

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (John 14:15-31)

1. Have you ever had a consistent “helper” for a specific event or season of your life?
What were the benefits that you experienced in having this “helper”?
What would some of your own limitations have been if you didn’t have this helper in those situations?
On the other hand, what are some ways in which this helper didn’t quite meet your expectations?
Were there any additional frustrations that were caused by this particular helper?
Overall, would you have considered that helper an asset or a detriment to what you were trying to accomplish?
What would a “perfect” helper have looked like and how could that have impacted the end result(s)?

2. In light of the above situation, consider Jesus’ promise of going to ask The Father to send “The Helper” to the disciples? (v. 16-17)
What are the prerequisites for receiving the Helper? (see v. 15 if you’re unsure)
What is the duration of the Helper being with us and how should this encourage our hearts?
Why is this gift from the Lord such a blessing to the disciples?
What are some of the specific benefits of having the Holy Spirit in our lives?
In 1 John 2:1, the same word (paraclete) is used to describe Jesus as our “advocate.”
How does this other usage help us to better value the Holy Spirit?
(i.e. help us not view the helper as a demeaning term, but actually one of great blessing and honor)
How does this apply to those of us who are nearly 2,000 years removed from this dialogue?
Do we also have the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?

3. Jesus makes a clear correlation between loving the Lord and keeping His commandments/word (v. 15, 21, & 23).
All that Jesus is saying here is intended to be a great encouragement to the disciples in light of what is about to happen:
Why is it that something Jesus has intended to be an encouragement has so often led to discouragement for many?
What are the promises correlating to the obedience of the commands of Christ?
How does a genuine love for Jesus give us a better understanding of His commandments? (consider John 10:10).
(not only in understanding the application of the commandments, but even more - the PURPOSES of them!)
How does love for Jesus also give us a better motivation for obeying the commands of Christ (keeping His Word)?
Do you find yourself personally discouraged at your inability to perfectly obey/keep Jesus’ commands?
Do you believe it is an indictment on you and revelatory of your lack of love for Jesus?
If so, you’re not alone! How do other Scriptures encourage us in those moments of discouragement?
(consider Romans 7-8, and 1 John 2:1).
In light of all of the above - how much more important is the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of us who trust in Jesus?
How else are we able to keep the commandments of Christ but by the power of the Holy Spirit? (aka the Spirit of Truth).
Are you struggling to obey the commands of Christ in your own life in any particular area(s)/situation(s)?
Take time to confess this to the Lord & ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen you & see them as life-giving (consider Ps. 119).

4. Read the promise(s) of Jesus recorded in verses 27-28

How would these promises particularly have comforted the disciples in the midst of this circumstance?

As I mentioned, when we think of peace, we sometimes think of it only as the absence of conflict

When Jesus gives His peace, it's beyond just the absence of conflict and moves into the positive blessing of the Lord (specifically, His peace is administered to us through the Holy Spirit who constantly indwells us).

In light of this truth, why do we still find ourselves sometimes worried, anxious, and fearful in our lives?

What reasons does Jesus provide for the disciples to not be troubled in their hearts or be fearful?

The other promise of Jesus to his disciples is found in verse 28 (the same promise is in John 14:3, though stated differently).

5. Read verses 29-31

Jesus makes it clear that He will not be with them much longer, but he's sharing all of these things so they will know!

In verse 30, Jesus mentions that he won't be speaking with them much longer because the ruler of this world is coming.

After this Jesus says about the ruler of this world "he has no claim on me, but I do as the Father has commanded me."

Why is it significant that he shares this truth with His disciples at this time?

How should this encourage His disciples in the midst of the events that will transpire over the next 24 hours?

How do His words here continue to reveal that He is, in fact, "Over All" as our sermon series title indicates?

How does this encourage you when you find yourself discouraged over what might appear as Satan's victories?

What does this mean for those situations, and how should we respond in light of this truth?

6. Below are the "So What?" statements from the end of the sermon.

Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, and if so, how?

- 1. Love enables us to rightly see the commandments of our Lord and motivates our obedience to Him!**
- 2. "Helper" is The Holy Spirit of God given to us, so let's live by the Spirit of the God who indwells us!**
- 3. Only The Prince of Peace (Jesus) can bring true peace to our restless souls now & forevermore!**