



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – April 26, 2020

To Know Christ...

How good is your memory? Some say, it's not what it use to be! Can you imagine being able to remember every word from a relationship that lasted over three years? Jesus gave a promise to the eleven apostles after Judas left the upper room. Jesus speaks in John 14:26 "**But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom My Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.**" Jesus makes this promise to send "the Helper, the Holy Spirit" who will teach them all things & cause them to remember ALL that Jesus had said to them during their time together. The term "helper" means "one called along side to offer aid or help." Can you contemplate seeing so many miracles that you might forget? Or hearing Jesus teach so often that you could not keep it all straight? The Holy Spirit would help the apostles to remember all that Jesus said and also teach them all things. The fulfillment was given, but let's examine a few specific examples. Remember the apostles left benefits that we still enjoy now, but the promise was not for us today in Christ, since we shared no dialogue with Christ to remember.

John is one of the apostles who received this promise of the "the Helper." When John writes his Gospel account the inspiration of the Holy Spirit had taught John all things and brought to John's remembrance all that Jesus had said. In chapter 2, Jesus has come to the temple in Jerusalem to spiritually "clean up" His Father's house. He threw out the thieves with evil motives of robbing their fellow Jews of money and robbing God of His rightful place of honor. Jesus then told the Jews, in a way hidden from them, that the temple (His body) would be raised in three days. In John 2:22, John writes, "**So when He [Jesus] was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.**" The Scripture is from Psalm 69:9 "Zeal for Your house will consume Me." [also John 2:17] The Spirit caused John to remember these words of Jesus and apply them correctly after many years between Jesus' words and even the writing of John's gospel. The Holy Spirit was given in this special way to the apostles just as Jesus had promised.

Here is another example in John 12:12-15, Jesus enters into Jerusalem with great "fanfare" of palm branches as Jesus rode into the city on a donkey's colt. The large crowd even shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel." Look at verse 16, "**These things the disciples did not understand at the first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him, and that they had done these things to Him.**" They did not realize it at the moment it happened, but after the Helper came to the apostles, John (as well as the other apostles) remembered they had done these things to Him. They remembered the Scripture in Zechariah 9:9, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, seated on a donkey's colt." [also John 12:15] The Helper, the Holy Spirit, was teaching the apostles all things as was promised by Jesus.

What a great comfort to us as readers of the Gospel of John (and other writings of the apostles) that Jesus promised His eleven apostles the Helper who would teach them all things & cause them to remember all that Jesus said. Other New Testament writers were inspired too, but the apostles were especially inspired by this promise of the Spirit. When the apostles misunderstood or simply did not understand Jesus' actions or words at the time, they would be helped by the Holy Spirit in Jesus' promise for them to know the truth & remember all the words of Jesus. This should bring us to a great conviction in Scripture and its promises. Consider one more thought about how much the Helper caused John to remember, listen to the last verse of John's gospel, "**And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.**" John remembered more than he could possibly write down during his lifetime, but these are written so you might believe and have life. [John 20:30-31] It's certainly overwhelming, just like Jesus! How good was John's memory of Jesus?

- Carey Terry