

THE HOLY SPIRIT, OUR TEACHER

John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13-15

Intro: All during the public ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, He had constantly been teaching, not only His disciples, but also many individuals who came to Him from time to time with their questions. In addition He taught many different crowds of people. People came to Him not only because of the miracles that He performed, but because they loved His teaching. They would walk for miles, and seek Him out, just to hear more of His teaching. As you might expect, the Lord Jesus Christ was *the Master Teacher*. Never did anyone surpass Him as a Teacher. Even the officers who had been sent by the chief priests and Pharisees to apprehend our Lord, came back saying, “Never man spake as this man” (John 7:46).

Following Matthew’s account of what has been called, *The Sermon on the Mount*, he recorded at the end,

28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes (Matt. 7:28-29).

On another occasion when our Lord was teaching in a synagogue in what Matthew called “his own country” (Matt. 13:54), meaning Nazareth, the people were astonished at His teaching and they said,

54 . . . Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? (Matt. 13:54b-56).

Even as a twelve-year old, the Lord astonished the doctors in the temple with “his understanding and answers” (Luke 2:47).

As the Lord got closer to the time of His death we are told that He was in the temple teaching,

15 And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?

16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me (John 7:15-16).

There were many reasons why the disciples especially were disturbed when the Lord spoke to them about His departure, but one main reason had to be, because of His teaching.

This is one reason our Lord's words about the Comforter, which we have in John 14, 15, and 16 so very important. Last Sunday night I called your attention to the Lord's words in John 16:7 where it is recorded that He told His disciples, "It is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you." This was hard for the disciples to understand, and it would have been hard for you and me to understand it if we had been one of the Lord's disciples. How could anything be more profitable, or better, than having the Lord Jesus Christ with them? But if the Lord said it (and He did), then it has to be true. This means that for you and me to have seen the Lord in the flesh, and to have been with Him as He taught and performed so many miracles, would not have been as profitable as we have it now with the Holy Spirit. In John 14:26, which we want to look at tonight, the Lord made it clear that the Holy Spirit was being sent by the Father to take the place that the Lord had had with them, and that His ministry with them would primarily be a ministry of *teaching*.

I. THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (John 14:26).

There are many ministries of the Holy Spirit, but no ministry is more important than His ministry of teaching.

Now there is a difference. We do not have the privilege with the Holy Spirit that the disciples had with the Lord Jesus. By that I mean, we do not hear the Holy Spirit teaching in a voice which we can hear. Instead, the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit has to do with what we can read, and what we need to read.

The Bible makes it very clear that the thirty-nine books of the OT, and the twenty-seven books of the NT, are the work of the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Peter said that "holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." When the Lord left the earth to return to heaven, the NT has not yet been written. The Lord indicated in John 16:12 that the Scriptures were not yet completed, but he assured the disciples that they would be completed. That is in John 16:12. And here in John 14:26 we are told that there would be a special emphasis upon the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit.

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This not only would have reference to the four Gospels, and to the book of Acts which recorded the continuing ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, but it had to do with the writing of the epistles and the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ which gives us the most complete revelation of the last days that we have anywhere in the whole Bible. All of that was yet to come, and within the first century after the Lord ascended back to the Father, that work was completed. And we have it today, miraculously and sovereignly given and preserved for us by the Holy Spirit. The teaching of our Lord was not lost, but it has been preserved in the Gospel records, and we see in the rest of the NT how His life and ministry have been expounded and expanded by the Holy Spirit.

How does the Spirit of God bring to our remembrance what the Lord said? There is no doubt but that He recalls for us in our hearts words of Scripture to help us in our times of need, but primarily again it is through reading and re-reading the Word of God. And you and I know from our own experience that the more we read the Word, the more the Holy Spirit shows us even from passages which we have read and re-read many times. That is the Holy Spirit at work.

Notice our Lord referred to the whole Trinity in John 14:26 as he did in John 14:16. They are all vitally concerned that you and I understand the truth of the Word of God. And if you and I really know the Lord, we are going to be drawn to the Word. And if for any reason we begin to neglect the Word, or to read it carelessly, the Holy Spirit will work in our hearts to make the Word of God a special joy again.

But now let us move on to John 15:26.

II. THE MAIN THEME OF THE SPIRIT'S TEACHING (John 15:26).

Notice again that all Three Persons of the Godhead are mentioned in this verse.

Here the Lord mentioned what the main theme of the Spirit's teaching would be: "He shall testify of Me."

I have related to some of you that when I finished my seminary work I had not finished my college work. That was true of several in our graduating class. But we promised to complete our college work within five

years. And I did that. My first pastorate after seminary was in Beaumont, Texas. There was what we called *a junior college* in Beaumont, but it was a two-year school, like our community colleges today. I had more than two years finished, so that did not help. So I went to the University of Houston to see how long it would take to complete my degree there. Beaumont and Houston were less than 100 miles apart. The head of the religion department was looking over my transcript, and saw a course that I had taken called, *Christ in the Pentateuch*. He smiled and said that was very interesting because, he said, that anybody who had read the Bible knows that you don't come to Christ until you get to the NT. I had a lot of things that I wanted to tell him, but here was a professor of religion who obviously did not believe in the Deity of Christ and had never seen that Christ is the main theme of the whole Bible – from Genesis to Revelation!

There is nothing that the Spirit of God delights more to do than to show us Christ in the Word – all of the Word, OT and NT! Christ is the One Who binds all of Scripture together. He is the Key to unlock Scripture. Until people understand this, the Bible remains a closed book. And you and I can tell that the Holy Spirit is teaching us when the reading and study of Scripture causes us to know the Lord better, and to love Him more, and to want to do the things that are pleasing to Him. And how to do that, we are told in the Word.

But let me tell you another fruit of the Spirit's ministry with us if you will let me slip into verse 27 of this chapter for just a moment.

What is the result when the Spirit is teaching us about Christ? The Lord Jesus said it was this: "And ye also shall bear witness." Bear witness of what, or whom? The Lord meant that the Holy Spirit witnesses to us of Christ, and the result is that we find that we can't keep the testimony to ourselves. We also will bear witness of Him, of Christ! We will be like the apostles in Acts 4:20 who had been told not to speak or teach anymore in the Name of Jesus. They said, "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

It may be that there is so little being done today in the way of vital witnessing of Christ because we have paid too little attention to the ministry of the Holy Spirit in relation to our Bibles.

Now let us move on briefly to John 16. I have already mentioned verse

12; now I want to go on to verses 13 through 15.

III. THE SPIRIT'S PERSONAL MINISTRY TO EACH OF US (John 16:13-15).

The Lord was speaking here about “all truth” as we find it in our Bibles. The Lord was talking about the Word of God – all of it!

Notice the word “guide.” That means *to show the way*. It is another word for *teaching*. That is what a teacher of any subject is. He or she is a guide, showing you the way to understanding that particular subject. Well, the Holy Spirit has been given to guide us through the truth. This what the Lord did when He was here on earth. That is what made His teaching so different from that of the scribes and Pharisees. You could sit under their ministry for the rest of your life and not learn much about the Bible. The Apostle Paul was trained under the great Jewish rabbi, Gamaliel, but he was not saved under Gamaliel's teaching. Gamaliel did not guide Saul of Tarsus to Christ. But when the Holy Spirit teaches anyone He takes that person to Christ.

But notice something very special here. The KJV says, “For He shall not speak of Himself.” Now we could take this to mean that the Holy Spirit never says anything about Himself. But He does! There is a lot in Scripture about the Holy Spirit. So it can't mean that the Holy Spirit has not revealed anything about Himself in Scripture. What does it mean then?

The Lord Jesus used the little preposition *ἀπό* to indicate that the Holy Spirit does not originate the message that He gives us, but whatever He hears is what He shows us.

So, who is the Holy Spirit listening to? Go back to verse 12 if you have any doubt. The Holy Spirit guides us gradually, day by day, into the knowledge of the truth, and the One He is listening to is our Lord Jesus Christ, the Master Teacher. As the Lord sees our need, and guides us even in our reading, He tells the Holy Spirit what the Holy Spirit is to show us, and that is how we learn.

The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ not only by leading us into a greater knowledge of Christ, but because He does the will of Christ in teaching us what Christ has told Him that He wants us to know.

This is amazing truth, isn't it? And you can see from John 14:26 that it is the Holy Spirit's work not only to teach us, but to bring to our remembrance what He has taught us before so that our knowledge of the truth, and our knowledge of the Lord, continues to grow, and that is how we grow.

Concl: Now as we soon realize from Scripture, God has committed Himself to continue His work in us until it is finished (and this includes all of the Members of the Godhead), but we have a responsibility in all of this. What is it? It is to read this book about Christ which the Holy Spirit has given to us. In addition we need to pray that our hearts will be open to the Spirit's teaching. So we need to pray and read and to continue praying and reading. But there is still something more? Faith will come through the Word, so the more we learn of the Word and the more we learn of Christ, the stronger our faith will be. And it is ridiculous to pray for greater faith if we aren't reading the Bible. But what follows our reading and our praying (in the Holy Spirit) is that we need to petition the Holy Spirit to enable us to be and to do (or not do) that which is pleasing to the Lord.

Conclude with Zech. 4:6-7:

6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

7 Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.