these troubled disciples Jesus says, “peace I leave you.” What we understand from Scripture is that peace is not simply the absence of conflict, but a wholeness that is best reflected in the Hebrew word “shalom.” And this peace is actually the peace that dwells in Christ. “My peace,” Jesus says, “not as the world gives.” This is not a circumstantial peace, but the internal peace that will be displayed in Christ as He goes through the hours of His rejection and suffering and death.

Discussion Questions

1. How were Jesus’ words about “greater works” fulfilled during the 1st century? How have we seen those words fulfilled in our lifetime?
2. What does Jesus mean when he says that He will do anything we ask in His name?
3. What does Jesus mean when He says “Because I live, you also will live”? (v.19)
4. In verses 15-24 Jesus speaks several times about a connection between our obedience and our love for God and God’s love for us. What is Jesus wanting to communicate to His disciples in regards to this connection?
5. How did Christ demonstrate the peace within Him as He faced rejection and suffering and death?

Going Deeper

1. How does your prayer life need to change in order reflect the missional nature that Jesus intended in verses 13 and 14?
2. Christ has given us His peace through the indwelling Holy Spirit. How do we increase our awareness and experience of that peace?