



The DAILY JESUS NEWS #294
Thursday... Day of Instruction and Arrest:
Jesus Delivers His “Farewell Discourse”

Jesus Promises the Ministry of the Holy Spirit
JN 16.7-15

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7 “Very truly I tell you, it is to your great advantage that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; however, if I go, I will send him to you.

8 “When he comes to you, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

12 “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

14 “He will glorify me because he will take from what belongs to me, and he will make it known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take what is mine, and he will make it known to you.”

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in “blended texts” as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This “superscript ID” is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED

| | CONTEXT DIGEST |
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| Location | A Vineyard On the Road to the Mount Olivet |
| Timeline | Early April (Month 39) |
| Jesus’ Life Context | Stage VIII: Passion Week |
| | D. Thursday: Day of Instruction and Arrest |
| | Jesus Delivers His “Farewell Discourse” |
| Title | Jesus Promises the Ministry of the Holy Spirit |

In today's reading Jesus gave us vital teaching regarding the work (ministry) of the Holy Spirit. Remember that Jesus had said earlier that the Holy Spirit is **"another Advocate--just like me."** (JN 14.16). Just as Jesus descended from the glory of heaven to become a bond-servant, and give his life in ministry, the Advocate is another servant-minister just like Jesus. The Spirit is love, so he serves.

Jesus first said that it was to the our great advantage that he **"go away"** through his death, resurrection and ascension, so that he could send the Spirit to us. In other words, a relationship with Jesus through the indwelling ministry of the Spirit is much better for us than knowing Jesus in the flesh, without his indwelling Spirit's ministry. This is hard to believe, but Jesus in no liar!

The ministry of the Spirit within believers makes the life and ministry of Jesus come alive within us.

Jesus divided his description of the Spirit's ministry into two different aspects. First he described the way the Spirit works through believers to change people in the world. Note that he said, **"when the Spirit comes to you...he will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgement..."** (16.7,8)

It is Jesus' plan to make **"make disciples of all the nations."** How will he do this? By the power of His Spirit working through believers to reach the world.

The Holy Spirit makes every believer a witness to what they have heard, seen, and experienced in Jesus. He gives us confidence in the truth of the gospel, so that we can share it with non-christians with love and joy.

Then, as we speak the truth about Jesus, the Spirit works in those who hear to convict them of the sin of unbelief in Jesus, that he alone is righteous (and we are certainly not), and that Jesus died as our substitute, receiving the judgement for our sin that we deserve. It is the full conviction about these three truths that caused unbelievers to repent and become believers in Jesus--all by the power of the Spirit working through our witness.

In verses 12-15 Jesus next promised the ministry of the Spirit within believers. As Jesus' personal representative within our minds and hearts, the Spirit's most basic service to us is to make Jesus real to us.

Jesus said that **"he will testify concerning me"** (15.26), **"he will glorify me"** (16.13,14), and he **"will guide/lead you into the truth regarding me."** (16.13). Because the Spirit's focus is totally on Jesus--not himself--he will never speak or act on his own initiative. Rather, he will **"speak only what he hears"** Jesus saying and doing--and faithfully communicate that to us. By revealing Jesus' will to us, he will also **"show you what is to come."**

The Holy Spirit will show us all the resources of the fullness of God in Jesus, make them real to us so that we are totally confident about them, and then live them in and through us so that we share in Jesus's own experience and resources along with him. He also reminds us every word Jesus spoke that is recorded in Scripture, and opens up our understanding regarding the truth.

So, just as Jesus was all about the Father--obeying his will, speaking his word, doing his works, and revealing his nature and character by loving the Father in all things--the Holy Spirit is all about Jesus.

People who are full of the Holy Spirit are full of Jesus, not self, nor are they side-tracked on the Spirit himself. In the Scriptures, and especially the book of Acts, people who are being led and empowered by the Spirit talk about Jesus, and focus on him alone. The Spirit would have it no other way, for he loves Jesus as only the Trinity can do.

APPLICATION:

Are you constantly being filled with the Holy Spirit? Are you focused on Jesus and seeking the utmost intimacy with him?

How can you yield yourself to the ministry and power of the Spirit working through you as a witness more consistently?