



**Lectionary Bible Study
Our Savior Lutheran Church
Sixth Week of Easter**

Readings and Psalm

Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20,
1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21

Join Pastor Mark for a Live Zoom Study each
Wednesday, 10am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86887930554?pwd=M0graUNzNFR5azYwUnNkdFZ5RmQ5UT09>

Meeting ID: 868 8793 0554

Password: 654321

Or dial in for audio only: 1-301-715-8592

John 14:15-21 (NRSV)

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

John 14:15-21 (The Message)

¹⁵ "If you love me, show it by doing what I've told you. ¹⁶ I will talk to the Father, and he'll provide you another Friend so that you will always have someone with you. ¹⁷ This Friend is the Spirit of Truth. The godless world can't take him in because it doesn't have eyes to see him, doesn't know what to look for. But you know him already because he has been staying with you, and will even be in you!

¹⁸ "I will not leave you orphaned. I'm coming back. ¹⁹ In just a little while the world will no longer see me, but you're going to see me because I am alive and you're about to come alive. ²⁰ At that moment you will know absolutely that I'm in my Father, and you're in me, and I'm in you.

²¹ "The person who knows my commandments and keeps them, that's who loves me. And the person who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and make myself plain to him."

Verses 15: Jesus does not simply ask his followers to speak of their love for him. He hopes they will show love by living a consistent life based on his commandments. The preceding chapter in John's Gospel describes Jesus washing the feet of his disciples and commanding them to love one another.

1. *What is the connection between love and obedience?*
2. *What happens when a disciple commits to love without an attitude of obedience?*

It would follow that *if* a person does not love Jesus, then that person would have no desire to follow his teachings or commandments. Conversely, a person who loves Jesus would choose a lived response of obedience to the teachings of Jesus.

Verses 16-17: Two interesting Greek words to note: "Advocate" (helper, counselor, or comforter in other translations) comes from the **Greek word** parakletos. This term referred to a person called alongside another.

3. *What is the role of an advocate? Describe different examples.*

"Truth" comes from the underlying Greek word "alethea." In Greek, an initial letter "a" is like our English "un." "Lethe" is the river in Greek mythology that the dead drank from in Hades in order to forget their past. And so "a-lethea" (truth) has the sense of waking up; remembering; overcoming oblivion and stupor; being alive and vital; not being deceived by false ideas or desires or scams.

4. *How does remembering the past shape the truth of the present?*
5. *When Jesus describe the Advocate as the Spirit of truth, what do you think he means?*

Verses 18-20: Jesus promises not to leave his followers alone and orphaned; instead, Jesus will return and dwell in his followers in a way that reveals the relationship of the Trinity (Father/Son/Holy Spirit or God/Savior/Advocate).

6. *Does verse 20 give you the sense of being invited into the relationship that exists withing the Trinity?*

Verse 21 seems to be a restating or reaffirmation of verse 15, but now we hear these words of following Jesus commands knowing that we have the promise of an Advocate who is the Spirit of truth. Remember, in the Gospel of John the promise of Jesus to "abide" with his disciples is key. If Jesus is abiding in us, we cannot help but to bear fruit born out of his relationship with us. Being in an "abiding" relationship with Christ provides not only clarity (truth), but also consistency of living (following the best spirit of God's law/commandments).

The words of Jesus are intended to reassure the disciples. It is the Spirit who helps a person to follow the commandments of Jesus and to love. The disciples are to trust in Jesus and his promise to be with them through the work of the Holy Spirit.

7. *Do you find these words of Jesus to be reassuring? How so?*