



May 26, 2019 John 14: 23-29 & Acts 15: 1-2, 22-29

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ENTERING THE SCENE:

It is so hard to feel peace when we are parting with someone we love, someone we need, and someone who makes everything feel right. Certainly, the disciples felt anything but peace as they heard these words at the last supper. But Jesus knew that his part of the plan of creation history on this earth was completed. Now, the disciple's part of the plan needed to begin. Jesus was as confident that the Father would enable them to do this, as he was confident of his own resurrection. Now it is our turn to contribute what we have to offer to this plan. Spend some time reflecting on the part only you can play in God's offer to creation history.

John 14:23-29

14: ²³ Jesus answered him, "Those who **love me** will **keep my word**, and my **Father** will love them, and **we will come to them** and **make our home with them**. ²⁴ Whoever does not **love me** does not **keep my words**; and the

word that you hear is not mine, but is **from the Father** who **sent me**. ²⁵ "I have said these things to you **while I am still with you**. ²⁶ But the **Advocate**, the **Holy Spirit**, whom the **Father** will **send in my name**, will **teach you everything**, and **remind you** of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ **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**, and do not let them **be afraid**. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I am **going away**, and I am **coming to you**.' If you **loved me**, you would **rejoice** that I am **going** to the **Father**, because the **Father** is greater than I. ²⁹ And **now I have told you** this before it **occurs**, so that when it does **occur**, you may **believe**. ³

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Jesus left us with the promise of the Holy Spirit's guidance and teaching. Does this promise give me the courage to obey his teachings?

PRAYER: Lord, your presence remains and intensifies with every moment of being loved. I unwrap this gift each time I sit in quiet and re-member your words and connect them with the ways you bring them into being in my life. Then the peace you promised settles in and makes all things well. Help me in my troubled times to trust that you will never leave me alone. Amen.