

John 14:25-31

25 'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate,* the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. ³⁰I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; ³¹but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

Context

John's Gospel meditates on the role and nature of the Holy Spirit in several places, including the passage above. There is even a unique "Pentecost Story" in John, where Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to his disciples in the upper room (John 20:22). In John, the Spirit makes the presence of Jesus enduring and enduringly accessible: teaching truth, gifting peace, and strengthening the community to "rise" and "be on our way" in ministry and mission.

Big Idea & Quote

Too often we prefer "a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice."

Inspired from Martin Luther King, Jr's *Letter From a Birmingham Jail* (1963)

Reflect

1. Read the scripture passage carefully and slowly. What word or image stands out to you? Why?
2. What does "peace" mean to you? What do you make of the idea that there is a difference between negative and positive peace (see quote above)?
3. Describe a time when you experienced memorable or lasting peace. What made that possible? What did it teach you?
4. What can you do today to work toward embracing peace in yourself and/or in the world?