



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

The Gospel of John Sermon Series
Supports Session 4: Peace I Leave
Sermon Title: "Knowing Peace" (John 14:16-29)

Connection to Session 4

Jesus told His disciples that He would soon be leaving them. However, when He did the Counselor would come who would be with them.

Introduction/Opening

During the 1992 Summer Olympic Games, Jim Redmond, a London machinery shop owner was watching his son compete in the 400-meter semifinals. Derek, a top British 400-meter runner, suddenly dropped to the track and grabbed his right hamstring. Immediately, one thought went through Jim's mind: "It's my job to get down there and help him."¹ And help him he did—all the way across the finish line.

We may stumble in our "race to the finish," but we're called to look to Jesus and run with perseverance. How do we continue in the journey? Jim Redmond helped his son finish his race. In a supernatural way, the Holy Spirit supports each believer to make it across the "finish line" of life, with its peaks and valleys. This truth offers us peace.

Outline

1. The Promise of the Counselor (vv. 16-21)
 - a. Speaking to His disciples, Jesus said: "If you love me, you will keep my commands" (v. 15). Obedience to the commands of Jesus involves following the example of Jesus, who was obedient in all things. Obedience also indicates a love for Jesus. Love and obedience are two sides of the same coin. Love moves one to obedience, and obedience produces more love.
 - b. Jesus said He would ask the Father to give them another Counselor. This Counselor would be for all believers. This verse does not indicate that obedience is the price paid for the promise of the Counselor. Rather, we need the Comforter to maintain both love and obedience. This Counselor is the one who is called alongside each believer. He is the one who supports and strengthens believers in their journeys. Jesus said He would ask the Father for "another Counselor" (v. 16). The Greek word from which we derive *paraclete* refers to "one who is another of the same kind." The Counselor, or Holy Spirit, is the third person of the Trinity.

1. Christine Brennan, "Father Helps Fight to the Finish," The Washington Post, last modified August 4, 1992, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/sports/1992/08/04/father-helps-fight-to-the-finish/1947c343-1fc0-4a46-8235-de58237bcfb2/>.

- c. Jesus further taught that the Counselor “is the Spirit of truth” (v. 17). This phrase is also used in John 15:26 and 16:13. Just as Jesus speaks and is the truth, the Holy Spirit is also an agent of truth.
 - d. Those who don’t know Christ are “unable to receive” (v. 17) the Holy Spirit. The world, the system under the power of Satan along with those who are non-Christian and anti-Christian, cannot fully understand the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Those who are believers experience the indwelling and infilling presence of the Holy Spirit.
 - e. The Counselor would fulfill Jesus’s promise to the disciples that they would not be as orphans.
2. The Purpose of the Comforter (vv. 22-26)
- a. The question: There was still a measure of confusion regarding the manifestation of Jesus to the disciples and the world. Judas (not Judas Iscariot) asked, “Lord, how is it you’re going to reveal yourself to us and not to the world?” (v. 22).
 - b. The response: Jesus does not address the question directly but patiently explains the situation to His group. The disciples were called to love Him and obey Him. Those who do not love Him and do not obey Him are not His disciples. He wanted them to pay attention to the words they heard because those words were from the Father.
 - c. The purpose: The primary purpose of the Holy Spirit for the disciples was to remind them of the things Jesus taught them.
3. The Peace from the Comforter (vv. 27-29)
- a. The character of God’s peace: Jesus gave to them a gift, the gift of peace. In the context of the Jewish world, this is *shalom*. What is shalom? “It is completeness, soundness, wellbeing, complete reconciliation.”² William Hendriksen added these pertinent comments:
 - i. In light of the entire chapter we believe that the word *peace* here in 14:27 indicates *that absence of spiritual unrest and that assurance of salvation and of God’s loving presence under all circumstances which results from exercising faith in God and in his Son (14:1) and from the contemplation of his gracious promises* (see especially 14:1, 2, 3, 12-14, 16-21, 25, 26).³ [Italics in original]

As a result, the disciples did not need to be troubled or fearful.
 - b. The foundation of God’s Peace: Though Jesus was going away, He is coming back. This promise is the foundation of the peace He offered. Jesus called on them to rejoice because the Father is greater. He would soon return to His rightful place at the right hand of the Father and to the glory He shared with the Father before the world began.
 - c. The assurance of peace: Jesus told them ahead of time what would happen so that they might believe Him when the events unfolded. Jesus sought to prepare the disciples for what would happen.

2. Jason Soroski, “What Does Shalom Mean & Why Is It Important?” Crosswalk.com, March 3, 2021, <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/what-does-shalom-mean.html>.

3. William Hendriksen, *Exposition of the Gospel of John: Two Volumes Complete in One* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 2:287.

Conclusion

Peace is defined by most as an absence of conflict. For believers, peace is more than that. Peace is being settled when everything around you is unsettled. It is being stable when everything around you is unstable. It is having order when everything around you is chaotic. From where does this peace come? Isaiah 26:3 teaches us, “You will keep the mind that is dependent on you in perfect peace, for it is trusting in you.”

Real peace has its basis in God’s Word. Trusting in Him brings peace. Receiving Christ by faith brings peace. W. D. Cornell put in the refrain of an old song –

Peace! Peace! wonderful peace,
Coming down from the Father above;
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray,
In fathomless billows of love.⁴

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4. W. D. Cornell, “Wonderful Peace,” Hymnary.org, 2022, https://hymnary.org/text/far_away_in_the_depths_of_my_spirit_toni.