

"Jesus Counsels Us With A Comforting Promise" Easter 6

1) Jesus promises to care for us John 14:15-21

2) Jesus promises to be with us May 17, 2020

May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance. (2 Thess. 3:5)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Do you remember your first day in a new school? First day in college? Mom and dad dropped you off and said good-bye to their baby. A few tears were shed. Last minute encouragement was given.

Have you had to say good-bye to a loved one recently? Maybe you haven't been able to see your parents due to health concerns and risks.

Over the last 14 years I've heard from many members who have had to say good-bye to a loved one at death. It is a difficult time full of emotion. For a believer we know that it isn't goodbye, but until we meet again – in heaven.

Imagine you are one of Jesus' disciples. Jesus tells you he is going to leave the world. The disciples were ridden with anxiety and fear when Jesus, their best friend and teacher, said he was going to leave them. He was about to physically leave them, but he promised to remain with them through faith. In the same way, **Jesus counsels us with a comforting promise—He promises to care for us and promises to be with us.** And that's what we want to think about this morning...as we continue with our sermon series – "What happens when our plans fall through...when we forget how to live."

Jesus was about to depart his disciples. He counseled them with many comforting words of promise in ch. 13-17 of John before his death on the cross. The disciples had many questions. v. 5—**Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?** Philip asked Jesus to v. 8 **show us the Father and that will be enough for us.** Jesus taught them many things concerning God's kingdom. The disciples' fear was that they would be lost and wouldn't know the way to heaven.

Jesus continues to say in v.17—**The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him.** Jesus had just

finished telling his disciple that v. 6—**I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.** What powerful words of comfort for the disciples.

Jesus doesn't leave us forever in the same way he didn't leave the disciples forever. We have a special gift that Jesus has given us.

Jesus promises to care for us

He told the disciples 16—**And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth.**

How do you show someone that you really do care for them? You're with them. You listen to them. You go out of your way to do nice and kind things for others. Jesus shows that he cares for us by what he does for us.

He has sent us another counselor.

Note the choice of words that Jesus used to speak of himself and the Holy Spirit. He calls the Holy Spirit—**another Counselor—the Spirit of truth.**

Jesus is the first counselor. The Bible tells us that Jesus speaks to God the Father in our defense – speaking to him in heaven. Who is speaking on our behalf here on earth?

Some translations say – Comforter. It makes the Holy Spirit sound like a quilt. Counselor? Is what the NIV here uses. I'd like you to think of it as a "legal advocate."

Who is the Holy Spirit and what does he do?

Para-klete = "to stand beside" and "to declare, call, argue"
"Legal Advocate"

- Represents you, is loyal to you, is for you in the strongest sense. Defends you against your enemies in every sense.

Romans 8:15-16 – **¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "*Abba*, Father."¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.**

The Scripture argues with you that you are his child. God has not abandoned you when you go through difficulty.

1 John 3:19-20 – ¹⁹ **This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence** ²⁰ **whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.**

The Holy Spirit doesn't point to himself, he points to Jesus. Jesus suffered and die to take away our sins and the sins of the entire world. To every worry, fear, anxiety and doubt – the Holy Spirit argues and advocates when he speaks to them and tells you how you are dearly loved by God.

1. Jesus promises to care for us

Imagine you were one of the disciples and your best friend Jesus told you he was leaving, but, he also said you will never see me here, like this, again—things were going to change. They were fearful of what was going to happen. They had spent a lot of time with Jesus that he became very near and dear to them. He spent countless hours teaching them. He showed them miracles that proved that he really was true God. They were afraid that life was not going to go on without him—they couldn't take the change because now they felt abandoned.

We've felt that way before too, haven't we? Feeling alone or abandoned? Jesus promises to be with us. How? The disciples wouldn't see Jesus for a time – when he was in the tomb. And when 40 days after his resurrection he would ascend into heaven.

Jesus is with us – b/c the Holy Spirit to be with us. The Bible describes having an in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit. This happens through faith.

- Romans 10:17 – faith comes from hearing the message
- Romans 1:16 – the gospel is the power of salvation for those who believe. It's literally like dynamite.

Jesus gave us that promise to be with us and to never leave us through the waters of baptism. We received the Holy Spirit into our hearts—faith was created. We continue to nourish that faith through his Word—where he tells us that he will never leave us or forsake us. That he will walk the road of life with us, carrying us all the way. To not be afraid of anything. Why? B/c he conquered the sin that leads to death on the cross. We remember

that he is with us in the Lord's Supper through the bread and wine that is Christ's body and blood. See—I am right here with you, comforting you—your sins are forgiven.

Do you feel alone? Are you worried about your sins? Do you wonder when you're going to be able to say hello again to your loved one.

Our final destination as believers, upon receiving the Holy Spirit through faith is heaven. We might think that Jesus is not with us. But he tells us in v. 3 that he has a room prepared and waiting for us in heaven. I will come to take you to be with me. 18—**I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.** Today, he comes to us through the means of grace—I am right here standing beside you. There is no need to worry or be afraid, 19b—**Because I live, you also will live.**

2. Jesus promises to be with us

We aren't able to celebrate the Lord's Supper now for a time, but we know it will end soon. Thankfully Jesus promises to be with us through faith. The Holy Spirit works through the word to make Jesus king of our hearts.

How many times in a day are you filled with doubts? Worries? Run to Jesus. Run to his word. There you are reminded how much Jesus cares for you. There you are reminded Jesus is with you. You are never alone.

Let's pray – Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for sending another counselor into our lives. Help us to be filled with the Spirit that we may receive his counseling as he advocates for us. We ask that you fill us with your Spirit as you send us out into the world to live Spirit-filled lives and love one another. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen. (Phil.4:7)