

The Spirit of Truth will Guide You

The gospel for this coming Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Easter) is John 16:12-22. Our text is a portion of our Lord's farewell address to his disciples on the night before his crucifixion.

He has already told them he would be going to the Father's house (14:2), going to the Father (14:28). He has also reminded them that they could expect severe opposition as his witnesses, opposition to the point of death (15:18–21; 16:2–4). Such talk has filled the disciples with grief (16:22). Jesus knows this and goes out of his way to comfort them. "Do not let your hearts be troubled," he says (14:1). He offers them his peace (14:27). He promises to send the Counselor (14:26; 15:26). This Counselor is the Holy Spirit. He will be their ultimate comfort as he brings to their remembrance all that Jesus told them, speaking the truth about Jesus and revealing more fully things yet to come. The result will be that their grief will be turned to joy (16:22).

Jesus continues his discourse on the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is called the "*Spirit of truth*." He speaks the truth because he does not speak on his own but only what he hears from him who is the truth, that is, Jesus, the Son of God. "*All the truth*" signifies all the saving realities connected with Jesus and his Father. Both Jesus and the Father send the Spirit. The Spirit's revelation will include "what is yet to come." Jesus had spoken of the last days, but the Spirit will further amplify. "*All the truth*" signifies all the saving realities connected with Jesus and His Father.

When Jesus says "*I tell you the truth*" this a special seal of verity (the twofold amen) and of authority ("I say to you") marks the importance of the statement. This meant that they could fully depend on it and so can we.

This does not stop the disciples from asking questions. But Jesus knew their concerns and answered them. Jesus knows what is on our mind and stands ready to answer every one of them. Most of all he gives us the comfort that he will bring us into heaven with him. Jesus promises: "*no one will take your joy from you*." This joy will carry us through all of the trials of this life.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for your Word of Truth that gives us the saving message that you earned on the cross and keeps us in this one true faith. Help us daily to delight in this Word and grow ever more certain of our eternal destiny. Amen