

THE OTHER COUNSELOR

With Jesus in the Upper Room, John 14

March 14, 2021

"If you love me you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth."
John 14:15

Two observations to begin

- 1) This is Jesus' personal good-bye moment with his disciples, but it reads like a sermon!
- 2) There is great Trinitarian meaning in this passage – Father, Son and Spirit of truth

Who should be troubled?

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

John 14:1-4

- 1) Jesus has predicted betrayal and denial and his going, but he is the one who should be troubled
- 2) The "many rooms" are a promise of Jesus' provision, not extravagance, even when he leaves
- 3) The disciples could only know the way because they knew Jesus

Thomas' question: How can we know the way?

⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

John 14:3-14

- 1) The way is evangelistic and exclusive, but mostly the way is following Jesus – that's truth and life!
- 2) Jesus presents a test of any spirituality – when I meet him do I know I've met God?

Philipp's request: Show us the Father

⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. ¹² I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

John 14:3-14

- 1) Key principle: When I have met Jesus revealed in Scripture, I have met the Father
- 2) Jesus restates the test of spirituality: one will recognize the work of God in the life of Jesus
- 3) We "do greater things" because _____

Another Counselor

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to 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 obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

John 14:15-21

- 1) The "another" Counselor is our bequest from the Father at the request of the Son
- 2) *paraclete* ("one called along side") is hard to translate
 - Comforter: KJV
 - Counselor: NIV
 - Helper: ESV, NKJV, NASB, Good News
 - Praised One: Aramaic, *ahmed*, which is a shortened form of Muhammed
 - Friend: *The Message*
 - Advocate: NET, NLT, NRSV
 - Holy Spirit: *The Story of Jesus*
- 3) Only with the "help" of the Holy Spirit will I pass Jesus' test of spirituality

Judas' (the other Judas!) question: What about the world?

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, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ He 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 Counselor, 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.

John 14:22-27

- 1) The problem is not with the Counselor; the problem is with the world
- 2) Another role of the Spirit of truth will be to teach _____ (see Matthew 28:19-20)
- 3) There is a difference with the world's peace: _____

The conclusion: Jesus is leaving, but that's good news!

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 speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, ³¹ but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

"Come now; let us leave.

John 14

- 1) Jesus' "going away" and "coming back" are immanent – we are looking at cross and resurrection
- 2) The ultimate moment of spiritual warfare is the cross
- 3) The ultimate sign to the world that God is at work is the cross
- 4) The ultimate obedience is the cross – the "full extent" of Jesus love for his Father and his followers

Kim Riddlebarger's sermon on John 14 at <https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/T%20Am%20the%20Way.pdf>