

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe The Great Hope of Those Who Love Him

John 14:15-31

Sunday, August 27, 2017

Introduction

As we come to this passage we are returning to a context that we have been in for the last several weeks. Jesus is at the table, sharing a final meal with His disciples before His death.

As they eat Jesus is preparing them for what is to come. He knows what they are about to experience, but He doesn't want them to despair. He wants them to know that they have hope, and throughout John 14 He is giving promises – promises of what is to come after He leaves.

As we continue in this passage we get more promises, but we also get a point of clarification. In this passage we answer two questions: who are the recipients of the promises of God? And, what is Jesus' promising to those who love Him?

Who are the Recipients of the Promises of Jesus?

- **The promises of Jesus are granted to those who love Him (14:15; 21, 23, 24)**

What Jesus makes clear is that His promises are not universal, they are reserved for those who are His – for those who love Him. But what does that love look like? How do we know that we love Him?

- **The test of love: Those who love Jesus demonstrate their love by keeping His commandments (14:15; 21, 23, 24)**

This is not to say that we earn our salvation or our standing before God. What Jesus is helping us see is that true love overflows into action. True love for Jesus overflows in obedience (John 21:15-17; 1 John 2:3-6; 1 John 5:2-3).

John Piper - *If you savor me, you will serve me. If you worship my worth, you follow my will. It's not a matter of earning anything. It's simply a matter of being what we are . . . [if we love Him we will be people who keep His commandments].*

What is Jesus Promising to Those Who Love Him?

- **The Promise of the Presence of the Spirit – A Helper (14:15-17; 25-26)**

As Jesus prepares to leave He wants His disciples to know that they are not being left alone – another Helper was coming, the Holy Spirit. And in some ways this was a greater advantage than having Jesus in the flesh (John 16:6-7)

- The Spirit is not limited by time: He will be with you forever
- The Spirit is not limited by a physical body: He will dwell in you
- The Spirit is not for the world, He is for those who belong to Christ (1 Corinthians 2:11-16)
- The Spirit provided the disciples with what they needed to preserve the message of Jesus (2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:16)

- **The Promise of the Presence of the Son – Union with Christ (14:18-21)**

Although Jesus was leaving physically, He tells His disciples that in many ways He would still be with them and they would benefit from a new kind of union with Him.

Through His death, burial and resurrection, we are united to Christ and because He lives, we too will live. Through faith we are joined with Him in His death and resurrection. And even now, we are in Him and He is in us (1 Corinthians 15:20-23; Romans 6:3-8; John 15:4-5; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:10)

- **The Promise of the Presence of the Father – God dwells with us (14:22-24)**

Through the Spirit, Jesus says that both the Father and the Son will come to us and make their home in us. We have the presence of God within us! (Ephesians 2:22)

- **The Promise of Peace (14:27)**

Although Jesus was leaving, He did not want the disciples to despair. Through all His promises, they could have great hope and peace.

- **The Promise of a Plan (14:28-31)**

Jesus makes it clear, that all that the disciples are about to experience was not an accident or a surprise to God. This is all part of His good plan to save His people, defeat the enemy and honor the Father.