

Welcoming the Spirit of Jesus John 14.15-31

The die is cast; Jesus' path to the cross is laid out before him. What is it that he wants to talk about in these final hours?

Jesus calls us to obedience

¹⁵ *If you love me, you will obey what I command.*

²¹ *Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me.*

²³ *Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching..."*

²⁴ *He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.*

The kind of love Jesus is talking about is rooted in seeing who he is and valuing him above everything else. If we truly love him that way we will do as he says.

But Jesus doesn't just say "Do as I tell you!" and leave it at that. There's a promise attached.

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.*

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.*

And promises us the Spirit to help us

The second thread in this passage begins in verse 16,

¹⁵ *"If you love me, you will obey what I command. The second thread comes right after that, ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth.*

Counselor = "someone who comes alongside to help."

¹⁷ *...you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."* They will know this counsellor, they'll recognise the Spirit, because he'll be just like Jesus.

²³ *... "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. The Spirit is the ongoing presence of God in the world. By following Jesus we open our lives to God and he comes and takes up residence in our lives.*

Take Aways

Jesus calls us to live out our faith by being obedient to the things he commands.

But we don't have to do it in our own strength. The Spirit is how God comes alongside us to help us live the way Jesus taught us.

So we don't have to be afraid; afraid that we'll get it wrong, afraid that we'll fail God, afraid that he'll leave us.

²⁶ *... 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.*