

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

Choosing Obedience for Love's Sake John 14:28-31

Christ, in John 14:25-31, prepared His disciples for His departure by outlining certain benefits. So, what is the first benefit of His departure that Christ mentioned to His disciples?

The first benefit of Christ's departure that He mentioned to His disciples was that the Holy Spirit would be sent to them (John 14:25-26). We saw this benefit in **John 14:25-26**.

Let me read these verses for you. **"These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you. (26) But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."** So, what was the first benefit of Christ's departure? The first benefit was the Holy Spirit would be sent to them. And what was the second benefit of Christ's departure?

The second benefit of Christ's departure that He mentioned to His disciples was that peace would be given them (John 14:27). Let me read for you **John 14:27. "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."** So, what was the second benefit of Christ's departure? Peace was the second benefit of His departure. Not just any kind of peace, but His peace would be given to them.

Now obviously the coming of the Holy Spirit and the giving of Christ's peace are two huge benefits of Christ's departure but Jesus is not yet done. There are still two more benefits. So, what is the third benefit?

The third benefit of Christ's departure that He mentioned to His disciples was that His departure would confirm their faith (John 14:28-31). So how would His departure accomplish this? This is explained for us in **John 14:28-31**.

Let us first of all look at the very beginning of **verse 28**. What does it say? It says, **"You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.'"** What is Jesus seeking to accomplish by making this statement to His disciples? Jesus shared what He shared in John 14:28 in order to remind His disciples of what He had been repeatedly telling them about His departure and His subsequent future coming. This is why He said to them what He said to them in **John 14:28**. It was all about reminding them of what He had shared with them.

Now why would He want to remind them of what He had been telling them about His departure and His subsequent future coming? He is reminding them of what He had been telling them so that they would obviously not forget what He had said about these things.

But why would there be any concern about them forgetting? The reason why there might have been some concern about them forgetting was because they did not particularly want to hear what Jesus was trying to tell them about His departure and His future coming. All they wanted to hear from Christ was that He was going to remain with them and set up His kingdom thus fulfilling their earthly dreams and their earthly hopes.

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Was their self-centeredness a problem in respect to what Christ was trying to tell them? Absolutely! Let us continue to read **John 14:28**. What does it say? This is what it says, "**You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced, because I go to the Father.**"

Was the self-centeredness of Christ's disciples a problem in respect to what Christ was trying to tell them about His departure and future return? Yes! Not only did their self-centeredness prevent them from seeing the blessedness of what Christ had been saying to them in light of their own situation, but it also prevented them from seeing the blessedness of what Christ had been sharing with them in light of His situation.

In other words, if the disciples had not been so self-centered they would have been able to rejoice with Jesus when He spoke to them about His departure, knowing that He was going back to His Father. Isn't this exactly what **John 14:28** tells us?

So, why should the fact that Christ was leaving them to go back to His Father have caused them to rejoice with Him? Christ goes on to explain this as we continue to read **John 14:28**.

Let me once again read this verse for you but this time I will read the entire verse. "**You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced, because I go to the Father; for the Father is greater than I.**"

The reason why His disciples should have been able to rejoice with Christ when He spoke about His departure, knowing that He was going back to His Father, was because His Father was greater. So, what exactly did Jesus mean when He told His disciples that His Father was greater?

When Jesus told His disciples "the Father is greater than I," He was not referring to His Father as being greater in essence, but rather He is referring to His Father as being greater in elevation. What do I mean by this?

Let me read for you **Philippians 2:5-8** "**Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, (6) who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. (8) And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**"

The Father was greater in elevation because Christ, in emptying Himself, had veiled His glory or His intrinsic worth as God (Philippians 2:5-8). But this was all about to change.

When Christ returned back to His Father He would once again enjoy the glory that He shared with His Father before His incarnation (John 17:1-5). This expectation on the part of Christ will be made very clear when we get to His high-priestly prayer in John 17:1-5. Let me read these verses for you. "**These things Jesus spoke; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son, that the Son may glorify Thee, (2) even as Thou gavest Him authority over all mankind, that to all whom Thou hast given Him, He may give eternal life.**"

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(3) And this is eternal life, that they may know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. (4) I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do. (5) And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.’”

In **John 14:28**, Jesus is reminding His disciples that He had repeatedly told them about His departure and subsequent future return. He felt that He needed to remind them of this because they were not particularly inclined to hear what He had to say about this particular subject. Why? They were not particularly inclined to hear what Jesus had to say because all they wanted to hear was how He was going to remain with them in order to set up His earthly kingdom thus fulfilling their earthly dreams and hopes.

Unfortunately, the same thing could very easily happen to us. And how could that happen? It could happen in the same way that it happened in respect to Christ’s disciples. In other words, if we are not careful we could very much like Christ’s disciples find ourselves unintentionally turning a deaf ear to what Christ is saying simply because we are putting our own earthly interests above Christ’s. Is it easy to become self-centered? Absolutely! It is easy for us and it was easy for Christ’s disciples.

And what was the result of the disciple’s self-centeredness? Not only were they unable to rejoice in the blessedness of their own situation in light of what Jesus was saying, they were also unable to rejoice with Christ in the blessedness of His own situation in light of what He was saying.

But now, having mildly rebuked the disciples for their self-centeredness in **John 14:28**, He will now go on in **John 14:29** and explain to them why He has been relentless in sharing with them what He has been sharing with them about His departure and subsequent future return in spite of their self-centeredness.

Let me read for you **John 14:29**. **"And Now I have told you before it comes to pass, that when it comes to pass, you may believe."**

What was Jesus referring to when talked about the "it" coming to pass? The "it" in John 14:29 referred to His departure (death, burial, resurrection and ascension) plus His subsequent future coming to them in the person of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

And why was it so important for them to see "it," or in other words, all that things He had spoken to them about come to pass? It was important for them to see all these things that He had spoken to them about come to pass in order that they might believe. Believe what?

When Jesus said, "that they might believe" He meant that they might believe that He was the Christ, the Son of the living God, who gives life to all those who exercise faith in Him (John 20:31).

Have we followed cunningly devised fables? No! We have not followed cunningly devised fables. Rather, we have placed our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ who even before He was crucified, buried, resurrected and ascended and had returned back to them in the person of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, had already told His disciples that these things would happen.

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So, what were the benefits we have seen so far of Christ's departure according to Christ? The first benefit in John 14:25-26 was the Holy Spirit would be sent. The second benefit was the disciples of Christ, in the person of the Holy Spirit, would be given the gift of Christ's peace. And now thirdly, we have seen that Christ's departure after what He has just shared with them would in fact confirm their faith.

But there is still a fourth benefit. And what would that be? The fourth benefit of Christ's departure is that it demonstrated His love for His Father (John 14:30-31).

Let us continue to read, "**I will not speak much more with you** [in other words, my time is running out] **for the ruler of this world is coming** [in other words, Satan was coming and how was he coming? He was coming through his agents, which were Judas, the temple police and Roman soldiers. And then what does he says] **and he has nothing in Me.**" In other words, in contrast to the hold he (Satan) had on Judas, the temple police and the Roman soldiers because of sin, he had no such hold on Christ. Why didn't he have any hold on Christ? He had no hold on Christ because Christ was without sin.

But if that were true then why would Christ submit Himself to the agents of Satan in cooperating with their plan to put Him to death? Jesus answers this in John 14:31. "**But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go from here.**"

May God give us the grace be as lovingly obedient to Christ as Christ was lovingly obedient to His Father.