**Our Advocate, the Holy Spirit**

 John 14:15-31

 Our text today deals about the event one day before Jesus’ crucifixion. Jesus taught about His relationship with the disciples through the vine and branches: “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (15:5). It is a life relationship and the way of bearing fruit. Remaining in Jesus is not vague. It is to remain in His words (7) and remain in His love (9). His command to us is that we love one another (13:34-35; 12, 17). Do you think it is good enough that you love Jesus with all your heart? No, Jesus wants us to love one another. A Christian life is that we love Jesus in great fervor and love one another passionately. What is Jesus’ love that we should put it into practice?

1. **Lay down one’s life for friends (12-13)**

Jesus says, “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you” (12). 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

**2. The Holy Spirit teaches us all things (19-26)**

Jesus told the disciples that His departure was approaching soon (19-20). He was sure of His resurrection and that the disciples would see Him again (11:25-26). In Jesus, the disciples will live such a resurrection life. So Jesus said, “Because I live, you also will live” (19). Jesus then said, “On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you” (20). Here, “on that day” refers to the Pentecost – the day the Spirit came. The disciples will realize what Jesus had been saying was true; Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in Jesus (14:10-11). The disciples will also realize that they are in Jesus and Jesus is in them. We see here the life connection between the triune God and the saints. We experience this life connection as a true reality in the Spirit.

How should we keep this life connection vital? Jesus says, “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them” (21). It is to have His commands in our hearts and put them into practice. Jesus also says, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching” (23-24a). The ultimate purpose of a Christian life is to live a life of love; love the Lord with all our heart and love one another deeply. When we live a life of love (obedience), we have a close union with the triune God. In the OT, shekinah glory came to the Israelites in the Tent of Meeting occasionally (Ex 25:8). His coming was in public and in the cloud; people trembled at His coming. Yet in the NT, His coming is personal – like coming to your home. You feel His intimate love. You experience this glorious and intimate indwelling through the Holy Spirit. What does the Holy Spirit do? Jesus says, “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you” (26). The Advocate, Jesus talked about in verse 16, is identified as the Holy Spirit. He comes in Jesus’ name. His ministry is teaching the words. He doesn’t teach new things, rather He help us to understand them what Jesus had taught. Peter was so dull that he could not understand Jesus’ teaching. Yet when the Holy Spirit came on the Pentecost, he preached the gospel in power, freely quoting the OT. 3000 people repented and came to believe in Jesus. So we should pray, “Holy Spirit, I am so dull. Come and teach me.” We should pray for our loved ones.

**3. The Holy Spirit gives us shalom (27-31)**

Jesus says, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (27). Jesus ends His teaching, offering the gift of peace. Jesus tells us his “peace” is my peace. Jesus’ peace is different from the peace of the world. It is the gift of the Holy Spirit (Jn 20:21-22). Worldly peace is a storm calming down. It is temporary and conditional. It is having peace in money, a good job or a promotion. When you lose any of these things, you lose your peace. Yet Jesus’ shalom is different. It is the peace in the midst of the storms. It is permanent and absolute. It is the peace that comes from the knowledge of having reconciled with God (Ro 5:1). It is the peace of the Spirit pouring God’s love into our heart. It is the peace that the Creator, the Almighty is with us.

At this time, Jesus faced a dark tunnel of pain. All His disciples would abandon Him. He would be beaten, crucified and be forsaken by God. Yet He didn’t lose peace. Rather He gave God’s shalom to the disciples. In the past, Korean’s number one concern was eating. So the greeting was, “Did you eat?” Health (wellbeing) is what people are most concerned with today. The Hebrew people’s number one concern was peace. So they greeted each other saying, “Shalom.” Indeed, shalom is the thing we need the most. Many people suffer in stress, anxiety, insomnia and depression. They try to solve their inner troubles through alcohol, pleasures and even drugs. These things only destroy their body and soul. We need Jesus’ peace.

Peter denied Jesus three times on the night when Jesus was arrested. When the Spirit came though, he completely overcame his fear for he had the peace of God in him. He went out and boldly preached the gospel. Persecution and even martyrdom couldn’t stop him. Yes, when we have Jesus’ peace, we do not fear or fall into despair even in the midst of the severe storms in life. 2 Corinthians 3:17 says, “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” Are you in the midst of the storms of life? Financial crisis, conflicts, health, children and so on? Seek Jesus’ peace that transcends all our understanding (Phi 4:7). Invite Him, entrust all things onto Him and be led by Him. You’ll surely experience His help and victory in life.