

Bible Study Guide: Week of 6-6-2022

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 16:12-15

[Jesus said to his disciples], “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

[Jesus said to his disciples], “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

This passage takes place during Jesus’ farewell discourse on his last night with the disciples. Jesus’ words throughout this section of John’s gospel are intended to prepare the disciples for Jesus’ hour of suffering and glory. Here Jesus acknowledges that there is still much the disciples do not know, but also that they are not yet capable of understanding or dealing with the “many things” Jesus has to share with them.

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Jesus shows his trust in God here because he is confident that the Spirit of truth (whom he has promised the Father will send) will bring this work to completion and will guide his followers “into all the truth.” The main emphasis here, however, is on the unity of the work and witness of the Spirit, Son, and Father. The Spirit’s words will not be a new message, but rather an echo of what Jesus has already said to them. The Spirit’s work will not be new, but rather will be a continuation of the work God has done through the Son.

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Again, notice the unity between the Father, Son, and Spirit here. Jesus says, “All that the Father has is mine,” yet in the same breath he says, “The Spirit will take that and declare it to you.” So all that belongs to the Father belongs to the son and to the Spirit and the three persons—Father, Son, and Spirit—are united in their witness and purpose of loving the world and the disciples and sharing life and relationship with those whom God loves.

Discussion/Reflection Questions:

1. **Why do you think we have this reading for Holy Trinity Sunday?**
2. **What do you think Jesus means by saying he still has “many things” to tell the disciples? What do you think he is referring to?**
3. **Why do you think it is important that “the Spirit does not speak on his own, but speaks whatever he hears?”**