

The Word He Gave You to Keep

John 14:23-31

The Day of Pentecost, June 9, 2019

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Broadlands

The Son of the Father loves the Father. Because the Son loves the Father the Son keeps the words of the Father. If the Son had not loved the Father, the Son would not have kept the words of the Father. But the Son did love the Father. The Son kept the words of the Father. The Son obeyed the Father's will. The Son believed the Father's promises.

If you love Jesus, you will keep His words. You will listen to His words. You will read His words. You will meditate upon His words and treasure them. If you love Jesus, you will keep His words.

If you do not love Jesus, you will not keep His words. You will not listen to His words when they are preached. You will not even bother to come. You will not read His words. You will not meditate on His words or treasure them. If you do not love Jesus, you will not keep His words.

If you love Jesus, you will keep His words and the Father will love you. Like earthly fathers love those who love their children so also the heavenly Father loves those who love His Son. When the heavenly Father loves someone He makes His dwelling with that person. Therefore if anyone loves Jesus, they will keep His words. Anyone who keeps the Words of Jesus will be loved by the Father. The Father will come and make His dwelling with that person.

If you do not love Jesus, you will not keep His Words. The Father will not make His dwelling with you.

The reason for all of this is that the words that the Son speaks to you are not His own words. The words that the Son speaks to you are the words of the Father.

What are the words which the Son has given you to keep?

There are many words that the Son has given you to keep, but there are two that He highlights. First, "Peace I live 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 second, "I am going to the Father."

The Son gives you peace. The son does not give you peace in the same way that the world gives you peace. The Son gives you peace in His own way. The peace that the Son gives is the peace that comes from Him going to the Father.

The Son told His apostles that He was going to the Father. He told them this on the night in which He was betrayed. He told them that He was going to the Father. By telling them that He was going to the Father on the night in which He was betrayed He was telling them that the way He was taking to the Father was via His betrayal, crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension into heaven. That was His path to the Father. That is the way that the Son obtains and also bestows peace.

Where is the peace of Jesus in His betrayal, crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension into heaven? The peace of Jesus is not in His betrayal, crucifixion, and death. The peace of Jesus is in His burial, resurrection, and ascension. But that means that the peace of Jesus is on the other side of His betrayal, crucifixion, and death. There is no peace for the Son unless there is first the betrayal, crucifixion, and death. Only then is there peace.

While the peace of Jesus is on the other side of His betrayal, crucifixion, and death, the peace of Jesus in His burial, resurrection, and ascension into heaven is a permanent peace. It is a peace that no one can take away from the Son. No one can take the peace of the Son away from the Son now that the Son has gone to the Father. Not even the ruler of this world can take away the peace that the Son has now that He has gone to the Father.

Remember the ruler of this world is the devil. The devil became the ruler of this world in the beginning. In the beginning God created man in God's own image. In the image of God, God created man. Male and female God created man. God said, "Let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living creature that is on the face of the ground and over all the creation." Thus being made in God's image we were the rulers of the creation.

Then the devil came in the guise of the serpent. He came and deceived the woman. The man failed to rule his house with the word of God. They listened to the devil and believed him rather than to listen to God and believe Him. And when we who were the rulers of this world listened to the devil and submitted ourselves to his will rather than to God's all of the authority that we had over the creation was transferred to the devil and he became the ruler of this world.

That is he was the ruler of this world until the Son came from the Father full of grace and truth. The ruler of this world has no place or share in the Son. That means that the ruler of this world has no place or share in the peace that the Son bestows. Therefore when the Son says, "My peace 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," the ruler of this world cannot do anything about it. Just as the ruler of this world could not stop the betrayal, crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of the Son of God into

heaven, thus also the ruler of this world cannot stop the Son of God from giving His peace to you.

But let us examine this peace. First, it is an everlasting peace. No one can take away the peace of the Son. He has ascended to the right hand of the Father. The Father is greater than all. No one can take away the peace that the Son has obtained.

But secondly, the peace of the Son is on the other side of His betrayal, crucifixion, and death. He does not obtain any peace at all until these things are completed. Only then does He have peace to give to you.

Since, He is giving you His peace and He not giving His peace the way the world gives its peace, the peace that He gives to you does not come to you without a cross.

Take the world's peace as an example. When the world offers you peace, no matter what form the offer may take, the peace always comes up front with long term suffering and consequences afterward. The world offers you a peace that makes you feel powerful, wanted, accepted, and unjudged. The peace is immediate and it feels really good. The world offers you a peace that makes you feel confident and on top of the world. It offers you a peace which consists of controlling your neighbors and other forces around you. And then once the short term peace is done which may last only a few hours or a few days or maybe a year, then the long term consequences set in. Then there is suffering, shame, want, lack, sadness. It is a sadness that the world can only cover by a veneer. The world has you pretending that you are the center of everything, when in reality you are the center of nothing. And that is why you suffer. You suffer because you are not center of everything and you think that you are and therefore you are not living in the creation the way that it is. When you live in the creation the way that it is, there is peace. When you do not, there is no peace. There is only consequence and then damnation.

Take any commandment and break it. You will receive short term peace and then spend the rest of your life suffering as a result of it. And the more you deny that this is so, the more you will suffer.

The peace of Jesus is not like that. The peace of Jesus puts the suffering up front. The suffering is real suffering. It is just as real as His crucifixion. When Jesus gives you His peace, it begins with deprivation and pain. It begins with suffering and want and lack. It begins with watching other people embrace success and pleasure in this world while you are left behind. Your set-backs will be real. The confession of your sin will be real. It will all be real. The losses that you will suffer will be real losses. The cross that you bear will be a real cross. And the suffering that the Son of God imposes on you in

order to give you His peace is not a suffering that you will choose. He will choose it for you.

And as real as your suffering is as real as your Lord's crucifixion, so also short lived will it be. It will be short lived like your Lord's crucifixion was short lived. When the Son of God died on the cross Pontius Pilate was surprised that He died so quickly. Typically crucifixion victims hang on for longer sometimes even days. The Son of God only held on for a few hours. He was bearing the sin and death of the whole world after all. And then it was over. He rested on the Sabbath Day in the tomb. It turns out that the Son of God keeps the Sabbath after all. Then He rises from the dead and receives all authority in heaven and on earth.

In the same way the suffering that the Son of God imposes on you will be short lived. It will not last forever. It will last much shorter than you think it will last when the suffering begins. And then on the other side of that suffering is a peace that the ruler of this world cannot touch. And if the ruler of this world cannot touch it, then the world cannot touch it either. Let the world rage against you. Let it enact legislation against your beliefs. The world is already defeated. It is suffering under its sham peace with a suffering that it is unable to confess. But not you. The Son of God has delivered you from such distress. And although His suffering is real and intense, it is brief and then it is done and His peace is everlasting.

That is the peace which He has given to you. He did not give you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled. He has gone to the Father.

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.