



This Sunday morning we continued our series with Jesus in the upper room with John 14v15-31. We learnt one final reason why it was good that Jesus was going to his Father: so that he could come and live with his disciples by the Spirit.

#### **1 – do not be troubled ...because the Spirit comes as an advocate (v16-17)**

The disciples will not be left on their own, for the Father will send the Spirit. The Spirit will come as an ‘advocate’ (sometimes translated ‘helper’, ‘counsellor’ or ‘comforter’). The Greek word ‘parakletos’ actually means “to come alongside”, and was most often used in a legal context. The Spirit will come alongside us, forever (v16), to fight our corner.

#### **2 – don’t be troubled ...because in the Spirit coming, Jesus is coming (v18-19)**

Jesus says, in v18, that he himself is coming. While he could be referring to his second coming, it feels more likely that he is saying that in the Spirit coming, *he* will come, and his people will see him spiritually now rather than physically. To have the Spirit with us, is to have Jesus with us!

#### **3 – don’t be troubled ...because the Spirit comes by moving in to all who obey Jesus (v20-24)**

The Spirit is not just there to help us when we’re in crisis. Nor is he powerful to help, but with a very specific remit or very busy. The Father and Son will come and “make our home” in those who have the Spirit (v23). What a promise!

But in v15, 21 and 23 it seems that this extraordinary intimacy is tied to a condition: our obedience. But we know from 1 John 4v19 that we only love God

because he first loved us. It cannot be that we earn God’s love by our devotion to him. Rather, love on our part is the sign that we have known God’s love.

#### **4 – don’t be troubled ...because Jesus going and the Spirit coming is a good thing! (v25-31)**

We can see how it is good for Jesus that he goes (v28). But is good for us too! It is better for us to have the Spirit than incarnate Jesus. For incarnate Jesus, in his resurrected human person, can surely still only be in one place at a time? But the Spirit can fill every believer and every church simultaneously now that the gospel has spread across the globe.

And we need not worry about our distance from Jesus, for one of the Spirit’s chief roles was to inspire the New Testament (v25-26), and he continues to bring Christ’s words to life for and in us.

Finally, Jesus’ departure was no sign that the devil had won (v30-31). Far from it. This was all part of God’s sovereign plan all along.

And so we finish the chapter as we began – with the promise of peace (v27, cf v1).

Here are a few questions you might want to use with your group...

1. What does it mean that the Spirit is an ‘advocate’?  
→ How does/should that shape how we think of the Spirit and his work?
2. What do you think of the idea that we tend to think of the Spirit as a “substitute” player, inferior to the Son and the Father?  
→ Where would you go in this passage and elsewhere in Scripture to challenge that idea?
3. How does it change how we think of the Spirit to remember that in him the Father and Son live “in” us?
4. What is the relationship between obeying Jesus’ commands and enjoying intimacy with him in this passage?  
→ How is that an encouragement?  
→ How it is a challenge?
5. Why is it better for the disciples (and for us) that Jesus has gone to be with his Father?