**Pastor Tim’s Message Notes from 4-6-2023
A Needed Helper**

I was speaking with Dee following Palm Sunday worship this past Sunday and we were talking about how profound this week we call Holy Week really is. We were describing it as being similar to a roller coaster.

How many of you like roller coasters? With coasters there are ups and downs and twists and turns. It is certainly exciting, but can sometimes leave you feeling sick as well.

And so it was with the events of Holy Week. There were so many twists and turns and ups and down just in the period of a week. It was exciting, but the events left many feeling sick and queasy.

Holy Week is so significant that John spends basically half of the gospel describing the events of Holy Week. It’s that important.

It begins with the parade-like celebration of Palm Sunday, as the people of Jerusalem welcome Jesus into town as their King. But Jesus does not prepare for battle against the Romans as many of the people wanted. Instead, Jesus acts in holy violence by cleansing the Temple of all the corruption taking place there. The Temple was meant to be a place of prayer for the nations, but it was being turned into wall street with all the transactions taking place there. And so Jesus overturns the tables of the moneychangers and the religious leaders turn even more against Jesus. And this was just Sunday and Monday.

Tension continues to rise with each passing day. By Thursday, things are beginning to crescendo. By Thursday, critical moment follows critical moment. Truly, there are so many things that happen this day that we could talk about tonight as we reflect on that day.

Today is often referred to as Maundy Thursday. The word ‘Maundy’ is the Latin word for command. It could be understood at Jesus’ final commands or instructions before giving up His life for humanity. Jesus is spending significant time with His disciples and He is sharing words and performing actions that were critically important to Him.

To put it another way, if you saw yourself as having 24 hours left to live, how would you spend that time? Whom would you speak with? What would you want others to know? What would you say? What would you want to impart into others who would soon be devastated?

This was Jesus’ experience. While He knew that His death would only be temporary and that He would be raised on the third day, Jesus was seeking to use His last day to give strength to His students, His disciples. He comforts them in advance.

It was tonight, on Maundy Thursday, that Jesus begins to establish the long-awaited new covenant. He does this by sharing and transforming the Passover Meal into something far more significant. The bread would now represent His body and the wine would symbolize His blood. The next day, Jesus would become the Passover Lamb for the world. The covenant would be sealed by the blood of His sacrifice.

Jesus also washes disciples’ feet on Maundy Thursday. He was teaching them that if they would become like their Rabbi, they must also live lives of humble service to others, following His example.

But as Jesus begins to make His way to the Mount of Olives, which was a familiar place for prayer and quiet for Jesus, our Lord begins to teach His disciples in great detail about a necessary Helper that He would soon be sending. This was one of the essential truths that He wanted to convey to them before He was separated from them.

Jesus describes this Helper in various ways. This evening’s passage touches on some of them. Let us turn to God’s Word now found in John 14:15-27.

**15“If you love me, keep my commands. 16And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14%3A15-27&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26686a)**] in you. 18I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21Whoever 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.”**

**22Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”**

**23Jesus replied, “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. 24Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.**

**25“All this I have spoken while still with you. 26But 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. 27Peace 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.**

There is so much in this passage friends. But central to it is Jesus speaking about the Holy Spirit. He refers to the Holy Spirit as another Advocate and as the Spirit of Truth. He tells them that the Holy Spirit will teach them all things and will remind them of everything He has said to them. Jesus even says that this Holy Spirit will be in them.

And clearly, Jesus connects the Holy Spirit with Himself and with God the Father in this passage. Jesus would not leave them as orphans, but would come to them through the Person of the Holy Spirit.

In my opinion, the Holy Spirit is the most misunderstood Person of the Trinity. We think of God in the Old Testament and Jesus praying to the Father. We read of Jesus walking among us as the God-Man. But the Holy Spirit is also God. God is Trinity – Three Persons, but One is in essence. Three unique uncreated beings, but forever united in love and purpose with One another.

Jesus would soon be fulfilling his mission of coming to earth as humanity’s savior. The Holy Spirit would soon be taking center stage. And boy did the disciples need the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a Person. He has a personality. He has emotions. He is not an impersonal force, like some people may believe Him to be.

\*Again, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as the Advocate. An advocate is someone who is there for you to help you. An advocate is someone who supports you and seeks to help you.

Jesus was telling them that this Advocate was going to teach them all things and remind them of everything Jesus has said to them. This was great news!

This would not take place until several weeks later, when Jesus would pour out the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit would come to dwell within each believer. It would be like Jesus living in them.

Jesus knew that the future of the early church would not be easy. There would be persecution, there would be false teachers trying to lead people astray, there would be things to learn and grow in and prejudices to overcome --- but the Advocate would be coming to help.

\*Do any of you remember doing connect the dots? At the beginning, the page looks just like a sea of dots, but as the lines are drawn, a picture begins to be emerge.

Jesus is basically telling the disciples that the Holy Spirit will connect the dots for them. He would be their teacher. He would take all that Jesus had taught them through His words and His actions and He would fit it all together. The Holy Spirit would help them to understand how prophecy after prophecy had been fulfilled through Jesus.

The Holy Spirit would order their steps and even inspire the New Testament writers, just as He inspired those whom He called to write the Old Testament.

\*So how does this relate to Jesus comforting His disciples on Maundy Thursday?

Jesus was saying that I will be leaving you in great hands. The Holy Spirit is just like me and He wants to help you and will live within you. Jesus wanted them to remember that through the Holy Spirit, He would be closer to them than He has ever been.

Jesus wanted this essential truth of the needed helper that would soon be coming to bring peace that passes understanding for the different few days ahead.

So friends, as we ponder all the events of Maundy Thursday, but especially Jesus speaking about this needed helper, this Advocate, what are we to take with us today?

I believe it is this. **Jesus strongly desires for each of us to have an immensely close relationship with the Holy Spirit and to look to the Holy Spirit to teach us and help us and lead us and to connect the dots for us.**

Friends, if we believe is Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in us. But the Holy Spirit desires to lead us and support us in our Christian growth. The Holy Spirit is eager to help us to understand the Scriptures. He connects the dots.

The Holy Spirit loves to minister through people as His vessels, but He is the Teacher behind all godly teaching.

Jesus promised to be with us always and He is with us through the Holy Spirit. I have a pray that I wrote I would like to pray with you tonight. And you can take this prayer home and pray it as often as you like. It is a prayer to the Holy Spirit, our Divine Helper. (pass out the prayer)

**A Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

Dear Holy Spirit, I love You and I worship You. I know that You are One with Jesus and One with God the Father. I give you thanks and praise that You came to earth for me. I need You. I look to You as my Advocate, my Helper. You know all the ways that I need help and I look to You to graciously help me in all of those ways.

Holy Spirit, You are my Comforter. I look to You to comfort me in the ways that I need comforting. May Your comfort overflow within me that I may comfort others with Your help.

Holy Spirit, You are holy and I desire to walk in holiness before You. I invite You to gently convict me of anything that may be holding me back to living the abundant life that Jesus died for me to have.

Holy Spirit, I want to be in rich fellowship with You every day. I want to talk with You and to hear Your voice clearly. Help me to be in continual conversation with You every day, dear Lord.

Holy Spirit, You are my Teacher and I ask that You would connect the dots of Scripture together for me. Holy Spirit stir within me the grace of grasping Scripture. Fill me with a desire to know and love God’s Word more every day. Enable me to see and love Jesus and Father God more clearly every day.

Holy Spirit, empower me to be a bold witness for God in this world. May Your perfect love cast out any unhealthy fear that I might be carrying. Enable me to use the spiritual gifts that You have given me to be a blessing in this world.

All these things we ask in the precious Name of Jesus and to the glory of God the Father, Amen.

Resources:

[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/one-essence-three-person>

# **One in Essence, Three in Person**

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/finding-power-to-live-a-new-life-discipleship-and-the-holy-spirit/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwla-hBhD7ARIsAM9tQKs5zhxdROP5oyaxT4BC71XVufuI0cgDXKqVStiWEltK1PQxBcC6cUwaAjF7EALw_wcB>

## FINDING POWER TO LIVE A NEW LIFE: DISCIPLESHIP AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

*By Thomas A. Tarrantson March 4, 2012*[*Knowing and Doing*](https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources-category/csli-publications/knowing-and-doing/)*,*[*Must Reads: Holy Spirit*](https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources-category/must-reads/must-reads-holy-spirit/)*,*[*Knowing & Doing 2012 Spring*](https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources-category/csli-publications/knowing-and-doing/knowing-and-doing-2012-spring/)*,*[*Thomas A. Tarrants*](https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources-category/speakers/thomas-a-tarrants/)