

SUNDAY MORNING 25 JULY 2021
I'm leaving for your good

We are learning at the feet of Jesus. These were his last moments before His crucifixion. Jesus teaches His followers about the love of God.

John 13: 1

Jesus loves His people, to the utmost. And then He not only talks, He shows it by washing each of their feet. He also teaches His followers that He had to leave, but that He would give them His Spirit and that He, the Spirit, would guide and teach and comfort them.
And then His tone changes

John 15:18, 20b-21

It is not that believers will never suffer and die. Jesus is clear that if you believe in Him, you are no longer a friend of the rest of your family, friends and world, who either serves the Lord halfway or not at all. They do not like devoted believers.

John 16: 1-7

I see this conversation of Jesus as a holy, God-inspired, Pep-Talk.

Pep-Talk

a usually brief, intense, and emotional talk designed to influence or encourage an audience

He knows the great day for which He has come is at hand.

He knows what will come when these people will be filled with the Holy Spirit after His crucifixion and ascension. He knows that they will then be fearless, driven by the Holy Spirit to testify of the wonderful salvation of Jesus on the cross.

He knows that the world already hates Him and that they will therefore also hate His followers.

But He also knows that those who will believe will receive enough strength to endure it.

On the other hand, He sees this group of 11. Uneducated people, simple fishermen, ordinary people, each with his own flaws. He has already told Peter that he who is Peter will deny Him who is His Master. He sees the fear and anxiety in their eyes. For 3 years they were with Him every day.

Now He prepares them to know what will happen when He is no longer there. It's like a coach who prepares his team for a rugby match. Opposition is not friendly, we are going to hurt, trampled on and or even be bitten. Blood is going to flow, guys are going to be injured, guys can even die.

They know what is expected of them and they know what to expect from the enemy. Coach does not go up with them.

The great thing against which He warns them, and which is more dangerous than scorn and persecution, torture and even death, is that the things that happen to Christians can make them think God is no longer with them and therefore they can go astray.

John 16: 1

Astray

Jesus knows that people who are on your case all the time about your faith sometimes make you tired. And later you feel like letting it go or you scale down in your time with God and later they just become such showcase, Christians. They look beautiful but do nothing.

Skandalizoo

To put a stumbling block in the way, upon which another may trip and fall, to entice to sin. to cause to fall away. to cause one displeasure at a thing. to be displeased.

English word "scandal."

the reprehensible behaviour of a religious person

Jesus knows that there will be people who stumble in their faith, They may because of what God's Word says, or because they receive pressure from other "believers" or unbelievers. Maybe you also felt that way and just said, "It's not worth it to be a Christian." Maybe because you are disappointed in God and the church and in your pastor or the people.

His Holy Spirit will help us. It's like you had to send your child to school for the first time. You prepare the child and tell him / her "remember when school comes out, I will be there for you."

Jesus promises His Spirit will be there.

John 14: 16-17a

Jn 14:26

Jn 16: 7

How can it be beneficial if Jesus leaves, and He gives His Spirit? Remember Jesus was limited in his earthly body. The Spirit of Jesus is with us, always. If bad things happen do not stumble, Help is here. The Holy Spirit is there to comfort and teach and guide you. Greek-English dictionary

Counsellor - Parakletos

the Holy Spirit destined to take the place of Christ with the apostles, to lead them to a deeper knowledge of the gospel truth, and give them divine strength needed to enable them to undergo trials and persecutions on behalf of the divine kingdom.

Jesus does not want any of us to stumble and fall and turn away from God. The onslaught is not only mental, but it can also be emotional and physical. When this happens, Jesus says: "remember they hate Me first and more. They also tortured and killed me. "

John 16: 2

Persecution begins from within. Synagogue was very important to Jews. To be banished from the synagogue was terrible. They were cut off from their family. Jesus warns that from within your own inner circle will come people who do not understand or want to accept you as a Christian. And it's difficult. But Jesus says "you know it now, expect opposition." Why? Because the world hated Jesus. It could get worse you are going to be tortured and killed.

John 16: 4a

When this happens, Jesus says, "Do not think that I have forsaken you. No, that's exactly why I gave the Holy Spirit to comfort and guide you."

We have some religious freedom, but we know that if you stand up for your faith here you will be opposed. In more than 60 countries, being a Christian is not easy. Thousands of Christians are still killed every year for their faith or put in jail. I read of a pastor in one of the countries, who was arrested one Sunday, beaten by the police, reappeared the next Sunday to preach, only to be beaten again by the police. Over and over. He could not keep quiet because Jesus said the Holy Spirit would be with you.

Help is here - Holy Spirit - We are just never alone.

None of those disciples except John died a martyr's death. **Peter** - had to stand by when his wife was crucified. He kept telling her. *REMEMBER THE LORD*, he refused to die like Jesus, and was crucified upside down. **James** - His beheaded . **Andreas** He was crucified on an X type cross. **Philip** was hanged naked, up-side down. **Bartolomeo** - was flogged and then crucified. **Matthew** - He was pierced with spears and he was then beheaded. **Thomas** was killed with a spear. **Thaddeus** was beaten to death with a kind of club. **Simon the zealot** – was sowed in half. **Mark** was dragged through the streets of Alexandria until his death. **Timothy** was dragged through the streets of Ephesus and stoned to death. **Paul's** was beheaded. **James**, the half-brother of Jesus, was thrown from the temple and then beaten and stoned to death. **Stephen** was stoned to death. **Luke** was probably hung from a tree. And it never stopped, over the centuries millions of Christians have been killed in the cruellest way possible.

And Jesus says if it happens, do not fall away, do not become a scandal to God, hold on, for there is more, you have the Holy Spirit.

There is more

John 16: 5-7a

Maybe they were "selfish," because hear where Jesus is coming from and where He is going.

- **Creator** - Colossians 1: 15-16
- **Exalted** - Hebrews 1: 3-4
- **Awesome** - Revelation 1: 12-17
- **The Lamb** - Revelation 5: 6-8
- **Rider on the white horse** - Revelation 19: 11-13

Slightly different picture than the children's Bible's Swedish Jesus, with long wavy blonde hair with a lamb in His arms. That's who Jesus is and where He comes from and now His disciples want to have Him for themselves and be with Jesus on earth forever.

Jesus it is to your advantage that I leave.

John 14: 2-3

Instead of living here forever, when we die, we enter the house of Father, where Jesus is from eternity to eternity. Not a bad place to be at all and to look forward to.

And this is the message of today:

- People hate Christians because they do not want to accept the loving hand of God. They want to live their lives the way they want and still have a good outcome, because if their people die, they are in a better place. Really?
- Jesus warns His disciples that obstacles will come our way, but He doesn't want us to stumble and fall and give up God's salvation.
- He says we will be persecuted and scorned and despised by our own people. For many of you, this may be a reality. Family and friends who reject you because of your Christianity.
- He says for some the persecution will be so severe that they will be tortured and even killed.
- Then He says but remember "I'm going back to the wonderful place I came from. And instead of being confined in my earthly body, I go back and until I come to fetch you, to stay with me there, Father gives His Spirit, to comfort and guide you.

Suffering, pain and sorrow are the consequences of sin, but Jesus breaks its power and puts our lives on a different "track." I want to say with John his last words in the Bible.

Revelation 21:17 and 20