

Something Even Better!

Christ Community Church

October 7, 2012

John 14-16 captures the last conversation Jesus had with His followers before He entered His trial, scourging and crucifixion

Last words are significant – He is preparing His followers for what was about to happen

Highly critical conversation as He would soon be leaving them

Everything they had grown accustomed to in their new life of following Jesus was about to radically change

They would undergo the greatest testing they had known

Would they make it, or would this tiny seed of the kingdom that Jesus had planted in the earth shrivel up and die?

Who were these men and women He was preparing?

A very mixed bag – all extremes of the political/socio-economic spectrum

Both extremes: a tax collector (collaborating with Rome against his own people) and a zealot (Jewish terrorist who believed in the violent overthrow of the Roman occupiers)

Not the sharpest knives in the drawer

Matthew 16:5-12 Beware the leaven of the Pharisees

Luke 22:35-38 Jesus is preparing them for what is about to happen to Him and to them, and their only response is to check to see how many swords they have

John 14:8-10 Philip – “Show us the Father”

Stuck in an old, outdated paradigm

Acts 1:1-6 “Is this when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?”

Insensitive, self-centered, and personally ambitious

Mark 10:32-45 Jesus shares about His upcoming torture and death, and James and John can only think about which thrones they will get to sit on. Other disciples became angry, not because of their insensitivity to Jesus, but because they wanted the best seats!

And this was all after they had spent about three and a half years in the very presence of Jesus - day in, day out, eating together, traveling together – hearing Him speak, watching Him heal and do miracles – doing life together

Oddly, Jesus actually sounds upbeat as He prepares His followers for what is to come. At this point, He doesn't seem discouraged in the least.

John 14:1 "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.

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John 14:11-16 Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do. I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring **glory** to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it! If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another Advocate**, who will never leave you.

The underlying purpose in ALL of this is to **glorify the Father!**

Jesus brings glory to the Father – the Holy Spirit glorifies the Son!

Another – one of two Greek words

Allos = one of the very same kind, same character – duplicate

Heteros = one of another kind, a different kind

Advocate/Friend

Para = alongside

Kaleo = to call, to invite, to speak, to beckon

Paraklete = someone who has come closely alongside of another person for the sake of speaking to him, consoling, him, comforting him, or assisting him with instruction, counsel, or advice

"I will pray to the Father, and He will send you Someone who is just like Me in every way. He will be identical to Me in the way He speaks, the way He thinks, the way He operates, the way He sees things, and the way He does things. He will be exactly like Me in every way. If the Holy Spirit is here, it will be just as if I am here because We think, behave, and operate exactly the same."

This motley crew was about to take over the walking out of Jesus' earthly ministry, and according to Him, they would do even greater works than He did! On what was His confidence based? Them? No, the Holy Spirit and His ministry!

John 14:17-20 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because **he lives with you now** and **later will be in you**. No, I will not abandon you as orphans--I will come to you. Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

No longer would they see Jesus with their natural eyes, hear Jesus with their natural ears, or touch Jesus' physical body. They were to be placed under the care of someone they would not be able to see, hear, or touch – and this, according to Jesus, would be MUCH BETTER!

The Holy Spirit had been with them while Jesus was with them. However, Jesus was talking about a time when the Holy Spirit would **live inside** them. This would be a game-changer!

Holy Spirit's ministry is to lead us into **ALL** truth. Leading speaks of a journey, not simply a destination. We can't enter into ALL truth ALL at once. It is a process.

The world isn't looking for and doesn't recognize Holy Spirit. Sadly, the same can be said for much of the church.

When we read/teach the Scriptures to simply get or present a picture of who Jesus was without living in the present reality of a Holy Spirit filled and guided life, we are like the disciples before the outpouring of the Spirit! We see Jesus, but we don't understand Him, and we struggle to live the life He invites us to live.

We're about as effective in life and ministry as they were prior to Pentecost.

What we have is so much better than a snapshot of Jesus! The question is: Are we accessing everything the Holy Spirit makes available to us when He takes up residence in us?

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John 14:26 But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative--that is, the Holy Spirit--he will **teach you everything** and will remind you of **everything** I have told you.

Jesus had total confidence of the success of the Holy Spirit's ministry in His followers! Not He might, or He could, but HE WILL teach you everything!

Holy Spirit's ministry is to teach us and to highlight and remind us of all that Jesus spoke. This He does from His home within us.

Re-mind – to change the way we think, to transform from the inside out

Ephesians 3:20 (MSG) God can do anything, you know – far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it **not by pushing us around but by working within us**, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

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John 15:26 "But I will send you the Advocate --the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify **all about me**.

Holy Spirit's ministry is to testify all about Jesus. Holy Spirit loves to talk about and reveal Jesus to us. He loves to give us understanding of the things that Jesus spoke – The WORD of GOD!

People say, "I read the Bible, but I don't understand it." Ask Holy Spirit to explain it to you. He wrote it. (Literature class in high school – what did the author mean when he wrote...? We know the author. He lives in us!)

John 16:5-15 But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you. But in fact, **it is best for you** that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me. Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged. There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will **guide you into all truth**. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will **tell you about the future**. **He will bring me glory** by telling you whatever he receives from me. **All** that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'

Jesus makes it clear that **something even better** than doing life with the incarnated Jesus is about to be released. These followers that we took a look at a few moments ago were the product of doing life with the physical Jesus. They had been Jesus' companions. But, that wasn't enough...

Something was about to happen that would turn this group of confused, fearful, xenophobic, selfish individuals into a team of loving, dynamic world-changers.

Acts 4:13-14 (MSG) They couldn't take their eyes off them – Peter and John standing there so confident, so sure of themselves! Their fascination deepened when they realized these two were laymen with no training in Scripture or formal education. They recognized them as companions of Jesus...

The religious leaders knew they had been with Jesus, but that wasn't why they were now so different. What the religious leaders failed to recognize was the impact that the indwelling Holy Spirit was having on these men, their speech, and their behavior.

Acts 17:6 (NASB) When they did not find them, they began dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have **upset the world** have come here also;"

Within a generation of Christ's ascension Paul could declare in Colossians 1:23, The Good News has been preached **all over the world!**

This was the same group of guys who earlier had been hiding out for fear of the religious establishment.

It was the "Something Even Better" that Jesus promised before He went to the cross! The Holy Spirit who would soon come and live within them!

And this is the same Holy Spirit who fills us, teaches us, transforms us, and guides us today! There isn't another version... You get the same One I get, Dave gets,

Graham Cooke gets, Bill Johnson gets, the disciples got. The question is: What are you doing with Him?

Jump to -

John 16:20-27 I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will **suddenly turn to wonderful joy**. It will be like a woman suffering the pains of labor. When her child is born, her anguish gives way to joy because she has brought a new baby into the world. So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and **no one can rob you of that joy**. **At that time** you won't need to ask me for anything. I tell you the truth, you will **ask the Father directly**, and he will grant your request because you use my name. You haven't done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy. I have spoken of these matters in figures of speech, but soon I will stop speaking figuratively and will **tell you plainly** all about the Father. Then you will ask in my name. I'm not saying I will ask the Father on your behalf, for the Father himself loves you dearly because you love me and believe that I came from God.

Jesus describes to them a time when all their sorrow, confusion, distress will turn to a joy that is supernatural in nature. He is describing what will happen when Holy Spirit fills them. It will be a joy that no one and nothing can take away!

When Holy Spirit fills them, they will receive a new status in their relationship with Father God – they will begin to commune with Him directly, not through Jesus. They had never done this before. They will experience a new authority as a result of Holy Spirit's presence in them.

When Holy Spirit fills them, Jesus will begin to tell them plainly about the Father, not through figures of speech. There is a whole new level of revelation available to them because the Holy Spirit lives inside them.

So... Let's review!

I will ask the Father, He will give you...

Holy Spirit

1. He never leaves us / lives in us – there will never be another situation, circumstance, or season in which we are left to ourselves and on our own. He and all He is are available to us at all times forever.
2. He leads/guides us into all truth – all truth means not just what we consider to be spiritual truth, but natural truth
3. He teaches us everything – teaching has to do with being able to properly apply truth so that transformation is the result
4. He reminds us of everything Jesus said
5. He tells us about Jesus
6. He tells us about the future

7. He brings Jesus glory by revealing what He receives from Jesus – Jesus has everything the Father has!
8. He fills us with His joy
9. He brings us to a new level of revelation of Father God
10. He brings us into a whole new level of spiritual authority

Invitation:

To be filled with the Holy Spirit

To be filled afresh with Holy Spirit (The disciples prayed for boldness in Acts 4:29 and were filled with the Holy Spirit again.)

To be continually aware of His presence within us and to lean on Him more and more for everything – to move into a life that in every way and at all times is characterized by the reality of God living with us!