

The following is a rough transcript, not in its final form and may be updated.

My Peace John 14:25-31

Intro: Jesus has shaken His disciples to their core with the declaration that He was going to leave them. Their minds were reeling, their emotions were in turmoil – they were beside themselves. But, Jesus take the time to comfort them in their distress and He does so by reassuring them of His love, by providing them information about where He was going, what He would be doing while He was gone. He also gave them some encouraging promises: that He would return for them, that they would carry on His work on earth in greater measure. He also promised He would answer their prayers when they are offered according to His character and nature and He promised to send the Holy Spirit.

This last promise is the greatest of all and Jesus now goes on to explain to them why that is so.

25-26- this is the shortest of the sections dealing with the Holy spirit in Jesus' final discourse, yet it gives us the fullest definition of His person and work. There are 3 specific references to the Spirit that would be sent to the disciples after Jesus departs from them. The 1st designation is Helper or Counselor. We dealt with this at length in our study of **vs16-17**. The term means one who is with you to strengthen you or one called alongside with strength. The 2nd designation is found in His name. In the previous section (**16-17**) He is referred to as the "Spirit of truth" but now He is called the Holy Spirit. This designation (seen throughout the NT) doesn't call attention to the Spirit's power or greatness or activity in the lives of believers. It calls attention to the most important aspect of His character – the fact that He is holy! This characteristic is what mattered most to 1st century Christians and is woefully lacking today.

The 3rd designation, the one that is emphasized in our text, is the Holy Spirit as a teacher. This reference was made by Jesus primarily to the disciples. They were the ones Jesus had chosen to be authorized spokesmen for the truth He had revealed. Their job was to remember what Jesus had said and record it in the pages of what has become the NT Scriptures. Eventually, this teaching would become the authorized doctrine of the church. Jesus is saying that the Holy Spirit will reveal to them the full truth of the gospel that's

centered on His life, death and resurrection. And so He did. This was the unique ministry of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. Still, these words apply to all Christians today. The Holy Spirit teaches us too, and He's the One who brings the teachings of Jesus to our remembrance.

This is important because clearly, the disciples needed to be taught. They had been with Jesus for quite some time now, had heard Him teach many things and yet, they still didn't understand Him. Obviously, Jesus had tried to teach them but they hadn't really learned the great truths of the Gospel. They were confused men who needed the Holy Spirit's teaching, especially at this time. Their minds were so befuddled by the fact that Jesus was leaving that they didn't really hear what He was now saying. They needed to be taught and the Spirit was being sent to do just that.

Also, take note: God Himself really wanted to teach the disciples. In fact, the entire Trinity is mentioned in [vs26](#). The Father, in the name of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is sending the Holy Spirit to teach the disciples. That's how much the Father is interested in having them come to the knowledge of the truth concerning Jesus. Sure, these guys seem pretty dull. They had the best illustrated instruction a Bible student could ever ask for and they were still so much in the dark. If it were up to us, we'd have flunked them and started with another batch. But that's not God's attitude. The God who recognized that they sorely needed to be taught is the same God who sends the Holy Spirit to teach them. Of course, once the Spirit arrived, they began to get with the program rather quickly.

While all this primarily applied to the disciples, it also applies to believers today in a similar way. We also need to be taught and the same Holy Spirit who taught the disciples is our teacher as well ([1 Cor 2:9-13](#)). Paul explains the ministry of the Holy Spirit here. It was exercised at first when God revealed truth to the disciples and they recorded it in what would be the NT. It's exercised today when the Holy Spirit teaches us from the truths that they recorded.

The Holy Spirit is not just a teacher; He also ministers to us by helping us remember what we have been taught. This is important because of who we are, fallen humans whose minds are unable to retain important teachings. This emphasis on remembering teaches us 2 important truths. 1) The wisdom of God is not a new thing. The Holy Spirit doesn't give us new

doctrines; He brings old truths to our remembrance. This is the danger of the current mindset in the Church. Too many people are looking for the next “big thing,” some new theology as if truth is evolving. The Bible doesn’t teach that or direct us to pursue it. It only upholds that old doctrine once and for all delivered to the saints. It’s what the Holy Spirit teaches us and what we are responsible for. Any “new” doctrine is also a dangerous doctrine.

2) We tend to forget these doctrines, even though we’ve heard them many times. The history of the church is the history of great blessing through the Holy Spirit, a time of reformation and revival, followed by a gradual forgetting of the message. This happens again and again. So, one of the jobs of the preacher is to remind the congregation of the old truths. One of the jobs of Christian people is to remind each other of them, and one of the jobs of the Christian church is to remind the world of these old doctrines, even though the world may reject them.

If we are going to see the truth of the Gospel have an impact on our community and world, we must remember that it’s the Holy Spirit who enables us to teach these truths to others. Teaching spiritual truths cannot be successfully done in the flesh.

Now, in a way, [vs27](#) introduces an entirely new subject as this is the first mention of peace in this final discourse. Still, in another way, it’s not totally unexpected since peace is a natural result of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life, what Jesus was just talking about. In fact, Paul tells us that peace is actually one of the fruits the Spirit produces in believers ([Gal 5:22](#)). Besides this, peace is a great reason for the disciples to be comforted. Thus, we hear Jesus close out this chapter with the exact same exhortation He opened it with. The final reason they shouldn’t be troubled is that Jesus is leaving His peace with them. His peace is His dying gift to His followers; it’s His legacy to them. He’s not leaving them destitute or without comfort. True, He **is** leaving, but He’s leaving His peace behind.

What is the nature of this peace that Jesus gives? For the Greeks of that day (and us today) peace was essentially negative – it meant the absence of war. But, for the Jews, it was a positive blessing. The beautiful nature of the peace Jesus gives becomes more apparent when we consider the troublesome circumstances these words were spoken in and the troubled condition of those to whom His peace was given. It’s not a situation marked

by outward peace. Christ spoke on the verge of His violent execution. Nor was He speaking to those already at peace or who were untouched by His imminent arrest and crucifixion. No, they were deeply distressed and fearful. Troubles without and within! It was in the midst of this most difficult situation that the legacy of peace was given.

True peace is not the lack of turmoil but the ability to be at peace in the midst of turmoil. This is the kind of peace Jesus gives, an exceptional peace, a supernatural peace that triumphs regardless of great outward trouble or inward distress. This is the peace He gives to all His followers, but why do we need this exceptional, supernatural peace?

1) Because of the world we live in (27). The world around us is fickle, indecisive; and it gives peace in stark contrast to the peace Jesus gives. What characterizes the gifts the world gives? Insincerity – often, gifts are given because they're expected, not because they desire to give. Impotence – usually unable to do all we'd like to do. When the world wishes peace, at best it's just a wish, it doesn't accomplish anything. Chintzy – gives less than it could. Selfish – give to impress, gain favor or boost reputation. Often, the world gives gifts to those who don't need or want the gift.

This is not like Jesus' giving at all. He gives sincerely out of a genuine love for His own, effectively, bountifully and at great personal cost (His gift of peace cost Him His life). Above all, He gives to those who clearly need His gift. In the Bible, peace is a positive blessing, particularly a right relationship with God from which all other good things follow. This is what it means to have peace with God. It's a peace based on an intimate knowledge of a God who is in control of all things. It's a peace that's entirely independent of outward circumstance. Have you received this peace?

2) Because Jesus is absent (28-29) Jesus was leaving them but He gives the disciples 2 reasons why they should be at peace in His absence. 1st, it'd be better for Jesus – He'd be with the Father again. Some cults use this verse to teach that Jesus is confessing to be a lesser, created being than the Father. But, when read in context, it's clear to see that's not what Jesus is saying. During His incarnation in human flesh, Jesus has been below the Father in terms of His outward glory and official position. Now, He's returning to the Father to take up the great glory and position He possessed before. The disciples should rejoice because the exaltation of their Lord and

Savior was now in view.

2nd, His absence will be better for them. Why? Because then they would believe (29)! I'm sure the disciple thought they believed. At least they believed all that they understood. But, they didn't understand the reason for His death. They didn't understand that His death would be followed by His resurrection. They didn't understand that the gospel of salvation based on these 2 great truths was to be preached around the whole world until Jesus came back again. It was the Holy Spirit's job to lead them to understand these great truths and cause them to believe them. Only when this had taken place would they become strong in the faith and be able to carry this gospel to others. They will trust their Master all the more when they see His words verified by them coming to pass for all to see.

3) Because Satan is at work (30-31). Jesus' peace should be present even in the face of Satan's activity. What did Jesus mean by the ruler of this world is coming? The ruler of this world is Satan. Since it says he is coming, Jesus is surely referring to the activity of Satan in moving Judas to betray Jesus to His enemies, which he was probably doing at that very moment. In the person of Judas, Satan was literally coming to initiate Christ's arrest and crucifixion. But this did not trouble Jesus, for He had peace even when confronted by Satan's activity.

Satan could do nothing to Christ because "he has nothing in Me." This phrase is difficult to translate in English, but "he has no hold on Me" is close. There was no sin in Jesus for Satan to latch onto like a handle. He'd do his best to destroy Jesus but Jesus would just slip through his grasp like He had slipped through the hostile crowds before. So will we if we are in Christ. We can't say, "The ruler of this world . . . has no hold on me" like Jesus could. Satan has plenty in us all. But if we are in Christ, then we may stand with Jesus and achieve the same victory over the enemy.

Jesus has left us a great legacy of peace. Have you entered into that legacy? Jesus made peace with God possible for us over 2000 years ago. This means we don't have to make our own peace with God. We couldn't do it even if we tried. There's nothing we could ever say or do that could atone for our own sins. Sadly, many people today still think they can. How do most people try to achieve peace with God? They believe they can achieve it through persistent prayer. They have stock prayers that they repeat on a

regular basis, believing it endears them to God for their consistency and religious fervor. Does it? Jesus Himself answers that in [Matt 6:7](#).

The clear implication is that they will not be heard. In fact, Jesus calls mindless, repetitious prayers vain and pagan. Some religions have found clever ways to perpetrate this exercise in futility. Buddhist monks imprint prayers on hand-held wheels and then just spin them all day long. Or, they'll stitch or write a prayer on a strip of material and tie it out in the wind as a flag. When the wind blows, it sends up another prayer.

What about religious activity? Certainly, going to church and participating in the rituals and ceremony brings peace with God. It does not. Jesus gives several examples in [Matt 6](#) of religious activity that fails to produce peace. In fact, the most religious people in Israel at that time were the Pharisees and Jesus was always speaking against them; not because they were doing the wrong things but because their hearts were not right with God despite all their good works. They were sticklers for keeping the letter of the Law but they failed to uphold the spirit of the Law and thus, they were condemned.

What is our natural position before God? Are we just unfortunate sinners capable of earning God's favor? No way! Paul says in [Eph 2](#) that we are sons of disobedience, children of wrath – deserving God's just wrath because of our sin. There's no squirming out from under that moniker. In short, the Bible says that in our normal natural state, we are the enemies of God. Our sin has built up a wall of hostility between us and God that no amount of prayer or good works could ever hope to bring down. But, where we are incapable, Jesus is more than capable!

Jesus provided the one perfect atonement that was required for sin so that all who will believe on Him can come boldly to God knowing that the ground of hostility has been removed and that they can now find all the peace they need in God's great storehouse of grace. How do we access this peace? How do we come to have peace with God so that we might finally enjoy the peace of God?

We only come to have peace with God by rejecting all of our own ineffective efforts and imagined merits and by trusting in the work of Jesus Christ solely and completely. ([Eph 2:8-9](#); [Rom 10:9-10](#)). It is only by trusting in and accepting the work of Jesus Christ that we could ever be at peace with God

and experience the peace of God that leads to hope.

The only hope the world has to offer is a wishful hope but Jesus instills within all who trust in Him a confident hope (**Rom 15:13**). This is a hope that doesn't settle for wishful thinking but is a hope that can say like Job, "I know that my Redeemer lives; and He shall stand at last on the earth. And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh, I shall see God!" (**Job 19:25-26**). This is just one of many passages that speak of a confident hope and sure knowledge of salvation that is possessed by those who truly know Christ as their Savior. Do you have this hope? Do you know this peace? Have you entered fully into this legacy of Jesus Christ by faith?

Jesus' love for the Father is seen in His obedience to the Father's command. Express your love for Jesus today be obey His command to be saved. 😊