

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ “If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and 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 keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

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, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Anyone 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 Advocate, 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.

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 say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, ³¹ but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

“Come now; let us leave.

1. In verse 15, how does Jesus say his disciples are to show their love for him?

Jesus’ disciples love him by keeping his commands which are to love God and love one another. In doing so people will know that we are Jesus’ disciples, they will recognize Jesus in us.

2. What promise does Jesus make to his disciples in verse 16?

That he will ask the Father to send another advocate to help them and be with them forever.

3. In verse 17, who is this one that will be another advocate for the disciples? (See also verse 26)

The Spirit of truth; the Holy Spirit.

4. Why can’t the world accept this advocate? Why can only the disciples/followers of Jesus accept him?

The world neither sees him nor knows him, The disciples however accept him because he lives in them.

5. What does Jesus mean when he tells his disciples he will not leave them as orphans?

Jesus is using a metaphor. An orphan is a child who has lost his parents. In Jesus’ day that metaphor was used to describe disciples who lost their teacher. Jesus is promising that although he will be killed, his disciples will not be abandoned to fend for themselves. He is providing the Holy

Spirit to guide them. He reminds them that he is in them and they are in him if they continue to obey his commandments (if they continue in the love he has taught them).

6. Who is this Judas that asks Jesus why he intends to show himself to us and not to the world?

John says it is not Judas Iscariot. Some commentators try to link this name to one of the twelve in other lists of disciples. But John does not limit the last discourse to only the twelve disciples, there may have been others present as well. Short answer is that we do not know who this Judas is other than he was there hearing Jesus teach and from the nature of his question, he does not get what Jesus is trying to say about Jesus showing himself to the disciples and not the world; that the revelation of Jesus comes through obeying his commandments; we know him through our obedience to his teachings. Since the world rejects his teachings, the world cannot see or know him.

7. What will the Advocate do for Jesus' followers in Jesus' physical absence from them?

The Advocate will teach them all things and remind them of everything that Jesus had said to them.

8. What does Jesus mean in verse 27 by "his peace"?

Jesus contrasts his peace with that of the world. The world's idea of peace is the lack of conflict and or the promise of security. Jesus' meaning of peace is that which comes from the assurance of his presence with them. His love, his life, his teaching, and his empowerment live in the hearts of his followers and give them an insight which the world cannot know.

9. What does Jesus mean by not being troubled and afraid?

It is a call to have courage in the face of their new circumstances, which they can have because Jesus will be with them.

10. What does Jesus mean when he says "if you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father?"

Jesus is making the point that his departure is fulfillment of God's plan and the disciples should be glad that Jesus's obedience will bring that about. In John 3:29-39 we find a similar saying from John the Baptist who notes that Jesus will increase, and he will decrease, which brings him joy because God's plan is progressing.

11. Who is this "prince of this world" of whom Jesus speaks in verse 30?

He is speaking of Satan who is coming to kill Jesus. Satan has no power to do so. It is only by Jesus' willingness to die that he will be killed. He does so that the sacrifice for the sins of the world will be made on the cross.

12. What does Jesus mean by "the world may learn that I love the Father"?

Jesus' obedience to the Father, that he give his life, is proof of his love for God. Likewise, Jesus has told his disciples that if they are obedient to him, that shows their love for him.