
We are continuing in our study in the gospel of John and we find ourselves in the midst of Jesus' final discussion with His disciples, just hours before He was going to be arrested.

John 14:18-20

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

The phrase, "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you" has a very "end-times" feel, as if Jesus' might be talking about His second coming. And it may be a reference to that; I am not going to say that it's not. But what we do know by the next sentence is that it is definitely a reference to our now and our ability to be in ongoing continual fellowship with the resurrected Jesus through the person of the Holy Spirit. Jesus let the disciples know that even though He is going to be physically killed, He is not going anywhere. "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me." Jesus will not leave us orphans because He will be right here—living in us—and we will always be able to presently, actively, *see* Him.

The Greek verb translated "see" is the word "*theoreo*" which means to make a careful and detailed inspection and observation of the object (in this case, Jesus). In other words, because Jesus is going to die, resurrect, and then ascend into heaven, the world will not be able to see Him. But since He lives in side of us, we will

always presently, actively and continually be able to make a careful and detailed examination of Jesus as He discloses Himself to us.

It is interesting that when Jesus said, “because I live, you will live also,” He did not say “I will live” or in any way make a reference to his dying and then coming back to life. The verb is in the present active indicative—which means that it is a statement of fact that He lives. Remember, Jesus is the “I Am”—the one who has always been, the one who always is, and ever will ever be. He did not stop being the “I Am” just because His physical body was killed. He was always alive as God and He was always giving life and sustaining the world.

But in reference to us He says: “you shall live” which is in the future indicative tense. Unlike Jesus who has always been spiritually alive, the disciples have been spiritually dead. In fact, they will not live or even be able to discern the depths of His character and nature until that day when He would bring them true life. “In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.” So what “day” is Jesus talking about?

The New Living Translation adds an explanatory reference and says: “When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father.” However, this specific reference to the resurrection is not found in most other translations and it is not in the Greek; nevertheless, I believe it is an accurate translation because they pull from the events of *John 20* to make this translation choice.

In *John 20:19* we are told that on the evening of the day of Jesus’ resurrection, He suddenly appeared to the disciples who were hiding behind locked doors. *Verse 22* tells us that Jesus then breathed on them and said: “Receive the Holy Spirit.” It is at this time that the disciples were first born again and sealed for salvation. Do you remember last week’s text when Jesus, talking about the Holy Spirit, said: “He

lives with you now and later will be in you” (*John 14:17*). It was on the day of Jesus’ resurrection that the Spirit came to live in the disciples. Therefore, from that point forward they would be able to actively and presently *see* Jesus every day of their lives because His life—through the Spirit—had now entered their own lives.

I find it fascinating that the one thing Jesus emphasized is that when we “*see*” Him then we would know, with all certainty, that Jesus was in the Father, that He (Jesus) is in us, and we are in Him. There are so many things He could have said, why do you think this was what He wanted to emphasize?

First of all, we know that Jesus already told us that the Father lived in Him (*John 14:10*) and we know that Jesus breathed His Spirit of Truth on the disciples (*John 20:22*). And Paul explains in *Colossians 2:9*: “For in Him (Jesus) all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.” So except for the moment in time when Jesus became sin and the Father separated Himself from Him, Jesus always manifested the fullness of the Godhead, which is why when Phillip asked to see the Father Jesus replied: “He who has seen me has seen the Father” (*John 14:9*).

Secondly, we also know that Jesus is a separate and distinct person from the Father and the Holy Spirit, (we will see this when we get to *verse 28* when Jesus says that the Father is greater than He is and in *verse 26* where He says that the Father will send to us the Holy Spirit); yet, His nature is the Father’s nature and His Spirit is the Father’s Spirit, so when one is present they are all present. This speaks of a communion, a fellowship, and a unity of nature that is so beyond anything we can ever fathom.

As if that is not hard enough for our minds to grasp, what is really bizarre and over the edge is that Jesus makes this exact same relationship reference to His life in ours and our life being found in Him. This means that when we become born

again, when the Spirit dwells within our being, that Jesus is in us and since the Father is in Jesus then the Father is also present within our being. Now just so you know I am not making this up, this is exactly what Jesus says in the next set of verses.

John 14:21-24

"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to 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 abode with him." He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

In ***John 14:16*** Jesus said that He will ask the Father and the Father will give us another counselor, comforter, encourager, advocate, who is exactly the same as Jesus and that this counselor will never leave us. So the Holy Spirit is with us. And now He tells us that the Father and the Son will make their abode or their home within those who love Jesus. This is crazy and I have no idea how it happens but apparently our New Creation is a dwelling place for the entirety of the Godhead.

Besides just being totally freaky, again I want to ask, why did Jesus want to emphasize this point? Let's jump ahead a couple of verses to get the answer.

John 14:27-28

Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. "You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

Let's not forget the context here. Jesus was ready to die and return to His Father and like a good shepherd I am sure He was very concerned with what would happen to His sheep. They were obviously going to be totally messed up when they saw Jesus arrested, beaten, tried, and crucified. After all, it has been more than obvious that the disciples have understood little of what Jesus has communicated to them so far (and that is understandable since they had not yet been born of the Spirit). Therefore, Jesus wanted them to understand a truth that goes beyond their physical reality. He wanted them to keep their hearts and minds fixated on who they will become in God and not on the problems and troubles of this world.

Here is the perspective He wanted them to grasp (which is for us as well). If they are indwelt with the presence of the Godhead, and if the Father is even greater than Jesus (and their relationship with Jesus was already so rich, deep, and amazing), then who else do they need and what do they ever have to fear? The answer is nothing. Their life will come from Jesus and He is all they will ever need. And, since He will live in them, then nothing can conquer them: not Satan, not demons, not people, nor any other created thing, not persecution, suffering, or even death!

They will be victorious in this life whenever they want to be and all they have to do is be in love with Jesus. That's it! Which, by the way, is all we have to do—be in love with Jesus—and we will also be victorious! When we are living in love

with Jesus, to quote a friend, “we are invincible regardless of whether the world considers us a success or not.” That is why we are not to let our hearts be troubled or fearful but we are to trust ourselves to Jesus—the one we love.

We just need to love Jesus; doesn’t that sound simple and wonderful? Well there is one problem; the word for love that is used is the Greek word “Agape.” We must “*agapao*” Jesus. This is a big problem for, as we have discussed many times, this is a love that can only originate from the divine and is not something that we humans can do on our own. It is a love that is exclusive to the Godhead.

Are you beginning to comprehend the intensity of this truth? Even our ability to be in love with Jesus comes from Jesus—He is our provision for absolutely everything which is why our life is found in Him. We simply cannot love Him on our own. It is only through the New Creation (which He creates in us) and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit (which the Father sends to us) that we can even be in relationship with Jesus. He provides us everything we need to *choose* to love Jesus. This is why walking by faith in the Spirit of God, letting Jesus be our “I Am,” and letting Jesus be our way, truth, and life is really possible! After all, He provides both our desire and ability to choose to love Him; we just need to make the choice.

Consider the benefits of being in love with Jesus:

- The Father will love us;
- We will obey His commandments;
- We will live;
- We will keep His words, which are really not His words but the words of the Father;

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- He and the Father will make their abode within us;
 - He will disclose Himself to us; and
 - We will be able to “*theoreo*” Him, or make a careful and detailed inspection and observation of Jesus.

These amazing promises are ours to experience if we simply love Jesus. I love the way Jesus wrapped back around to this notion of *seeing* Him by saying that He will disclose Himself to us. Thus, we can know all that He has chosen to reveal to us if we are willing to *see* or make a careful and detailed inspection of the character and nature of His being. This brings to mind a number of scriptures:

James 4:8

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Proverbs 8:17

I love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me will find me.

Jeremiah 29:13-14

You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

We must therefore believe that God wants us to know Him and understand all the depths and wonders of His love, but the pathway to this level of intimacy is our willingness to *choose* to love Him. If we love ourselves more than we love Jesus

we simply will not understand what He has disclosed to us. If our pride and our desire to be our own god are larger than our willingness to humble ourselves under His hand, then we simply will not know Jesus in the depth of intimacy that He desires. We have to *choose* to pursue knowing Him—not doing for Him, but being in an intimate relationship with Him. He has to be our passion, our priority and the absolute authority over our lives and then we will know Him and understand Him because we will have loved Him.

John 14:25-27

"These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you." 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 said to you. "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. "You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe.

Once again I am taken back by the fact that even our ability to know Jesus comes from the Holy Spirit teaching us. This is why mere knowledge of the Bible has never directly correlated to loving Jesus. Those who love Him know His word, but not everyone who knows the Bible loves Him. The Spirit is the key. When we *choose* to pursue intimacy with Jesus then we will “*see*” Him for the Spirit will teach us all that we need to know about Jesus!

This passage is also very important because first and foremost Jesus was talking to His disciples—many of whom would be writing portions of our Bible. I believe Jesus told us this so we can have absolute confidence in the written Word of God. People who don't know Jesus always try and say that the Bible has errors because it was written by men. Well men might have been the instrument through which it was physically written but the Word of God came as a result of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit who accurately brought to the remembrance of the writers all the truth that they had learned. In the same way, it was the Spirit who also accurately taught the truth to those who wrote the Bible. That is why Paul declares:

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Sure the Bible was written by men and even assembled by men, but it was all under the inspiration of God—or men moved by the hand of God. Thus, the Bible is the very Words of the Father, the food of our New Creation, and, as such, is able to teach us why we can trust Jesus and how we are to be in love with Him.

John 14:27

My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

This is a very, very clever verse and in many ways is a recapitulation on the theme of this whole passage. We don't have to be troubled or afraid because He will give us His peace. This word "peace" literally means "to join together" or to create a harmonious relationship. In other words, He is saying that by dying He will remove the barrier between us and the Father and He will create for us perfect harmony with the entirety of the Godhead—Jesus in us and us in Jesus. Through His work on the cross we get to be joined together, affixed to Jesus, with no separation.

This is the beauty of having this New Creation within our beings; it is always affixed to Jesus—it is always affixed to God! He told all of this to His disciples before the Spirit dwelt within them so that on that day that it actually occurred, they would believe and know that He is God. And if they know that Jesus is God, then they will know that they are safe to trust themselves to Him.

Can you imagine? You are always affixed to God even when you don't feel like it, even when you are giving your attention to your Old Man, and even when everything in your life is inside out and upside down. In the New Creation you are permanently joined to Jesus and this is why you are not to be troubled and why you don't have to fear. God is in you! Look at the exhortation in the last two verses in this passage. It really speaks to this issue of why we do not have to live in fear.

John 14:30-31

I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.

This phrase “he has nothing in me” literally means that the Satan has nothing to hold onto inside of Jesus or that he has no power or control over Jesus. That is why Jesus made it so clear that all that was going to happen to Him would occur merely because Jesus was being obedient to the Father. The horrible things that happened to Jesus was not because Satan had any power to do anything to Jesus; rather, Satan was just a tool to effect the purposes of the Father.

But please understand the power of this statement. If Jesus is in us and we are in Jesus, then the enemy also has no power or control over our New Creation, and he has nothing to hold onto in order to try and take control of our lives; he just grasps at air. This is why if we love Jesus (if we presently, actively trust ourselves to Him) we don’t have to be troubled or afraid, for nothing can prevail against us—that is against our New Creation.

But notice that Jesus refers to Satan as the ruler of the world. Satan has been given domination over all that is in this world and over all who are beholden to the world; this includes our old sinful nature which has many holds by which the enemy can grab us and mess with us. This is why our safety, our security, our strength, and our peace are found only when we are living from the New Creation—when we find our life in Jesus.

But if we are not in love with Jesus, if we still love our old nature, then the only peace we can attempt to grab for ourselves is the peace that the world gives (and remember the world is under the domination of the devil). The peace the world has to offer is wholly illusory for it is based on pure fiction; it is based on a lie. It is grounded on some fantasy that if your circumstances were different, then you would somehow be ok, that if you could achieve a certain level of self enlightenment or detachment from this world, then you would be ok, or that if you could just be good enough, holy enough, then you would be ok. But no one who is

beholden to this world finds peace; they are always searching and always left wanting. So they need a new toy, a new possession, a new job, more education, a new location, a new relationship, a new religion, a new dedication to their religion, a new spin on their old religion, a new something or other that will still inevitably leave them with this huge big gaping black hole that can only be filled by Jesus.

The reason that no one has ever found peace in this world or in the things of this world is because instead of being joined to the ruler of all things, the creator of the universe, the one who is above all, those who seek to find peace in this world are affixed to the ruler of this world, and his intentions are absolutely wicked. In fact, in ***John 10:10*** Jesus said that Satan's purpose is to steal, kill and destroy. The devil may allow you for a time to feel like you are experiencing peace and satisfaction, but just wait before long he will rip it out from under you and grind you under his hateful rule.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not make you fully aware of what happens when you are not in (agape) love with Jesus. When you are not presently and actively in love with Jesus, then as it says in ***verse 24***, you do not do what Jesus says. You don't hold to His word and you do not obey His word because you are busy doing what the ruler of this world wants you to do. Remember last week when I said that this is all very binary. At any given point in time, you are either presenting yourself to God as a living sacrifice or you are presenting yourself to the world; you are either choosing to act from the New Creation or from your Old Sinful Nature. Despite what we otherwise want to believe, there is no middle ground.

This truth is apparent when Jesus says: "If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than" (***John 14:28***). But since the disciples were not yet affixed to Jesus and were not presently and

actively even able to agape Him, they were not able to rejoice with Him. Rather, they reacted from their flesh and found themselves doing what the ruler of this world wanted them to do. As a result, they all pretty much fell into the enemy's hands, which is why on the day that Jesus was resurrected they were holed up in their house hiding behind locked doors overwhelmed by fear. Remember, there is no extra credit for good intentions.

However, we do not have to live like this. We have been given life, we have been given the means by which to love God, we have been given the desire to love God, the Spirit will even disclose to us all that we need to know about Jesus, and God is always present in our lives. Therefore, we have everything we need to live a life where we are not troubled and overcome with fear. We just need to say no to ourselves and *choose* Him. When we do, we will love Jesus and the benefit of such a choice is that the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. This is what He has left us; His legacy is our peace. So do not be troubled or afraid; it is time for us to believe.

Let's pray.