

THE PROMISE OF THE COMFORTER

BIBLE TEXT : John 14:15-31 John 16:1-33

LESSON 237 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13)

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

John 14:15-31

¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.

¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

¹⁷ *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

¹⁸ I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

¹⁹ Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

²⁰ At that day ye shall know that I *am* in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

²¹ He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

²² Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

²³ Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

²⁴ He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

²⁵ These things have I spoken unto you, being *yet* present with you.

²⁶ But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

NOTES:

A Warning

This was Jesus' farewell sermon to His disciples. He gave them some words of warning concerning the persecution that they would go through. Then when the suffering came, they need not be fearful nor surprised. Some people would do harm to the disciples and think that they had done a great service to God. They would act in such a manner because they did not believe in Jesus. They believed in God — but not in Jesus.

Saul

There is an interesting account of one such person, who persecuted the Christians and thought that he was doing service to God. His name was Saul of Tarsus, later called Paul. As Saul journeyed to Damascus with letters of authority to imprison any disciples of Jesus, the Lord revealed Himself to him (Acts 26:15). A great light from Heaven was so bright that Saul was blind for three days. The voice of the Lord called his name, and Saul answered, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6). Saul followed the instructions of the Lord. He prayed and was saved. Saul became a missionary and a great witness to the power of God.

Jesus to Leave Them

When Jesus told His disciples that it was necessary for Him to go away, their hearts were filled with sorrow. Jesus said, "A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father." The disciples could not understand what Jesus meant. He explained to them that there would be a time of sorrow for them while the world rejoiced. But the time of weeping would not last. There would come a time of great rejoicing. Jesus was to leave them, at which time they would be sorrowful; but Jesus was to appear to them again, bringing great joy to them.

A Comforter

With words of encouragement, Jesus gave the disciples a wonderful promise that the Comforter would come to them after Jesus had gone. Who is the Comforter? The Comforter is the Holy Ghost (John 14:26), who is a Member of the Trinity. He is one of the Three "that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one" (I John 5:7). What would the Comforter do? He would guide the disciples into all truth, for He is the "Spirit of truth" (John 16:13). He would bring to their remembrance the things which Jesus had told them and which they had not understood (John 14:26).

Comfort and Help

Jesus was not going to leave the disciples alone to spread the Gospel. Jesus said that He would pray to the Father who would send the Comforter. The Holy Ghost would both comfort and help them. He would help them to know the truth. He would teach the disciples. "For the Holy Ghost shall teach you . . . what

²⁷ Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

²⁸ Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come *again* unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

²⁹ And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.

³⁰ Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

³¹ But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.

John 16:1-33

¹ These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.

² They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

³ And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

⁴ But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.

⁵ But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou?

⁶ But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart.

⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

⁹ Of sin, because they believe not on

ye ought to say" (Luke 12:12).

Witnesses

Another work of the Holy Ghost would be to testify and witness of Jesus with the disciples. By so doing, the Holy Ghost would glorify Jesus. The Lord had told the disciples before that they would have power to do even greater works than He had done (John 14:12). "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me" (Acts 1:8).

Conviction

Jesus said that the Holy Ghost would reprove the world of sin. As the Spirit of truth, He would show men the true condition of their lives. By knowing the truth, they would have a chance to repent and be saved. "The truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). The Spirit convicts one of his sin. Conviction leads to repentance and salvation. One must realize that he is a sinner before he can go to God for forgiveness.

There is an example in the life of Peter that the Holy Ghost reproves of sin. After Peter had received the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost, he preached a sermon to a multitude. When the people heard Peter's words, "they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" The Holy Ghost had convicted them of their sins. Peter told them to repent. Many believed his words, and 3,000 people were converted that day (**Acts 2:37-41** ³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do? ³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ³⁹ For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call. ⁴⁰ And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. ⁴¹ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.).

One day Felix, the governor, sent for Paul, "and heard him concerning the faith in Christ." As he listened to Paul, the Holy Ghost convicted Felix. "As he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled" (Acts 24:24, 25). He did not repent. He sent Paul away, but the Spirit of truth had been faithful to reprove him.

Righteousness

Jesus said that the Holy Ghost would also witness of righteousness. Jesus would be gone. No longer could people see the example of righteousness in Jesus' life. But none would have an excuse, because the Spirit of truth would witness to a life of righteousness, and would convince men that they should live right. Jesus not only gave the example but He also gave the power to live right. Only through Jesus and His righteousness can we be righteous (**2 Corinthians 5:21** ²¹ For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.). Because Jesus was obedient, even so far as to give His life and die for us, we can be made righteous through His Blood (**Romans 4:25** ²⁵ Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. **Romans 5:19** ¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.).

me;

¹⁰ Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

¹¹ Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

¹² I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

¹⁴ He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

¹⁵ All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

¹⁶ A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.

¹⁷ Then said *some* of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father?

¹⁸ They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith.

¹⁹ Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me?

²⁰ Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

²¹ A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.

A part of the work of the Holy Ghost would be to convince men of righteousness. It is necessary that we live godly, holy, and righteous lives if we would enter Heaven. In speaking to His disciples, Jesus said, "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5: 20). The scribes and Pharisees were religious people, but Christ expects His people to live more than a religious life. To live righteously is required of the followers of Jesus. We are told to put on the whole armor of God, a part of which is "the breastplate of righteousness" (Ephesians 6:14). We are warned to flee the things which are evil and "follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life" (I Timothy 6:11, 12).

Judgment

The Holy Ghost will also reveal that there is a judgment. Satan, as prince of this world, is judged; but so will each person stand before the Judge of all the earth. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Corinthians 5:10).

The Comforter

The Holy Ghost, who was to comfort and to help, could not be received by the people of the world (**1 John 5:17** ¹⁷ *All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death*). Jesus promised that God would send the Comforter to His disciples. Who were Jesus' disciples? They were the people who were saved, and who followed Jesus. He said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed" (John 8:31).

Jesus told His disciples how they might have this Comforter. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). A true test of their love was the keeping of Jesus' commandments, an obedience to all His words. He not only taught sanctification, but Jesus also set the example that His followers "also might be sanctified" (John 17:19).

Sanctification, the second work of grace, is an experience for those who are saved. It cleanses the heart from inbred sin and takes out the root of evil. It comes as one prays and consecrates his life more fully to God. It is the will of God that Jesus' followers receive sanctification. "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification" (I Thessalonians 4:3). One must do the will of God in order to be a disciple. Two experiences — salvation and sanctification — come before the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and are necessary to qualify a person to receive the Comforter.

The disciples were told that the Comforter would come to abide. He would not only dwell with them, or just visit them, but He would do even more than that. He would dwell in them (John 14:17). This did come to pass on the Day of Pentecost in an upper room in Jerusalem where Jesus' followers were praying. "They were all filled with the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:4). It was not only to the Jewish followers of Jesus that the Holy Ghost was given. Some time later "on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost". (Acts 10:45).

Promise for Today

This promise of the Comforter is for us, today, who are followers of Jesus and are obedient to His Word. "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts

²² And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

²³ And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you.

²⁴ Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

²⁵ These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

²⁶ At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

²⁷ For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

²⁸ I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.

²⁹ His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb.

³⁰ Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.

³¹ Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?

³² Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

³³ These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

2:39). When we consider what this promised Comforter will do for us, do we not all want to have Him in our lives? Have you received the Comforter — the Holy Ghost?

Jesus' Command

One of the last commands that Jesus gave was "tarry ye ... until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). Jesus commanded His disciples to "wait for the promise of the Father,... For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost" (Acts 1:4, 5). You are not keeping all His commandments if you have not received the Holy Ghost. Pray and consecrate your life to God until you, too, receive this gift. Jesus said, "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you" (John 16:23).

The Promise

Jesus comforted His disciples with the promise of the Holy Ghost, and by leaving His peace with them. Before He left them, Jesus said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Because Jesus overcame the world, we, too, can be overcomers. "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" (I John 5:4, 5).

QUESTIONS

- 1 To whom was the Comforter promised?
- 2 Into what would the Spirit of truth guide the disciples?
- 3 What would He bring to their remembrance?
- 4 Where was the Holy Ghost to dwell?
- 5 Who would give the disciples the power to be witnesses for Jesus?
- 6 If we love Jesus, what will we keep?
- 7 Who in Bible times received the Holy Ghost?
- 8 Who can receive the Holy Ghost today?
- 9 How does one get the Comforter?
- 10 Why should we receive the Holy Ghost into our lives?