

### RELATED SCRIPTURES

1 Samuel 16:13 | Acts 2:1-13 | Hebrews 7:11-28

### STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 1.28.24

### SUMMARY

Within six verses, Jesus presents several weighty matters to his disciples. He begins by telling them, “. . . whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will do, because I am going to Father” (v. 12). It’s difficult to imagine anyone doing greater works than Jesus, but Jesus was giving his disciples a whisper of what was to come. Earlier in John’s gospel, we read John the Baptist’s testimony, “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove and it remained on him” (John 1:32). Similarly, all through the Old Testament, we can read about the Spirit descending upon God’s chosen people to do the work that would ultimately bring about the Messiah. But Jesus tells his disciples of “greater works” to come when the Spirit descends upon *all* God’s people (Acts 2:1-13) to carry on the work that Christ began—not just certain people at certain times. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord’s disciples—those in the room and those to come after—would unite in heart and mind to each other, but also in Christ. Jesus then speaks more directly when he tells his disciples about the Holy Spirit, referring to him as “another Helper” (v. 16). The word “Helper” is from the Greek word *parakletos*, which in Jesus’ time was a word used for “advocate” as commonly used in the legal sense—a defense attorney. The imagery this word would evoke was someone coming alongside them and serving as a defender, representative, and counselor. However, it’s important to note that Jesus isn’t telling his followers he would provide “a Helper,” but rather “another Helper.” Who is the original Helper if Jesus speaks of “another”? Jesus is the original defender, representative, and counselor—our advocate to defend us from the assaults of the world, but also to advocate and intercede on our half before the Father (Hebrews 7:25). Through the Spirit, the followers of Christ carry on his work because they are in eternal union with him, our steadfast Helper.

### GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of John 14:12-17.

When Jesus says, “Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do,” why is it important to understand the context—the verses all around it? How does the context let us safely conclude Jesus isn’t instructing us to treat him like a genie who just grants our wishes?

How is Jesus the original Helper, and how does the Holy Spirit, “another Helper,” do the same work (and even greater) that Jesus did for his disciples?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.