

Today's passage shows that Jesus and His disciples are eating their last meal together before Jesus is crucified. This is the evening when Jesus washes His disciples' feet and gives them a new commandment— love one another. He also promises them "another Advocate"— the Holy Spirit.

During their meal, Jesus also talks to His disciples. And in today's passage, we see some of their conversations. Throughout the evening, Jesus keeps speaking about three main themes:

- 1) He is leaving
- 2) His followers are staying
- 3) The Holy Spirit will be with them so that they may continue with the ministry.

Even though there are three themes to what Jesus tells them, the disciples are just stuck on the first one: He is leaving. This is why we see Phillip request that Jesus shows them the Father. Phillip is feeling anxious because he and the other disciples feel that they will be left behind. So, he asks Jesus for something to hold on to. He asks Jesus to show them "the Father" that He has been talking about.

And of course, Jesus' first response is to emphasize the fact that He and the Father are the same. He tells the disciples that they have already seen the Father because they have seen Him. But then He continues to tell the disciples that they will receive another Advocate that will be with them forever, which is the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be sent to them to teach them and remind them of everything He had said. The Holy Spirit would partner with them in continuing the ministry that Jesus had started. With the Spirit of Truth, His followers would be able to take the Good News to the end of the earth—doing great works in His name.

Today, as I bid you farewell, I want to express my gratitude first. Please accept the wholehearted thanks from my family and me to each and every one of you. Thank you for the love, support, and friendship you shared with us. Thank you for the opportunity to shepherd you as the flock of Christ. This ministry has been a great blessing and a source of wisdom over the years, and I know it will continue to be.

With the Spirit of Truth, we have worked together to make disciples of Jesus Christ. With the Spirit of Truth, we have stood shoulder to shoulder in bringing about the transformation of the world. And with the Spirit of Truth, we shall part ways. In Tongan, we have a saying translated into English: "May you stay with the Lord while we go with the Lord." And that is what I want to leave with you all today.

We see that Jesus kept the promise that He made to His disciples in today's passage, and the Holy Spirit did come down on Pentecost. And the Holy Spirit has been with us ever since. May you remember that the Spirit of Truth will walk with you as long as you keep God's commandments. As long as you are faithful to God's living Word, the Spirit of Truth will direct your paths. And as long as you deny yourselves and submit to God, the Spirit of Truth will continue to comfort you.

So today may be the end of our ministry together, but it is not the end of our ministry with the Holy Spirit. My family and I will continue to go with the Spirit of Truth wherever God wills us. And it is our prayer that each and every one of you will stay with the Spirit of Truth in your lives and in God's ministry at Kona United Methodist Church so that we all continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. God bless you all. Amen.