



**CHRIST**  
EVANGELICAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH (PCA)

## Sermon Reflection Guide; John 14:25-31

1. This section of John is considered by some scholars to be Jesus' "last will and testament". In it Jesus promises the disciples several important gifts that he is leaving as he departs from this world. What is the first gift he promises? What significance is it that Jesus says the Holy Spirit comes "in his name". What does this tell us about the ministry of the Holy Spirit?
2. In verse 26 Jesus also tells us two specific things about the function of the Holy Spirit. What are those two things and what does this teach us about the primary function of the Holy Spirit?
3. In verse 27 Jesus tells us that he also leaves us the gift of his peace. How is Christ's peace different from the world's peace? In what ways does the world tell us to pursue peace? Why is that never adequate? Where are you tempted to look for peace instead of Christ?
4. In verse 28 Jesus also tells the disciples they should be rejoicing that Jesus is going to the Father. Why is that? Why should this bring us joy as well? What does Jesus mean when he says the Father is greater than he is?
5. In verse 29, Jesus says to the disciples that he is telling them all this so that when it happens, they will believe in him. What is Jesus referring to?
6. In verse 30 Jesus says that "the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me." Who is the ruler of this world? In what way is Satan the "ruler of this world" and why is it so important that he has no claim on Christ? In what ways does this bring us great assurance for our eternal futures?

## Sermon Summary

Many scholars refer to this unique passage as Jesus' last will and testament. So, thinking of it that way what does Jesus tell the disciples what does he leave behind of them and for us? Jesus tells us about some very valuable gifts that Jesus leaves behind. These gifts are, the Holy Spirit, peace, joy and assurance.

First, Jesus reminds the disciples that although he is leaving them he will send the Holy Spirit. Jesus tells the disciples in verse 26, that Holy Spirit is sent in Jesus' name. It isn't right to call the Holy Spirit merely Christ's preplacement. Rather, it is better to think of the Holy Spirit as Christ's ambassador who picks up the ministry of Jesus where he left off and continues his ministry to an even greater extent. Here as Jesus says this, Jesus also teaches us two important functions of the Holy Spirit. Jesus says the Holy Spirit will, "teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you". This is one of the main functions of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit teaches the truth of God's word. He reveals it to us and illumines Scripture as we read it and study it and hear it preached. Not only that but it also one of the functions of the Holy Spirit to remind us God's word and to literally call it to remembrance. This is how important the teaching of the Bible is. Moses calls it our life, Jesus calls it bread and the apostle Paul tells us it is the very breath of God. The Bible is life, food and breath and we need the Holy Spirit to understand it and to remember it.

In verse 27, Jesus tells the disciples he also leaves with them the gift of peace. Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." We need to understand that the peace that Christ gives and the peace that the world gives are vastly different from one another. That is why Jesus tells us his peace is not like the peace the world seeks to give us. The "peace of the world" is a mere imaginary and brief reprieve or escape from our troubled lives. So long as we seek our peace in the things of the world, we will never truly find it. Jesus' peace is real and lasting because it cost Jesus his life. On the cross Jesus won for all those who trust in him by faith alone real peace with God. Romans 5:1 and Romans 8:1 remind us that we are justified by faith and there is no now condemnation for those who are in Christ. Once we become Christians there is nothing that can ever take that peace away and set us at war with God again. In Christ we are at peace.

In verse 28, Jesus also shows us how he leaves joy for his followers as well. Jesus says that his leaving will mean his going to be with the father. When Jesus says that he Father is greater than he, he does not mean the Father is divine and he is not, but rather the Father's scope in redemption is larger, it is the Father who sends the Son not the other way around. But Jesus' point is that in his death he does not cease to be but rather it means his return to the Father. This should give us great joy as well, because for the follower of Christ this is true for us too! Our death does not mean our passing from the land of the living to the land of the dead as many believe. For the Christian our death means passing from the land of the dying to the land of the living. What great joy this brings us when we realize in Christ our eternal futures are secure.

Finally, Jesus tells the disciples that he leaves with them the gift of assurance. He first says in verse 29 that he tells them all these things so that when they happen, they will not be surprised but will continue to trust Jesus. He tells them that Satan will ramp up his attacks but not to worry because Satan has "no claim" on Christ. No power over him, no sin in him to condemn, Satan has no claim on Christ. Therefore, when the disciples witnessed Christ's crucifixion, they and we must remember it is not a defeat of Christ but rather victory! And it is in this victory of Christ's over sin, Satan and death that we have our full and final assurance that death will not be the last word either for those who trust in Christ alone.