

Loved By God

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-7 Larry: Men's. **Strike Out Slavery**. C@R. Women Min Mtg. Real. R&R.
- B. Slide8-13 Larry: Pioneer Missions Report. (cooks. Widows. Homes. **Pic**. Poultry)
- C. Slide14 Sun Night of Prayer: *I world-news item that needs our prayer.* share/pray

II. Slide15,16a Intro: Loved By God

- A. Remember 90% of John is *unique* to his gospel.
- B. Remember the disciples were **troubled** & Jesus encouraged them with: their future home (heaven) & the perfect way (Jesus).
 - 1. Slide16b And now this week, He will continue encouraging with: **Seeing the Father. Asking the Son. Receiving The HS. Loved by God. Left w/Peace.**
- C. You might have thought, *If only I was around in Jesus' day. He could have explained everything to me. Told me what to do.* Common perception, but definitely **wrong on 2 counts**:
 - 1. Even those closest to Him often **didn't understand, ran away & were puzzled themselves**. Also, He said it would be better, more advantageous to us if He left & sent **another**.

III. Slide17a **SEEING THE FATHER (7-11)** *you do know Him & have seen Him*

- A. Jesus revealed the Father by what *He said & did* (i.e. **words & works**).
- B. Philip cried the prayer of so many...*I just want to see God. God show yourself.*
 - 1. Except Philip was waiting, like many even today, for the Father to be **shown in thunder & lightening** in the splendor of Sinai.
 - 2. Philip got **too familiar with** Jesus & missed the Father.
 - 3. He missed **the daily unfolding of the life of Jesus**.
- C. Slide17b Apart from *Knowing Jesus* we could never **know/see** the Father. [*He has made Him known, or declared Him, presented, expounded, explained, revealed Him*] Jn.1:18

IV. Slide18a **ASKING THE SON (12-14)** *prayer. we'll still be connected to the Son*

- A. (12a) The works that **Jesus** did, **believers** will do also. **What works did He do?**
He proclaimed, He taught, He loved, He fed, He served [He was in intimate relationship w/the Father]
1. What He did, **His followers** should be doing today.
- B. **Slide18b** (12b) **And Greater works - How would they be greater?**
1. **Not that Jesus was Junior Varsity & we are Varsity.** [No, its **1 person vs. many**]
 2. Jesus in 1 place, at 1 time, teaching 1 group of people. Or teaching, feeding, healing 1 group of people. **Now we're scattered in millions all across the globe.**
 - a) **Not in the magnitude** are we greater than Jesus; **but in the multitude.**
 - b) This is the 1 problem with the **Omni-present** becoming **singularly-present.**
- C. (13) **Whatever you ask in My name** - As one pastor put it, *God isn't our cosmic piñata.*
And In Jesus name isn't **the magic stick** that whacks the piñata & all the goodies fall out of heaven.
1. I want a new car in Jesus name. I want a husband in Jesus name. I want to be tall & play in the NBA in Jesus name.
 2. **Christ** has been **looked on** too long as **the magic genie** in Aladdin's Lamp.
And prayer the **fervent rub** to bring **it** to pass.
 - a) The verse is **not** the *carte blanche* to gratify our every desire.
- D. **God will answer specific prayers. Which prayers?** Prayers that *glorify* the Father (13b).
1. Most **prayers** are about self-glorification, Lord make me: **smart, healthy, wealthy, wise, attractive, tall...w/a hairy chest...or whatever.**
 2. **Make your prayers about:** His business, His reputation, His honor, His dignity.
 3. **Pray** prayers that *glorify the Father.* **How?** In Jesus' name. **Which means?** According to Jesus' will & mission.
 4. **Slide18c Pray** to share the **love** of God. **Pray** to be brave in the **purpose** of God
Pray to build the **church** of God. **Pray** to Glorify the **name** of God.
Pray to participate in the **cause** of God. **Pray** to be intentional in the **mission** of God. **Pray** to be adventurous in the **leading** of God.
 - a) **Prayer is not** getting God to **cry uncle** by bending His arm behind His back, in order to get Him to do things.

b) **Prayer** does *Changes Things*...but it's supposed to be **us** that changes, **not Him**.

V. Slide19a **RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT (15-18,26)**

- A. (15) If you **love Me** you will keep My commandments - **love & obey** [If you love me you'll obey Me]
- Love** without **obedience** leads to *unholiness*. **Obedience** without **love** leads to *unhappiness*. [2 extremes within the Christian church: *God loves you*, do whatever you want. He doesn't care, He just loves you. *Which leads to unholiness*. *The other side* says *obey, obey, obey*, but they don't tell you very loudly that God loves you. *The result of that is unhappiness*]
 - Like a bicycle**: Love and obedience go together like **2 pedals** on a bike: First **love**/relationship, **then obedience**/trust.
- B. (16,17) **Wow**, the **1st time** Jesus speaks to them of **the Holy Spirit**. (after 3 yrs)
- C. **Give** (16) - **The Holy Spirit is the Fathers Gift** to us.
- D. **Another** (16) (*i.e. He's compared to Christ*) The Spirit is a person & is God.
- Allos/ἄλλος another of the **same kind** & Heteros/ἕτερος another of a *diff kind*.
 - Slide19b** Gal.1:6,7 *I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to **another** (heteros) *gospel, which is not another* (allos)*
- E. **Forever** (16b) - This **gift** will *never be taken away from us*. The gift of *never being alone*.
- Never** think no one understands your situation, **or** that no one cares. We have an **ever present friend/helper/counselor/advocate** that provides infinite care.
- F. **Dwells with/in** (17b) - He dwells **with** (and now) **in** God's people.
- G. **Teach & remembrance** (vs.26) - He is our teacher & reminder.
- H. Let's remember, *The Holy Spirit doesn't make you weird but makes you like Jesus*.
- The HS empowered **Jesus'** life **and now** He's being sent to empower **our** lives
 - The ministry of the HS is helping us to **be** increasingly *more like Jesus*.
 - Did you know that Jesus needed *the HS's help*, **not** because He was sinful **but** human.
 - When Jesus was tempted by in the wilderness in Luke 4 **how did He face it?**
 - Slide19c** He faced it *with the Holy Spirit*. *Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil for forty days.*

b) The HS is the *most neglected power source* in the universe. So many Christians are trying to live off their *I can do this, self-energy*.

I. **Helper** - *Paraclete* - interpreter, comforter, advocate. No one-word suffices.

1. It means, *one whom you call to your side in the battle or law-court*.

2. **Para** - beside. [Para-medic. para-military. para-legal. para-chute/fall]]

J. **Parakletos** means, *called to one's side*. Barclay, But it is **why** the person is called in, which gives the word its distinction:

1. It might be one called in to give **witness** in a law court in someone's favor.

2. It might be an **advocate** called in to plead the cause of someone under a charge of serious injury.

3. It might be an **expert** called in to give advice in some difficult situation.

4. It might be a **person** called in when a company of soldiers were depressed & dispirited to put new courage into their minds & hearts.

a) *Always a parakletos is someone called in to help in time of trouble or need.*

K. (18) An **orphan** is, *a person deprived of protection & position*.

1. If you are no longer an orphan you are what? **Adopted**.

2. If Jesus comes to you, you will then have **protection & position**.

VI. Slide20a **LOVED BY GOD (19-24)**

A. (19) We *live by faith* & see the *eternal dimension of Christ* behind our circumstances.

1. We have confidence that *whatever circumstance come our way*, they can *work together for the good* of *conforming us to Christ's image*.

2. Slide20b Our ability to **see** is influenced by what we have been **trained to look for**.

a) A **doctor** will see more by looking down the throat of a sick child than any parent.

b) An **artist** will appreciate a tour through a gallery much more than someone w/o those sensibilities.

c) A **seamstress** will appreciate a finely tailored outfit much more than someone whose eyes have not been trained to notice such subtleties of style & precision.

(1) 1st time I went dove hunting *I couldn't tell a dove's flight pattern from the other birds.* Now I can spot em 100 yards away, flying 40mph.

d) So, too if our eyes are trained to see **God's hand** in *our circumstances*, then each pressure indenting the clay of our lives will be seen **not** to *bend us out of shape* but to *mold us into vessels of honor* - fit for a king.

B. (22) If I was *this Judas*, I would make *not Iscariot* my middle name.

1. **Not to the world?** - misunderstanding of what would happen when Messiah came (*ie. displaying Himself to the world*) [Will happen at 2nd coming]

C. Slide20c (23) *We will come to him* - It is 1 thing for **us** to go to **heaven** & quite something else for **heaven** to come to **us**. Warren Wiersbe

D. *Make our home with Him* - **God** prepares a **mansion** for those who believe in Christ, & asks in return that we *prepare our hearts* as a **guest room** for Him to *come & stay in*.

1. As He enters the loving, cleansed, & believing heart, we hear Him say, ***This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it.*** Ps.132:14 Zion

2. **Just as** the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle in the wilderness, **so the Trinity** will fill your heart with their *permanent presence*.

VII. Slide21a **LEFT WITH PEACE (25-31)**

A. Slide21b (27a) *My Peace* is **not** *the power of positive thinking*. It is **not feelings** the disciples have to conjure up. **Nor** circumstances they have to *cover up*.

B. *My Peace* - a heart *untroubled*; fearless in spite of **suffering** or **conflict** that comes our way.

1. Slide21c It's an **inner calm** in the midst of **crazy/wild outer storms**.

C. **Why does He give it now?** Because anything left us by a dying friend is **valued & esteemed** all the more highly.

1. *My peace I give to you* - Picture Jesus reading His own Last Will & Testament: *Lands & houses, the worlds goods, silver & gold, he had none to leave. But what He has He gives unto us.*

2. Slide21d *My Peace* I give to you. *My Love* I give to you(15:9). *My Joy* I give to you (15:11)

3. **An angel** announce peace **at His birth**. **He Himself** offers peace **at His death**. *Peace I leave with you.*

- a) Were these words confined to them? No, they stood as the *representatives* of **all** His people...see Jn.17:20-22.
- b) Slide21e Yet not all people. Is.57:19-21(NLT) *May they have abundant peace, both near and far (Jew & Gentile), says the Lord, who heals them. But those who still reject me are like the restless sea, which is never still but continually churns up mud and dirt. There is no peace for the wicked, says my God.*
- D. (27b) Jesus' words, *let your heart not be troubled*, infer that his disciples **have the ability** to keep their emotions afloat *during the storms they experience*.
- How do we live in a troubled world *without* a troubled heart? [1] Remember we have the the HS to empower us. [2] We have Jesus' Promises, because *fear* usually grips us when we either ignore or forget what God said. [3] We have His Peace.
- E. (28b) If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, *I was going to the Father*.
- Jesus invites them to rise above what His departure is going to mean for them, to consider what it will mean for Him.* Bruce Milne [has a loved-one said that to you?]
- F. (28c) For the Father is greater than I - In what sense?
- The Father is greater **in office & glory** than the Son was **in** His *humiliation* on earth. By going back to the Father He would be **exalted again in glory**.
- G. (30) I will no longer talk much with you, for *the ruler of this world* is coming -
- His teaching time was now limited because **Satan was moving his forces against Jesus through Judas, as He spoke**.
 - Satan must have thought Jesus' death was a **victory** for him, **but actually** it was **Jesus' victory** over Satan.
- H. (30) He has no claim on me - *Nothing in me (nkjv). No hold on me (niv). No power over me (nlt)*
- He sure has a lot on us. Imagine Satan dropping a match on all **our** sinful dry leaves. **But** there is *nothing flammable* in Jesus.
- I. (31b) Arise, let us go from here - Showing His willingness to suffer. *As a soldier runs towards the battle/bullets not away from*.
- J. **Obedience**, motivated by **love**, gives Jesus a **warm blanket** of **peace** in the midst of the *chilling storm front* beginning to roll into His life.

1. **His obedience** sets the *perfect pattern for us* when we find ourselves **feeling alone** in a *torrential downpour* of **fateful circumstances**.