

Introduction

Where do you find strength not only to cope in difficult times but to fulfil the purpose for which you were created? At a time when his disciples were feeling discouraged about him leaving resulting in a potentially uncertain future, Jesus promises a perfect substitute who would replace him and meet their needs beyond all expectation.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit Who Proceeds From the Father (v15-31)

a. Anticipating the disciples fears, Jesus seeks to alleviate their concerns by providing a long list of positive benefits associated with the coming of *another* helper (The Holy Spirit v17, 26) who would provide for these, and disciples throughout time, everything that they might ever need.

- Considering this list: **Faith** (v12a), **Great Works** (v12b), **Prayer** (v13-14) - from last weeks text in conjunction with **Love** (v15a) & **Obedience** (v15b) - from this weeks text, which of these would you categorise as strengths or weaknesses in your own life and why?
- How do you manage pride if you are accomplishing all in the above list & or depression when your unfaithful? (If you get stuck consider v18)
- The disciples walking with Jesus looked forward to the coming of *another* helper, what challenges do we face as we look back at these historical events?
- Our passage makes much of the disciples' relationship to Jesus' (v15, 21, 23, 28) in light of his very close relationship with the Father (v31), how can we practically develop a good *root* (love) & as a result good *fruit* (obedience) in our personal lives?

b. The Helper (v16 & 26), aka the Spirit of Truth, (v17), aka the Holy Spirit (v23) is prominent & passionately being described by the Lord Jesus as his perfect substitute.

- How has the person of the Holy Spirit impacted your life in regard to Jesus' description above (b)?
- Have you given much thought to the influential work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of others, christian or non-christian, if so what comes to mind? (see v24 & John 16:7-8)

c. The Lord Jesus repeats the comforting words heard at the beginning of this chapter (v1, v27) adding that his disciple need not be afraid and that he would provide for them a peace that was distinctive and personal. He also added that if they really grasped his promise based on his love for them (v28) that they would rejoice rather than experience anxiety.

- "There's a difference between understanding with the head vs understanding with the heart"
Do you agree or disagree with this statement and why?
- Do you think that fear is something christians battle with? Please give reasons for your answers

Conclusion

As the last Adam (1 Cor 15:45, Rom 5:14-19) Jesus was facing the greatest time of temptation ever experienced by anyone at any time. The serpent was preparing to strike in unprecedented fashion (v30) yet unlike the first Adam, Jesus would not fail but be fully obedient to the end displaying his great love for the Father (v31). The events of the next 96 hours would change the lives of the disciples forever, may we also experience the incredible power of the cross & resurrection in similar fashion.

Prayer

Thanksgiving for the promised Holy Spirit and all that he does in replacing Jesus as the 'helper'.
Grace to really believe Jesus' words and to be radically changed as a result.