

Stand by Me

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John 14:12-27

It is not a good feeling to be left behind. I don't know if you have seen the movie "**The Martian: Bring Him Home**", we find how the crew left one of their members on Mars alone, thinking he died in the storm. The movie is all about one man left alone on Mars. How did he survive? It's not fun to be left behind, thinking no one cares, no one knows that you exist, no one will return to take you back home.

The departure of Jesus caused fear among the disciples. Last Sunday we spoke about Jesus departing and preparing a "room" for us. He told the disciples that he would return after his death (return from the grave, resurrection), and one day he would return and take us home (his second coming).

Jesus also promised that the Holy Spirit would come and be with us.

Today's message: **Stand by Me**

Let us dig in the Word:

-Greater works will be done

¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. (John 14:12-14 NIV11)

What bigger works have happened since the departure of Jesus?

Who can compete with the work of Christ? No one can.

I don't think it's the quality of the work; it is the quantity.

We cannot replace the work of Jesus. However, God will use **us** to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ all over the world. And it is happening...

"... ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it ..." We have Jesus in heaven foreseeing our mission work. We have the Spirit who will be our Advocate. God is at work through us. It is amazing. And this should warn us about our responsibility to continue the work of Jesus.

-Since you Love me, keep my commandments

Loving Jesus and keeping commandments. What is the relationship between the two?

"If you love me, keep my commands. (John 14:15 NIV11)

Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them." (John 14:21 NIV11)

"Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. (John 14:23 NIV11)

Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. (John 14:24 NIV11)

John brings the concept of loving Jesus, loving God through Jesus, as an essential part of the disciples' lives.

In chapter 13, Jesus commanded them to love one another, as He loved them.

In chapter 14, Jesus brings forth an important outcome of loving him.

I get worried when someone comes to me and says: "If you love me..." I wonder what is coming next. I don't think Jesus means it that way.

Let us be careful about "If ...then you will..." This is not an obligation or a check list of commandments we need to obey. Jesus wants a relationship of love that will result in willful obedience to his commandments.

As a result of that love, one will obey Christ's commandments.

Love and Obedience

Jesus encourages his disciples to stay in his love, especially now that he is informing them that he will depart. Jesus is commanding them to continue to live the way he taught them. **They will stay connected to Jesus** even if he is not there physically. (Next week we will talk about abiding in Jesus).

I was listening to Dallas Willard in a lecture about holiness. He mentioned that not every Christian likes to be a disciple of Jesus. I challenge you to become a disciple of Jesus, a student of Jesus who is always in the school of learning. To be rooted in Jesus.

Also, I am studying Ephesians. Six chapters, the first three are all about being in Jesus. Then we can do things...

IF you remember my sermon series on Colossians, about being rooted.

Keeping the commandments comes as a result of this deep love and commitment to Jesus. And according to John, here are some of Jesus' commandments:

"Receive me" (1:12). "Follow me" (1:43). "Believe in the light" (12:36). "Believe in God" (14:1). "Believe me" (14:11). "Abide in me" (15:4). "Ask whatever you wish" (15:7). "Abide in my love" (15:9). "Receive the Holy Spirit" (20:22).

Love me then do... (not the other way around)

Question, do we really love him? Do we really want to surrender our heart, mind and soul to him? Do we really like to be a disciple of Jesus?

What will happen next?

-Holy Spirit:

“I am sending you another advocate,” says Jesus.

“If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. (John 14:15,16 NIV 11)

-God sending an **Advocate, Counselor, Helper, Comforter, Reminder, Teacher.**

Paraklētos: It is not easy to give one meaning to this Greek word.

Let us study this word:

“It comes from a verbal root that describes someone “called alongside” and occurs in secular Greek literature for an advocate in court of law, who comes “alongside” a person to speak in his or her defense and provide counsel.¹

Jesus explains what *Parakletos* will do:

²⁵ “All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, 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. (John 14: 25-26 NIV11)

Brothers and sisters, it is about the Holy Spirit, the third person of the triune God.

Can we understand God? Can we “see”, experience, learn, study, love God?

One of the disciples, Judas, has a question.

²² Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?” (John 14:22 NIV11)

Dr. Mark Bailey’s (DTS) answer:

“It takes the Spirit to understand a spiritual truth.”²

That is true. I will never experience God’s Spirit in my life if I do not open my heart to God.

John’s Gospel tells us about the works of the Spirit:

-being baptized by the Spirit

- born of the Spirit
- worship in Spirit
- life from the Spirit
- witnessing the Spirit
- help by the Spirit
- taught by the Spirit
- reminded by the Spirit
- witness in the world with the help of the Spirit
- being convicted by the Spirit

In essence, the Spirit is central to the work that God is going to do through Christ in the world, especially once Jesus departs from this earth. **It will be impossible to do the work of God without the Spirit**; thus because of the ministry of the Spirit, we can do greater works: spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.³

- *Paraklētos* Advocate

Paraklētos is translated as advocate. An advocate stands up in a court of law and explains to the judge or jury how things are from his or her client's point of view. The advocate pleads the case.

I love the image that the Holy Spirit is standing next to me. **Stand by me...** Jesus knows that his disciples will need the Spirit of God to work as an advocate. Just read **Acts** and you will see the evidence of this when Peter or Paul were facing the people, the authorities, the religious zealots, the governors and rulers... **the Advocate was helping them to represent Jesus Christ.**

Sometimes we are weak, we don't know what to say to God.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.
(Romans 8:27 NIV11)

Stand by me....

Another role of the Spirit to teach and remind us....

The “helper-advocate-comforter” will be with us 24/7. We will not be left alone. Jesus taught us, loved us, cared for us, healed us... The Spirit of God will continue the work of Jesus in our lives. The Spirit will teach us and remind us...

But the Advocate, 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. (John 14:26 NIV11)

We have the Spirit of God who encourages us, helps us, advocates for us, comforts us, teaches us, **reminds us** who Jesus is.

The question I have is, “Does it make any difference knowing that the Spirit of God is with you?” He is standing by me...

-PEACE

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 (John 14:27 NIV11)

For the Greeks, peace meant the absence of conflict and war. But in the Bible, **shalom, *Erene***, peace is much deeper. It is a relationship with Jesus, a love relationship. **Peace is not the absence of something; it is presence of something.** God’s peace makes us complete and gives us a sense of wholeness. It brings broken pieces and puts them together. This is exactly what *Parakletos* will do. We are the generation that has not seen Jesus physically. We are not left alone. In fact, Jesus promised that God the Father would send us the Spirit. Indeed, He did.

Love Jesus, Believe in him, receive Him, and Abide in Him

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Application:

1. Does our obedience to God come from your love for Him or is it just an obligation?

2. Allow the Spirit of the Lord to work in you...

The Advocate is here next to us, to help us, teach us, remind us... Holy Spirit works in us. Triune God at work in us.

“God was at work on the cross in Christ to save us, so now God is at work in the Spirit to transform us. ... God is on our side. He is at work renewing us and loving us. This is the gospel.”⁴

Allow the Spirit of the Lord to work in you.

3. Greater works we can achieve when we allow the Spirit of God to work in us. Go, make disciples...

Here is my prayer based on Paul’s prayer for the church of Ephesians

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:14-19 NIV11)

1. Gary M. Bruce, *John, NIV Application Commentary* p 395

2. Dr. Mark Bailey, Dallas Theological Seminary, online course, Gospel of John, lesson seven

3. *ibid*

4. Gary M. Bruce, *John, NIV Application Commentary* p411