

Life in His Name – Part 35
Preparation for Perseverance - John 14:15-30
Crosspoint – Dave Spooner – Nov. 12th, 2023

Intro:

- Difficulties, hardships, and heartbreak are a part of each of our stories. These things happen because we are fallen people living in a fallen world. All of us in the room have gone through these things, are going through these things, or will go through these things. Jesus equips us to endure and preps us so that we will persevere. From our text this morning, we are going to focus on three fundamental factors that will prove faithful to help and encourage us to overcome and endure every obstacle, hardship, and heartbreak.
- I am going to give you the three points right up front, and I want you to look for these elements as we read through our passage before we return and unpack each one. Here are the points:
 - **The importance of obedience.**
 - **The promise of another advocate.**
 - **The gift of peace.**

John 14:15-31 NIV

“If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

23 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

25 “All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

28 “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. 29 I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. 30 I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, 31 but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

“Come now; let us leave.”

The importance of obedience.

- This concept is repeated over and over in this passage, which points to the fact that in all things, and especially when going through difficulties, it is of utmost importance to continue to follow Christ and keep His commands.

John 14:15 NIV

If you love me, keep my commands.

- We prove we are believers in Christ if we love each other. We prove that we love Jesus by keeping His commands. If you love Christ, you will keep His commands—this is how we express our love for Him.
- With this in mind, we must ask ourselves, “What are His commands?” Taking a brief tour of the commands of Jesus through the book of John, this is what we have:
 - “Receive me” (John 1:12)
 - “Follow me” (John 1:43)
 - “Believe in the light” (John 12:36)
 - “Wash one another’s feet” (John 13:14)
 - “Do not let your hearts be troubled” (John 13:33)
 - “Love one another” (John 13:34)
 - “Believe in God” (John 14:1)
 - “Believe me” (John 14:11)
 - “Abide in me” (John 15:4)
 - “Ask whatever you wish” (John 15:7)
 - “Abide in my love” (John 15:9)
 - “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22)
- In summation, here is what we are to do: *receive, believe, ask, abide, love, serve, and follow*. If you love Jesus, this is what you are to be doing. Remember, these things are the outworking of the love we already have for Him, and they are done because of love and through love.

John 14:21 NIV

Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.

- Jesus now restates the command in reverse order, “how do you know if you love Jesus? - if you are keeping His commands.” And then Jesus adds another element: if we love Jesus, we will be loved by the Father, and if we love Jesus, He, of course, loves us and will show Himself to us. Love for Jesus is the key to seeing Jesus more and more.

John 14:23-24a NIV

Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching.

- Again, Jesus restates the importance of loving Him and obeying His teaching. Love and obedience are irrevocably connected. And for those who love God, God will make His home with them. The Apostle John sums up these teachings in his letter to the churches. He says this:

1 John 2:3-6 NIV

We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 4 Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

- Whoever claims to live in Jesus must live as Jesus did. This is evidence of our salvation. This is more than just “asking Jesus into your heart.” This is a real belief followed by real actions.
- At the end of this passage, Jesus concludes with some important information.

John 14:30-31

I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, 31 but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

- The “prince of this world” is coming. This is the devil, and Jesus said that the devil has no hold on Him. That is, Jesus does not have to do what the devil desires. The devil has nothing on Him, nor is He captive to or beholden to Him. This is also true of us. If we are in Christ, we are a “new creation” (2 Cor. 5:17), and in this new creation, we are free to follow Christ and are not bound to follow sin or the devil.
- Then we gain insight into why the devil is still free to work his evil; it is to allow the followers of Christ to show and prove their love of God as we choose to continue to obey God’s commands.
- I want you to remember that Jesus’s response in this section is to the question posed by Judas (not Judas Iscariot), “*But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?*” (John 14:22). Jesus did show Himself to the world by showing His love of the Father and the Father’s love to the world by obeying the Father by dying in our place. This is what Jesus showed the world.
- To those who believed, Jesus showed Himself in His resurrected form. Faith is the only lens through which we can see Jesus in His glory (see Matt. 5:8, Heb. 11:6). And because we believe in Jesus, He puts His Spirit in us so that people will see Him in us and believe in Him. This leads us to our next point, the promise of another advocate.

The promise of another advocate.

John 14:16 NIV

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—

- Jesus sent “another advocate.” So, who is the “other advocate?” The other Advocate is Jesus Himself. John tells us this in His letter to the churches.

1 John 2:1 NIV

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

- An advocate is someone who “supports and defends” you. Jesus indeed has done that and continues to do so through the ministry of the Spirit. The Spirit is here to help us in this way, and He will be with us forever. He is the Spirit of Truth.

John 14:17a NIV
the Spirit of truth.

- So, what this means is that Jesus, by the gift of the “Spirit of Truth,” will support us by the truth and defend us with the truth. This is the main way the Holy Spirit helps us, and this is the gift that is given to everyone who believes.

John 14:17b-20 NIV

The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

- Jesus was with us, and now He lives in us forever. He did not leave us as orphans to defend and provide for ourselves. He is here within us, and the only way you receive the Spirit of Truth is to believe in Jesus. Because His Spirit is now in you, you will live because He is alive. Jesus is in the Father, and we are in Jesus, and Jesus is in us, and what happened to Him will happen to us.

John 14:26 NIV

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

- The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, will teach us and remind us of what Jesus has said to us. The Holy Spirit illuminates the Scripture so we can understand it (we still need teachers; however, the Holy Spirit is the one who brings understanding), and then He reminds us of the truth of Scripture so that we can follow the commands.
- So, when you are experiencing hardship and heartache, keep loving Jesus and following His commands. Know that you are not alone and will never be alone. The Spirit of Truth will support you and defend you. You can and will stand up under it and overcome.
- The last thing we see in this passage that prepares us to persevere is the gift of peace.

The gift of peace.

John 14:27 NIV

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

- John 14:27 and John 14:1 say essentially the same thing. “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” We are not to be afraid. Why? Because Jesus gives us His peace. This is the peace He has within Himself, peace that is not bound by or provided by outward circumstances. This peace comes from a person, the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit, and is with us forever. This is a peace that comes from the promise that while Jesus is making a home for us in heaven, He is still with us in all seasons for the journey of our lives here on this earth. Then He will come and get us, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

- Jesus does not give us peace as the world gives, which is in the outward condition. He gives us a peace that “surpasses all understanding” (Phil. 4:7) because of the inward condition of our mind and our soul. We do not have to be afraid.

Conclusion

- Next week, Jim Black will preach our next text as we learn more from Jesus about the importance of abiding in Him, and how this helps us. This is another super important passage for you to understand, given from the heart of Jesus and communicated through the heart of a pastor and one of our shepherds here at Crosspoint.
- From today, please remember how important it is to continue to love Jesus by obeying His commands, especially in times of difficulty and darkness. Know that He is with you by His Spirit of Truth, supporting you and defending you. You are not alone. Know that Jesus has given us His gift of peace. Let your mind focus on His promise of what is to come; your ending is secure, and He will be with you even to the end of the age.
- If you need more prayer, please stay and pray with those who are here. They will be delighted to pray for you.
- Closing prayer.