

Paraclete

In John's Gospel Farewell's Discourse

Paraclete

- Is a synonym in John's Gospel of the Holy Spirit
- Describing certain aspects of the Holy Spirit
- Not so much of the empowerment of the Spirit
- But of a representation of Jesus

John 14:16-17

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **advocate** to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the *Spirit of truth*. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

John 14:26

²⁶ But the **Advocate**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will *teach* you all things and will *remind* you of everything I have said to you.

John 15:26

²⁶ “When the **Advocate** comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will *testify* about me.

John 16:7-11

⁷ But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the **Advocate** will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, he will *prove* the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned

John 16:12-15

¹² “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when **he** [*the Paraclete*], the Spirit of truth, comes, he will *guide you into all the truth*. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will *glorify me* because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

Translations of the Paraclete in English

- Advocate (NRSV, NIV, NLT)
- Comforter (KJV)
- Helper (ESV)
- Friend (The Message)

Other translations

- Wider meanings in Greek: witness, spokesman, counsellor, consoler, teacher, guide
- Paraclete is passive form of para/kalein:

“One called alongside to help”

Parallels Jesus and Paraclete

First parallel: the way that both Jesus and the Paraclete have come or will come:

- Both have come forth from the Father
 - (Jesus 8:42 / Paraclete 15:26),
- Both been given by the Father
 - (the Paraclete at Jesus' request) (Paraclete: 14:26 / Jesus: 3:16),
- Both have been sent by the Father
 - (Spirit: 14:26 / Jesus: 3:17),
- The Paraclete will be sent in Jesus' name (14:26), as Jesus was sent in the Father's name (5:43).

Paraclete

Parallels between Jesus and Paraclete

Parallels Jesus and Paraclete

Second parallel: Jesus and the Paraclete are identified in a similar way:

- as “another Paraclete”, implying that Jesus was the first Paraclete (14:16),
- as the Spirit of Truth (16:17) and Jesus being the Truth (14:6),
- as the Holy Spirit (14:26) and Jesus being the Holy One of God (6:69).

Parallels Jesus and Paraclete

Third parallel: the roles of Jesus and the Paraclete in regards to the Disciples:

- The Paraclete remains within the Disciples (14:17) as Jesus remains in and with them (14:20),
- The Paraclete guides the disciples into all the truth (16:16) as Jesus is the way and the truth (14:6)
- The Paraclete glorifies Jesus (16:14), as Jesus glorifies the Father (14:13).

Parallels Jesus and Paraclete

Fourth parallel: similarity in the roles of Jesus and the Paraclete in regards to the world:

- The world cannot accept the Paraclete (14:17), as not all men can accept Jesus (5:43)
- The world does not know or recognise the Paraclete (14:7), as people do not or choose not to know Jesus (16:3)
- The Paraclete will bear witness to the world (15:26) as Jesus bears witness against the world (7:7)

Raymond Brown:

*the Paraclete is the presence of Jesus when
Jesus is physically absent”*

Jesus’ statement: “I am coming to you” (14:18) is another
expression of this relationship.

Jesus and the Paraclete

△ John 14:14-31

Context

Chapter 13: Love one another

1st part Ch 14: Jesus is the way to the Father

2nd part Chapter 15

Two intertwined themes:

Those who love Jesus do what he has commanded

Jesus will always be present with his disciples

1. Those who love Jesus do what he commanded

v15: if you love me, you will keep my commandments

v21: They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me

v23: Those who love me will keep my word

v24: Whoever does not love me

*v24: Whoever does not love me
does not keep my words*

These seem to be the same
statement but with different
causes and effects

The first statement's cause is
loving Jesus

resulting in keeping Jesus
commandments

So if we love Jesus we want to do what
he tells us to do

The second statement looks at the
effect first: keeping Jesus
commandments, which then
defines them as those who love
Jesus

*v21: They who have my
commandments and keep them are
those who love me*

But looking from outside in

If you see people doing what Jesus has
commanded, then they love Jesus

The proof is in the pudding

Or how can you tell that someone is a
Christian

The third statement is a
rephraseing of the first

*v23: Those who love me will keep my
word*

Jesus words and commands are the same

So everything that he has spoken, not only what is in the form of a command is a command

It is what we should keep, what we should live by

The fourth statement is the reverse of the second statement

v24: Whoever does not love me does not keep my words

But written from the inside

If you do not love me

You do not keep my words

it is almost: you cannot keep my words

What are Jesus commands

Jesus has just given them a new commandment

That they love each other, as Jesus has loved them

And it that way everyone will know that you are my disciples

But there are other commands that Jesus has given

The most famous one is in Matthew 28

Make disciples of all nations

Baptising them in the name of the father, the son and the HS

Teaching them to obey everything that I

have commanded you

And I will be with you always, to the end of the age

2. Jesus will not leave them

I will be with you always

is the other message in this passage

How?

a. By providing another Advocate / Paraclete

Here we have two Paraclete passages of the four Paraclete passages

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

The Spirit of truth - he will teach / remind you

The Paraclete's role here is to ensure that the disciples will continue to understand who Jesus is, what the good news is, and what Jesus' commandments are

Jesus knows that it will be difficult without him

So he sends them another Paraclete.

Jesus was one, but now all believers will have access to the Paraclete, they Spirit of Truth

But the Holy Spirit is only in this function for those who believe

The world - those who do not accept Jesus cannot accept the Holy Spirit either

The Holy Spirit comes along side us, and lives in us or among us

He is the presence of Jesus for us

When we become Christians the Holy Spirit resides in us

But also among us as the community of believers

To strengthen and equip us

b. By not leaving them orphaned

Not only will Jesus send the Holy Spirit / Paraclete

He also indicates that he will return

An orphan's parents have died, this is irreversable

But Jesus has died and will rise!

His death is not permanent

Jesus return will be quite soon

¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

This indicates Jesus death and resurrection

And because of the resurrection, we will realise that not only is he alive, he lives in the father, and we in Jesus and the other way around!

who enables the father and the son to live in and among us

Linked in with the other teaching about the Paraclete

It is the Paraclete who will bring Jesus alive to us

Judas' question: Why only to us and not to the world?

Jesus repeats that Jesus and the father will make their home with those who love Jesus

and therefore follow his commands

The implication is that we, as Jesus disciples, with the help of the Holy Spirit, are charged introducing Jesus to the World

Reassurance

Based on the presence of the Holy Spirit and the Jesus presence with us through the Holy Spirit

He leaves his peace

Do not be troubled

Do not be afraid

Rejoice that I go to the Father

And when you see it happen you will believe

3. The role of the Holy Spirit as one who comes along side

The Spirit within

**Sanctification, Spiritual Growth,
Presence of Jesus**

Less the Spirit upon

and therefore not so much is told here about the empowerment that the Spirit gives us to do this work

Like in Acts in and in the Pauline letters

4. The anomaly at the end of Chapter 15

"Rise, let us be on our way"

This has confused readers / theologians

As seemingly they do not go away

It is only at the end of beginning of chapter 16 that Jesus and his disciples are leaving

Possible solutions

The Farewell discourse is in two parts

One group of theologians

The Farewell discourse is in two parts, and the second part (ch 15-17) is added later

But would the people who have done this not have removed this sentence?

So it is not very convincing

It is a theological statement

"Jesus will take his disciples himself, and this to their place an home with God.

An note of triumph that links it with the earlier statements that the evil one has no power over Jesus and therefore the

disciples

But it's a bit convoluted and artificial explanation

my solution

Practical instruction

How often have you not been at a gathering or a party, and people indicate that they want to leave

And while getting up, getting coats and bags and going to toilets etc, the conversations continues on

And it can take quite a while before the guests leave the house!

Would this not be similar?

At this point Jesus and the disciples have been declining around a table

But Jesus wants to get them up, to emphasise what is coming

So Rise, let us be on our way, gets everyone moving and standing

And would therefore have listened to Jesus for the last two chapters standing up

Giving him their full attention

And readying them for the night to come

5. Conclusion for us

The relationship between the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit is emerging

It is through the Holy Spirit we get to know Jesus and through Jesus we get to know the Father

to know the Father

This is relationship knowing

not fact knowledge

The Holy Spirit / Paraclete makes
Jesus present when he is in
Heaven

The Holy Spirit is another Paraclete like
Jesus

The Spirit of Truth reveals that Jesus is
the truth

The Paraclete guides the disciples in all truth

The Paraclete glorifies Jesus, as Jesus
glorifies the Father

The Paraclete will bear witness,
through us

So we cannot have a relationship
with the Father and Jesus, without
having a relationship with the Spirit

That is the Trinity, they come as a
package

But do we in our minds see that?

Do we in our prayer life, in our practical
life, include the Holy Spirit?

Some are afraid of the Holy Spirit

But Jesus leaves through the Holy
Spirit his peace.

And tells us not to be troubled or afraid,
because he sent his Holy Spirit

Do not reject the Holy Spirit

Do not reject the Holy Spirit

And if you reject the Holy Spirit, you may well reject Jesus and the Father

And our relationship with them will not be complete

So like Jesus said in John 20:22:

22 ... he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.

Amen