

Bible Study Guide: Week of 5-16-2022

1. Read through the passage below
2. Read my notes and commentary
3. Read the questions at the end and ponder or discuss with others

Pastor Andrew

John 14:23-29

²³Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

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Jesus responds to the question of Judas (not Judas Iscariot, but another disciple named Judas). This Judas has asked Jesus, “How is it that you will reveal yourself to us but not to the world?” At first glance, this is not much of an answer to that question. Yet Jesus is indeed revealing his plan for the disciples and for their ministry to them. Here, Jesus promises that those who love him (i.e. his disciples) will “keep” his commandments. This word “to keep” in Greek can mean to guard, to preserve, or to watch over. This is a careful and intentional observance and obedience that the disciples will undertake. Jesus promises mutual love—those who love him will be loved by him and the Father and indeed he and the Father will come to them and dwell with them. Jesus also emphasizes the unity of his word with the Father’s word.

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Jesus speaks to the disciples while he is still with them, seemingly aware that they will not yet understand his words fully. He does so with the knowledge and confidence that the Spirit will do the work of reminding the disciples of Jesus’ words and the work of leading the disciples forth in mission and ministry. Here, the close connection between the gift of the Holy Spirit and the peace of Jesus foreshadows the eventual gift of the Spirit and peace in John 20 when Jesus bids the disciples “peace,” breathes on them, and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit...”

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In v. 28 when Jesus says, “If you loved me...” he is really saying to them, “Since you love me, you should be rejoicing that I’m going to the Father.” While they are sad and confused because he is leaving them, Jesus knows

that ultimately his departure will be for their greater good. He wraps up this section of the dialogue by letting them know that he is telling this to them in advance in order to influence their faith later on down the road.

Discussion/Reflection Questions:

- 1. In v. 23 Jesus says that he and the Father will make their home with those who love them and keep his word. Yet earlier in chapter 14 (14:2ff) Jesus says that he is going to prepare a place in the Father's house for the disciples. How do we reconcile this seeming difference?**
- 2. Why do you think it is significant that Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as the "Advocate?"**
- 3. Jesus says he gives peace "not as the world gives." How does the world give peace? How does this differ from the peace Jesus gives?**