

## Jesus – Gone, but not Really! John 14:15-27

If you were/are a parent of a child today, with all that is going on in our world in this day & age, **would you send your child to public school?**

There was an incident that occurred a little over a week ago at Brunswick Middle School that sparked some strong reactions from parents!

Is there a right response, for the Christian community, as to whether or not to send our children into environments that can be hostile to them & their faith?

**Is anywhere really safe from the influences of sin in this world?**

I believe my parents did it right when it came to schooling! They recognized the needs of each child & they did all they could within their parental ability.

**But some things are just outside of our ability to control!** What do/will we do when we come face-to-face with that truth?

When we can't protect our children from all the evil influences in this world, **we must simply do what we can, and ask God for His help with the rest!**

Jesus knew that His time on earth with His disciples was limited! He knew that the time was rapidly coming when they would be out on their own! And **Jesus knew what they would be up against!** So what did He do?

He said essentially, Do what you can, **"If you love me, you will keep my commandments"** – Vs. 15, **"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper!"** - Vs. 16

These words were spoken to Jesus' disciples, & in the context of what they were about to face when He departed from this world, but can't we see the application to today, as His followers facing the challenges of our day?

**The disciples were God's children back then, about to enter an extremely hostile world, antagonistic to the gospel!** & they were called to go & be His ambassadors, sharing the good news of Jesus, & be salt & light within it!

Our calling as Christians today is the same! Yes, the public schools can be a very scary place, but it's no more scary than the environments the disciples were called to go into & be representatives of God's Kingdom within!

**There will always be opposition to our Christian faith in a fallen world**, even in Christian schools & even in our own homes! Jesus knew/experienced this

Jesus knew the enemy we face is all around us, wherever we go, and even within us! **And that's why He asked His Father to give us the Holy Spirit!**

The Helper, who will teach us (John 14:26), strengthen (Eph. 3:16), intercede (Rom. 8:26), testify (John 15:26), lead & direct (Acts 13:4; 16:6-7; Rom. 8:14), give guidance (Mark 13:11; Acts 15:28), speak (Acts 8:29; 10:19; 13:2; 21:11), convict (John 16:7-8), & reveal the things of God (Luke 2:26; Heb. 10:15-17)!

**There is a very real presence of God that is with us always**, and He goes with us wherever we go, as we live out our faith in this hostile world!

**Vs. 18 – "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."**

**Vs. 23 – "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, & my Father will love him, & we will come to him and make our home with him."**

**God is not far removed from us/our children, even in the public schools, because He lives, makes His home, within us!** The temple of the Holy Spirit!

So when schools are not reliable to teach the truth of God, when society is not an advocate for the things of God, when darkness seems to reign, God is with us/in us, **accomplishing the very purpose of the 3<sup>rd</sup> person of the Trinity!**

**Vs. 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 have said to you."** And what was the last thing Jesus said to His followers?

**The great commission – "Go and make disciples..."** But it cannot be fulfilled by sheltering in the confines of our homes/churches/Christian schools!

Our Jerusalem's, Judea's, Samaria's, & the ends of the earth, need the people of God, filled with the Holy Spirit of God, to take the gospel into this broken/fallen world in order to redeem it! **John 16:7-14**

Living in this world & fulfilling this calling won't be easy! It will be scary, & there will be casualties! But if we do, we will see even greater things than what the disciples saw in Jesus' earthly ministry! **John 14:12**

**It happened in Acts, & it can happen today as well, with the Spirit's help!**

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