

THE GOSPEL OF

JOHN

JESUS WILL
NOT LEAVE US
AS ORPHANS

INTRODUCTION

John 14:15-31

In March of 2011, my wife, Shari, and I flew halfway around the world to meet two boys, Abenet (2) and Mulugeta (9). They were two young men from Ethiopia, and we were matched to them in November of 2010 to become their parents. At that time, to adopt these kids, we needed to travel to Ethiopia two different times. The first time was when we met the boys and went to court in Ethiopia. The second time was when we went to the United States of America Embassy to get the boys their US Citizenship. When we traveled there in March, the hardest part of the entire trip and the entire process was when we had to leave them. With the language barrier, I don't know if Jacob (Mulugeta) fully understood that we would be back. We cried, hugged, and said our goodbyes after a week of loving on them and had a translator tell them that we would be back. Then we flew back home and waited for the call to return. We knew that it could be weeks or months before we would return.

At the end of April, we got the call that we needed to fly back as we had an appointment at the Embassy on May 3. We packed our bags, bought our tickets, and flew back with great excitement, knowing that we would be reunited with our sons. We were not going to leave them in Ethiopia as orphans, but we're opening our arms to welcome them into our family. We would care for them, provide for them, support them, and guide them. Reggie and Jacob were now Chapman's.



OPEN IT

1. What is a time when you found it difficult for you to leave or say goodbye to someone?

APPLY IT

John 14 takes place only hours before the crucifixion. Jesus has been teaching the disciples for three years, and yet, in these final minutes, He continues to reassure, reteach, and review all of the main points. Namely, Jesus is reminding the disciples that the Holy Trinity is at work in all things and that they do not need to be troubled.

However, these were troubling times for the disciples as they tried to fathom why Jesus would leave them...the One who could heal the lame and cause the mute to speak was going to leave them in their time of greatest need (from their vantage point). In their confusion and questions, Jesus assures them that there is good news! In His departure, He will be sending them a Helper, the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit has been given many names through the scriptures. Let's examine many of them here.² Put each of the references into one of the categories below (answers found in the footnote link).

2 Peter 1:21

John 14:16

Ephesians 1:13-14

2 Timothy 3:16

John 16:7-11

Romans 8:16

Isaiah 11:2

John 15:26

2 Corinthians 1:22

Hebrews 2:4

8. Author of Scripture

1.

2.

9. Comforter / Counselor / Advocate

1.

2.

3.

10. Convicter of Sin

1.

11. Deposit / Seal / Earnest

1.

2.

12. Witness

1.

2.

² GotQuestions.org (Ed.). (2009, February 14). What are the names and titles of the Holy Spirit? GotQuestions.org. Retrieved March 10, 2022, from <https://www.gotquestions.org/names-Holy-Spirit.html>

In October 2015, I received a phone call from my younger brother at 2:00 AM telling me that he was following the ambulance to Morris Hospital (only a few blocks from his house). He told me that my dad collapsed after getting a drink of water in the night and was unresponsive. By the time I arrived at the hospital, which was not long after receiving the phone call, my dad was dead. I sat down and wept, knowing that I lost the one who offered me continuous advice and, most times, was my biggest cheerleader. In the months following, I connected with another gentleman who became a father figure to me. He had retired from a job similar to the one that my father held and was pretty close to my dad's age. He was easy to talk to, and he was my cheerleader for things going on in my life. However, he was not my dad. He was someone filling in for him. My dad, to this day, has not been replaced.

I think that is what the disciples were concerned about when Jesus was sharing with them that He was leaving. In my paraphrase, the disciples might have said, "Ok, you are leaving. That means we have to do this on our own. I get that you are sending someone else, but it isn't you. We want you...you are our teacher...you are our Savior." In John 14:18, Jesus is trying to comfort His followers, knowing that they will be devastated when He is taken, beaten, and eventually murdered. He tells them that when He leaves they will not be orphaned.

13. If you had the opportunity to go to Village Bible Church and sit under the teaching of one of the Campus Pastors led by the Holy Spirit or sit and listen to Jesus Christ directly teach, which would you choose? Why?

Jesus identified the Helper in many ways to reaffirm that He was equal to Jesus, which would make Him (the Holy Spirit) equal to the Father. In this passage, we read that Jesus reminded them that the Holy Spirit would teach the disciples all things. This is vitally important as the disciples looked to Jesus as their Rabbi, their teacher.

Verse 26 of John 14 spells it out clearly, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."³ In John 14:26 and 1 Corinthians 2:13, Jesus promised that the Spirit would teach His disciples "all things" and bring the things He said while He was with them to their remembrance. The Spirit moved the writers of the New Testament to remember and understand the instructions Jesus gave for the building and organizing of the Church, the doctrines regarding Himself, the directives for holy living, and the revelation of things to come.⁴

14. By understanding that the Holy Spirit is our teacher of all things, how can this affect our time studying the Bible?

³ The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

⁴ GotQuestions.org (Ed.). (2009, February 14). What are the names and titles of the Holy Spirit? GotQuestions.org. Retrieved March 10, 2022, from <https://www.gotquestions.org/names-Holy-Spirit.html>

15. What strategies can we take when we desire to understand the Word, work through dealing with life situations and try to make sense of all that is happening around us?

In John 14:28, Jesus once again is telling His disciples that He is leaving them. At the end of this verse, Jesus says, "...for the Father is greater than I."⁵ These words can be seen as a subject of controversy because one might deduce that Jesus is therefore not God since He seems to be subordinate to the Father.

16. If the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all equal and the same, how can Jesus say that the Father is greater? (hint: see Hebrews 2:9 & Philippians 2:5-11)

The Trinity has always been. However, many people think of the Holy Spirit as making His appearance only at and after Pentecost. However, the Old Testament is full of references pointing to the Holy Spirit. (Gen 1:2, Psalm 104:29-30, Numbers 27:18, Ezekiel 36:27, and Isaiah 11:1-5, to name a few). However, when the Holy Spirit had a relationship with people, it was more of a come-and-go relationship (Exodus 31:2-5, 1 Samuel 16:14, and Psalm 51:11). Jesus is telling His disciples again that He is leaving so the Holy Spirit, the Helper, can come and be with them forever (John 14:16). A review of John 7 reminds us that this isn't the first time that Jesus is pointing out the fact that the Spirit would enter believers once He was gone (glorified). "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."⁶

17. That being said, why did Jesus NEED to leave so that He could come?

⁵ The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

⁶ Ibid

Jesus said in John 16 that the role of the Holy Spirit is to take what is His (Jesus') and declare it to you and me. I can personally attest to the Holy Spirit's power through my life. I praise the Lord that the Helper will be with me forever (John 14:16). I share this when I share my testimony with other people. Sometimes I share it in great detail, and sometimes I abbreviate it to highlight some significant points of transformation (2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 12:1-2, and Ephesians 4:22-24). There have been many times when I have been asked to write out my testimony. That has always been beneficial because it has allowed me to think through the details and to give honor to the King.

18. What is your testimony when you were sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13–14, 4:30, and 2 Corinthians 1:22)?