

The Word Became Flesh
Week 42
John 14:15-26 (CSB)
“The Inheritance”

Introduction

In him we have also received an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will, so that we who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory. In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory. **Ephesians 1:11-14**

Any good parent will have the desire to see that their children are well provided for, not only while we are alive, but also after we are gone. This is why many people will communicate their final wishes in a legal will, in order to insure that their heirs are taken care of properly. Sandi and I have spoken together often as to how we would like to have our “meager estate” divided among our kids. We have our two biological children, as well as two adopted sons in Guatemala (not to mention all the ones that we have “semi-adopted” along the way).

In addition to our children, we have two grandchildren, with the most earnest desire to see that number grow exponentially as time passes! We want all of these to know how much we care for them. So, we would like to see to it that they do not feel forgotten or left out when our material possessions are divided. After all, life here on earth is both brief and precarious. Therefore, it is imperative to make such plans while you can.

In a similar way, before He went to the cross, Jesus wanted to assure His disciples that He had already made plans for their future here on earth. He told them that He **“would not leave them as orphans” (John 14:18)**. So He had already **“worked all things out for their good” (Romans 8:28)**, before He was to leave them. The message that He gave to them that evening was one of not only comfort, but also to serve as a reminder that He was leaving them with more work to do. The gospel was to be spread throughout the world by their testimony. And not only that, some of their writings (the gospel narratives) would be distributed far and wide to the places that they could not go. This is what He meant when He told them:

“Truly I tell you, the one who believes in Me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to My Father.” John 14:12

Everything that He said to them that evening was of great significance, not only for them, but for us as well. For all who believe in Him will be empowered by His Spirit, in order to perform the works that He has delegated to us. We cannot do His work in our own strength. Therefore, it was imperative that He made provision for us as well. Just like those disciples on that fateful spring night, Jesus has left behind, for those of us who believe, an inheritance. And it is because of this inheritance that we know not only that He loves us, but also that He has given us the power to become His ambassadors to this broken world. And what is our inheritance you might ask? He has left us with ***The Abiding Spirit, The Abiding Love and Presence of The Father and The Son***, and ***His Abiding Word*** to guide us. Please allow me to explain.

The Abiding Spirit (vs. 15-17)

***“If you love me, you will keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of Truth. The world is unable to receive Him because it doesn’t see Him or know Him. But you do know Him, because He remains with you and will be in you.*”**

It is important to note that the verses which precede these are all part of the same thought. Jesus had promised His disciples that anything requested “in His Name” would be given. To take this promise by itself, out of context with the following verses will obscure its true meaning. The prayers and the obedience are inseparably linked. Therefore, when we pray in “Jesus Name”, we are praying for the strength to do “Jesus will”. It isn’t some magic formula to get what we want, but rather, it is the empowerment for us to do as *He* wants! Let us now link those verses together in order to discern their proper context.

“Whatever you ask in My Name, I will do it SO THAT The FATHER MAY BE GLORIFIED IN THE SON. If you ask Me anything in My Name, I will do it. If you love Me, you will keep My commands.” **John 14:14-15 (emphasis added)**

Now, how is it exactly that The Father and The Son are glorified by waiting on us hand and foot? Answer: They are not! God The Father and The Son are glorified, when this world sees them performing “God sized” kingdom works *through us!* That is the proper context of praying in Jesus Name. Don’t let the false prophet televangelists tell you otherwise.

After this, Jesus goes on to speak of the inheritance that every believer will receive in order to obey the commands of Christ. First, know this, everyone who truly *believes* in Christ will also truly *love* Christ. And because they genuinely love Him, they will naturally long to obey Him as a result. But it doesn’t take long for the believer to learn that being obedient to Jesus’ commands does not exactly coincide with our fleshly desires. In fact, these two things are diametrically opposed to one another. Therefore, we need spiritual empowerment in order to pray for Jesus’ will and to obey Him. This is where our inheritance comes in!

Jesus promised His followers that He would send “another Counselor” to be with us. Now, in the Greek, there are two very common words used to say “another”. One is “heteros”, meaning “another of a different kind”. And the other word commonly used is “allos” meaning “another of the same kind”. Here in this verse Jesus uses “allos”. This means that He is sending another counselor that is of the “same kind” as Himself. He is referring here to The Holy Spirit, Who, just as Christ Himself is God, He also is the same as God. The Three... Father, Son and The Spirit, are One and the same. They are the three persons of The Trinity. All separate, and yet, all equally form The Godhead.

So The Holy Spirit is our inheritance. He will enable us to pray in Jesus Name, in order to obey Jesus commands. Simply put, He enables us to prove out our love for Christ in the way that we live! The word that Jesus uses to describe The Spirit translated “Counselor” in the CSB is actually “parakletos” in the Greek. This word cannot be accurately translated using one simple English word. It literally means “one who is called alongside”. The KJV translates this word as “Comforter”, which is actually a closer description. The word *Comfort* in English is derived from two separate words, “Com” meaning “with” and “Fort” meaning “Strong”. So the word literally means “with strength”. A comforter then, adhering to this original context, is someone who comes along side another in order to “give strength”. This is exactly what The Spirit does in every believer. He comes alongside us, literally taking up residence within us, in order to give us the strength that we need to obey the commands of Christ.

Jesus promised that this Comforter would “remain” (“meno” in the Greek, meaning *to abide permanently*) in us, giving us everything that we would need to be obedient. Therefore, every true follower of Christ has living within them the permanent resident of God’s Holy Spirit. He is God with us. So every believer has become a literal temple of God’s Holy Spirit.

Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit Who is in you Whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

Jesus went on to say that the world is unable to receive The Spirit. Why? Because the only way to receive Him is to believe in Jesus. To reject Christ is to be forever walking in Spiritual blindness, without the guiding light of God's Spirit. He is the "inheritance deposit" (**Ephesians 1:14**), guaranteeing all that we are to receive by placing our faith in Christ Jesus. He comforts (gives us the strength), so that we may bring glory and honor to God until Christ returns to take us to that place which He has prepared for us (**John 14:1-3**).

The Abiding Father and Son (vs. 18-23)

"I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live too. On that day you will know that I am in My Father, you are in Me, and I am in you. The one who has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me. And the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father. I also will love him and will reveal Myself to him." Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it you're going to reveal Yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus answered, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make our home with him.

I absolutely love every single thing about this passage! Jesus has promised not to leave his followers "out in the cold", as it were. His promise to His disciples was that they would see Him again. This, of course, is in reference to His resurrection, which absolutely vanquished every doubt they ever had about Who He was. But the meaning is also much deeper. It is a promise of His very presence to those who would come to faith in Him. We know that Jesus is real, because we can feel His presence.

Jesus tells His disciples that, **"On that day you will know that I am in My Father, you are in Me, and I am in you. (vs. 20)**. The "day" to which He is referring is the day of Pentecost, when The Spirit of The Living God descended like a mighty rushing wind and filled all the believers in the room (**Acts 2**). This was the beginning of "The Church Age", and since that day, everyone who has placed their faith in Christ has received The Spirit of God. The Spirit has baptized us into Christ, and just as He is in The Father, we are in Him and are, therefore, in The Father as well. And Christ is in us! This is an indissoluble union. We are eternally secure in Him, for He has made us one. His presence shows His love *for* us and reveals Him *to* us. We have not seen Him with our eyes, as the disciples did, but yet, we have "seen" Him by the reality of The Spirit living within us.

You are being guarded by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials so that the proven character of your faith — more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire — may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; though not seeing Him now, you believe in Him, and you rejoice with inexpressible and glorious joy, because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls." **1 Peter 1:5-9**

Judas, the son of James (**Luke 6:16**), often called "Thaddeus" was another one of Jesus' more "timid" disciples. He was confused as to how Jesus, The Messiah Who would come to rule the world according to *The Old Testament* prophecies, could do this by only revealing Himself to a select few. Obviously, he did not fully comprehend what was going on. He had just witnessed the triumphal entry into Jerusalem. This was the kind of Messiah that He had expected. Now Jesus was speaking of being

hidden to all, but a select few. How was it possible for The Messiah to rule over the inhabitants of the earth and not be seen by many of them? What he did not understand was that The King of The Universe would have not only a first coming, but a second coming as well. Jesus did not completely address Judas' question, for He knew that once He had risen from the dead, and His followers were filled by The Spirit, then all their doubts and questions would be resolved. He simply replied,

...*"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make our home with him."* **John 14:23**

I LOVE that! The word that Jesus uses here for "home" is the same word that He used at the beginning of the chapter for "rooms".

"In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?" **John 14:2**

So do not miss this. In this passage, Jesus has told us that He is preparing a room (*mone'* in the Greek) for us. But in the mean time, if we love Him, which is proven by our obedience, He and The Father will love us and will come and make their abode (*mone'* translated "home" in the CSB) with us! Is that not amazing? God will come and "room" with us until we are called home to "room" with Him! We have within us the very presence of The Living God, Who has revealed Himself to those who love and obey His Word. What an incredible inheritance we have received in Christ Jesus! Only those who love Christ, can receive the love of God in this way. The world has rejected His love, and therefore it cannot "see" Him. But those who believe have embraced this love, and God Himself has come to live within us!

The Abiding Word (vs. 24-26)

"The one who doesn't love Me will not keep my words. The word that you hear is not Mine but is from the Father Who sent Me. I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you."

So, Christ has promised that The Father, Son, and Spirit will abide with us, if we love Him and obey His commands. And once again, He reminds His followers that His Words are from The Father. Every command, along with every promise that He has given them, has come directly from God. His Word is God's Word. For Jesus is The Word made flesh (**John 1:14**). When we believe in Him, He promises to abide in us, and as we love Him and live according to His Word, then we will abide in Him. Those who do not love Him will not obey and do not have the revelation of Him that the believers have.

He then ties The Spirit back to The Word. For this is how the Comforter strengthens us. He uses The Word to instruct us. He uses The Word to reveal Christ to us. He uses The Word to convict and correct us. The Word of God holds the commands that we have been given to obey as proof of our love for Him. Apart from The Spirit and The Word, we are powerless to please The Father. The Spirit uses The Word of God to teach us and remind us of all things.

The disciples weren't understanding everything that Jesus was telling them on the night before He went to the cross. But He assured them that when The Spirit came, that He would both remind them of all that they had heard, as well as, teach them what every word had meant! And we know that this happened exactly as He promised, for we are studying The Gospel of John written so many years later! The Spirit had brought the recollection of it all back to John, and not only did he remember everything in such wondrous detail, he finally understood the significance of it all. The Spirit had taught him what The Word had meant. And He is still doing this for us today. The Spirit takes The Word and makes it understandable to those who believe.

Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but The Spirit Who comes from God, so that we may understand what has been freely given to us by God. We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by The Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people. But the person without The Spirit does not receive what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluated spiritually. The spiritual person, however, can evaluate everything, and yet he himself cannot be evaluated by anyone. For who has known The LORD'S mind, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ. **1 Corinthians 2:12-16**

So how is it that we are able to believe in Christ, love Christ, and follow Christ. We have been empowered by our inheritance, The Spirit of The Living God, Who abides within us! He uses The Word of God to teach us the things of God, and reveal to us The Person of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God for this great inheritance! We are the heirs of Christ Jesus.

For all those led by God's Spirit are God's sons. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received The Spirit of adoption, by Whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit Himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, and if children, also heirs — heirs of God and coheirs with Christ — if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed in us. **Romans 8:14-18**

So remember this: There are no orphans in Christ Jesus... only heirs!

And let the adopted children of The LORD say... TRUTH!!!