

Sermon Notes & References

of Love & Peace  
John 14:21-31

January 8, 2016

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<sup>A</sup> 1 John 4:19, 10; John 3:16

<sup>B</sup> Acts 1:6

<sup>C</sup> Deuteronomy 4:37; 1 John 5:3

A. Introduction

1. Which Side of the Family?

- a. A fellow named Larry Henshaw tells of the time his home was rocked by an earthquake. Daughters Debbie and Carol were confined to their bedroom when the beds slid in front of the door. They panicked and screamed for help. And good old Dad spoke very calmly: "Don't worry! You're Henshaw's, and Henshaw's know how to keep cool heads in a crisis." But Carol's little voice came from the other side of the door: "Daddy, I think we take after Mommy's side of the family!"
- b. As Christians, at one time or another, we forget our relationship to God and the calming words that come to us from our Heavenly Father. -{2}.

2. The Disciples' Anxiety

- a. Jesus' disciples were greatly perturbed throughout this evening
- b. you see this surfacing again & again in these chapters in John
- c. Jesus spoke of His betrayal and His death
- d. More disturbingly He spoke of going away, of leaving them
- e. After 3½ years of living together they had become more than learners of the lessons of the Rabbi; they had become friends
- f. And now, if He was leaving, what about all their kingdom dreams?
- g. Jesus, without in any way softening the truth, now gives them further reasons for them to take comfort and to relieve their anxiety

3. The Promise of His Presence . . . . . 14:16-20)

- a. Let us review this promise in the preceding verses
- b. The Presence of the Spirit (16-17) – 16 "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you."
  - (A) the Bible never uses the word Trinity – Tri-unity – Three in One – a word devised to represent the truth that where is only One God, He is revealed in Three distinct Persons: Father, Son & ly Spirit
  - (B) but in this verse, as in later ones in these chapters, that truth is clearly involved
    - (1) the Son asks the Father

- (2) the Father sends the Helper, the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit
- (C) so the Presence of the Spirit is promised to disciples, to believers
- c. The Presence of the Son (18-19) – 18 “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 After a little while the world will behold Me no more; but you will behold Me; because I live, you shall live also.”
  - (A) Jesus promises to come to them and to be manifest to them, that they shall behold Him and in doing so shall have life
  - (B) the promise of His coming & manifestation to them was
    - (1) certainly fulfilled at His resurrection
    - (2) and at Pentecost, with the coming of another Helper
    - (3) and will be when He returns to earth to receive us to Himself
    - (4) but is also the case with every believer as in the next verse which also implies
- d. The Presence of the Father (20) – “In that day you shall know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”
  - (A) for by the Son’s very union both with the Father, and with us
  - (B) means the Father too is present with His people
- e. these promise of God’s presence leads to the love relationship that exists between God and His people

B. The Love Relationship . . . . . 14:21-24

- 1. Is Marked by Obedience (21) – “ 21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him.”
  - a. there is a strong connection in the NT between believing & obeying, so that Paul in Romans 16:26, refers to “the obedience of faith”
  - b. in this verse Jesus marks the strong connection between loving and obeying, that genuine love for God will be reflected in doing God’s will
    - (A) it is not simply enough to hold, i.e., to possess Christ’s commandments – although that is a great advantage in every way
    - (B) obedience not only proves but strengthens the love relationship between the Christian and his Lord
- c. there is a reflexive love from both the Father & Son that results from obedient love
  - (A) but wait: remember this, “We love, because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)
  - (B) obedience to Christ’s commandments does not bring salvation: it is our response in love to the salvation provided by God’s love: “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:10)

- d. before we loved God, He has loved us (John 3:16), and after we know Him we love Him, and His love for us is even more manifest as Jesus discloses Himself to us day by day
2. Judas' Question (22) – 22 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?"
- a. This is the fourth time in this discourse that one of the disciples has interrupted with a question;
- (A) first Peter, then Thomas and Philip, now Judas – the other Judas in the list of the 12 disciples – also called Thaddaeus or Lebbaeus
  - (B) it shows the friendship existing between the Rabbi & His disciples
  - (C) they felt free to ask about the things that puzzled them
  - (D) this was probably puzzling the other disciples as well
- b. How could this thing be?
- (A) the disciples were still expecting some miraculous manifestation of Jesus as the Messiah
  - (B) this is evident by their question after the resurrection shortly before His ascension into heaven: 'And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"' (Acts 1:6)
  - (C) in verse 19 Jesus said the world would not but they would behold Him; in verse 21 that Jesus would disclose (manifest, make visible) Himself to the disciples
  - (D) How could He show Himself as Messiah to His disciples without showing Himself to the world; how could Jesus rule in this way?
- c. The answer to this is to be found in ...
3. Messiah's Spiritual Rule (vv 23-24) – 23 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. 24 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."
- a. at first reading this does not seem to answer Judas' question: how can you be Messiah showing Yourself to us, but not to the world
- (A) but Jesus has been talking about the love relationship between God and His people
    - (1) in the OT, was the ruler – King – of Israel, and that had been established as a love relationship by the grace of God
    - (2) "Because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them. And He personally brought you from Egypt by His great power," (Deuteronomy 4:37)

- (3) this thought is repeated several times in Deuteronomy, and it should have made Israel want to obey God; some did, ...
- (B) and so should that love between God and us, lead us to desire to acknowledge Christ's sovereignty in our lives: He is Lord!
- (C) That is how Jesus can disclose Himself as Messiah to His disciples and not to the world, because He rules in their hearts
- b. but how shall we be able to obey his commandments?
  - (A) "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome." (1 John 5:3)
  - (B) where can we find the discernment to know His precepts?
  - (C) where find the power to do them? that is ...

C. The Holy Spirit's Work . . . . . 14:25-26

1. His Abiding Presence (25-26a) – 25 "These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, ..."
  - a. As Jesus spoke these words, He was there with His disciples
    - (A) He could answer their questions
    - (B) He could guide them, correct them, when they went astray
  - b. and the Holy Spirit was to take Christ's place with them
    - (A) not walking with them on the dusty roads of Judea & Galilee
    - (B) but residing within them, guarding them as had Jesus
  - c. in this verse again we have the Trinity acting together, Three Persons as One, each Person acting according to His own Personality in His relationship with the Others
    - (A) The Father sending the Spirit
    - (B) The Spirit bringing the Presence of God to His people
    - (C) The Son – "in My Name" – invoking the Father to do this
  - d. and their purpose is one
2. His Ministry to Believers (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 said to you."
  - a. This had, of course, a special meaning in the case of the disciples
    - (A) it was they who had personally heard His words, His teaching

- (1) but many times they did not understand and Jesus had to reprove them for their slowness in learning
- (2) the Holy Spirit would recall all those things to their memory
- (3) and now they would take on meaning
- (4) they would know the truth
- (B) also Jesus' words would come back to them as
  - (1) they preached from place to place
  - (2) and in some cases they wrote some portion of the NT
- b. now, though some people labour under the delusion that the Holy Spirit can give them the same prophetic & inspired power today
  - (A) it just is not so – we have the Holy Scriptures
  - (B) Jesus was the final word, the Holy Spirit inspired men to write, always in concord with Christ's teaching, never contradicting it
- c. but the Holy Spirit's still does this work in the believer
  - (A) first we need to read the Scriptures He has inspired
  - (B) then He will be able to teach us all things from them
  - (C) and only what we have read can we call upon Him to bring back to our memories in time of need

D. Peace . . . . . 14:27

1. [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 heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."](#)
  - a. Peace here is a beautiful jewel in the golden setting of the relationship of love between God and His people
    - (A) there is so much in this one verse that we can only highlight a few of its facets and leave its truth to fill your hearts
    - (B) this jewel is an inheritance – Jesus, departing, leaves it behind as a legacy for his people
    - (C) this jewel is a spiritual treasure which He divinely gives
  - b. The world in its casual way can say "Peace be with you" or "I wish you peace" but that has no power to bring any peace; but Jesus does
  - c. the times of peace in this world are fleeting; peace in Jesus Christ lasts
2. Peace of both Heart & Spirit
  - a. the disciples were anxious, worried, disturbed – Christ's peace is the antidote for these things
  - b. man's need is reconciliation with God – Christ's peace solves that

E. Jesus Our Example ..... 14:28-31

1. "28 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. 29 And now I have told you before it comes to pass, that when it comes to pass, you may believe. 30 I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; 31 but that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go from here."
  
2. Jesus has been speaking
  - a. the selfish love they had for them
    - (A) wanting Him to stay with them
    - (B) wanting Him to establish an earthly kingdom
    - (C) in this how the disciples differ from the master
  - b. the obedience that results from His love
    - (A) setting out in love to obey the Father
    - (B) He heads to Gethsemane, its agony and Judas' traitorous betrayal
    - (C) ... fight the ruler of this world, and defeat him
    - (D) ... take on the sins of the world who knew no sin

F. Conclusion

1. The Story of Rachel
  - a. Rachel is a preschooler, living with her mom and dad who is a pastor.
  - b. Recently, Rachel has been awakening in the middle of the night, afraid and crying. Only crawling into bed with her mom and dad soothes her fears. Then, mom announced to the family that she would be out of town for a few days on a business trip. Dad could see he needed to take pre-emptive action. "Rachel," he said, "I have an idea. While Mom is away, suppose I sleep in your room on the top bunk bed." She thought it was a great idea.
  - c. That night, Rachel went to sleep on time. A couple of hours later, when her dad crawled into the upper berth, she was sleeping soundly, and she slept like that all night. The next morning, her dad congratulated her on a full night's sleep.
  - d. "It's because you were in the room with me," she said. "But how did you know I was there?" he asked. "You were asleep when I came in and you never woke up the whole night."
  - e. Rachel said, "Because you said you would be there."

f. Father promised it and faith furnished it. <sup>-(3)}</sup>.

## 2. Jesus Promised

- a. in this passage that He – the Son of God –, that God the Father, that God the Holy Spirit would make their home with the believer
- b. they would be in that top bunk, as it were,
- c. so the believer can, indeed, exclaim

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

- d. Let us rejoice in these truths as we sing our closing hymn, “Peace, Perfect Peace”.



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ASV	American Standard Version of 1901
AV	Authorized (King James) Version of 1769
NAS	New American Standard version © 1960, 1995 The Lockman Foundation (usually the 1995 edition)
NIV	New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society
NLT	New Living Translation © 1996 Tyndale Charitable Trust
NKJV	New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version © 1989 National Council of Churches of Christ
WEY	The New Testament in Modern Speech © 1902, 1912 R. F. Weymouth

Some of the commentaries and resources used in the preparation of this message are identified as follow:

- Bruce – *The Gospel & Epistles of John*, by F. F. Bruce, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, MI; 1983
- BM – *Biblical Museum*, Editor James Comper Gray, ca 1870
- EBC – *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, © 1986 Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 49530, MI:  
*John*, by Merrill C. Tenney
- Kerux – The sermon & illustration data base compiled by Rev. David Holwick at the web-site, [www.holwick.com](http://www.holwick.com).
- LBBC -- *Layman’s Bible Book Commentary, Volume 18: John*, by James E. Carter; Broadman Press, Nashville, TE; 1984
- NICNT – *The New International Commentary on the New Testament*  
*The Gospel according to John*, by Leon Morris
- NTC – *New Testament Commentary*, by William Hendriksen; Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI; 1954
- RWP – *Robertson’s Word Pictures of the New Testament*, by Dr. A. T. Robertson
- TEC -- *The Gospel according to John*, by George Allen Turner & Julius R. Mantey, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, MI; ca 1965
- TTBC – *Thru the Bible Commentary Series*, by J. Vernon McGee; John 11-21; Thomas Nelson Publishers; 1991

2. Adapted from Kerux Illustrations, Resource #2920

3. Adapted from Kerux Illustrations, Resource #21663