

Sunday, June 16, 2019

John 16:12-15

Theme: "THE POINT OF DEPARTURE - THE FINAL PROMISE"

For the past five weeks we have been preaching from the series: "The Point of Departure..."

- a. Love One Another...
- b. The Gift of Peace...
- c. A Prayer for FUMC...
- d. Greater Works...
- e. The Final Promise...

So, this is it...

(John 16:1)

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now..."

Jesus made these remarks at the point of departure...

He reminded the disciples that the Holy Spirit would come and extend the revelation that He, Jesus, brought to them (v. 14...)

The revelation was about Jesus, but it would go beyond what Jesus was able to do and say prior to His death (v. 12-13...)

Jesus Himself indicated that many of the things He said would not be understood until after His departure...

*The additional revelation was from Jesus; it was, and still is grounded in His ministry...

*But the Holy Spirit would unfold the meaning of the revelation after Jesus' departure...

*The Holy Spirit would declare the things that were coming (v. 13...)

*What was the revelation, you may ask...

*The revelation was about five basic facts:

1. Jesus' Departure...

2. His Death...

3. Resurrection

4. His Return...

5. Life of the Church...

Over the years we have come to understand that Jesus did depart, He did die, and He was resurrected...

Out of the five facts mentioned, three have been fulfilled...

*There are two remaining facts that need to be discussed...

*First, Jesus' return...

*Second, the life of the church...

Let's look at the life of the church...

The life of the church should embody Jesus' command to the disciples in Matthew 28...

(Matthew 28:18)

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth..."

(Matthew 28:19)

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

(Matthew 28:20)

Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen...

In this Matthew text we find these commands:

*Go...

*Make disciples...

*Baptize them...

*Teach them to observe all things...

The life of the church involves living into the above commands...

The promise is: you are not alone; the Lord promises to be with you...

The truth is, His Word does not return void...

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it (Isaiah 55:11..)

FUMC, continue to claim the promises of the Lord...

(2 Corinthians 1:20)

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us...

When the Lord says yes, who can say no...

The Lord is consistent, therefore His Words are consistent...

There is an upcoming glory...

There is a song in the air...

"I still have many things to say to you, but I cannot even bear them now..."

The time of departure is at hand...

My family and I will be leaving to begin a new form of ministry...

While some of you are ready for the change, others are afraid of what the future may bring...

This was the case in the gospel of John...

Jesus was reminding his disciples that He would no longer be with them as He was in the past...

For the past few weeks we have been preparing you for our transition...

We have been preparing you to say your goodbyes...

Like the disciples, you have been accustomed to my teachings...

You have been accustomed to my preaching and my acts of ministry...

You are used to my intimate relationship...

But all is about to change; you will have to adapt to a new leadership...

Through prayer and discernment, the Bishop and Cabinet are sending you a capable leader...

Receive him...

Embrace him...

Grow together...

Fall together...

Rise together...

Cry together...

Rejoice together...

While I have no idea where life will take you at this station, what I do know is that the foundation is laid...

The Lord has bigger and greater plans for you here at FUMC...

Therefore, *Go...*Make disciples...

*Baptize them...*Teach them to observe all things...

Grow together in God's grace...

Live by the truth because living by the truth is to be as authentic as you can...

The final promise is, you will not be without spiritual guidance in the future...

The Spirit of truth will guide you into all truth...

The Spirit will not speak on His own authority...

The Spirit will glorify the Lord, but will also declare the glory of the Lord to you...

[12] "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now..."

However, remember that Christ is Alive, and because He is alive, you are alive in Him...

Because He lives, you can face tomorrow...

Because He lives, put the fears, the unknowns, and apprehensions behind you...

Because He lives and holds the future, celebrate the comfort of knowing that He is with you...

In your prayers remember our Bishops, Lewis and Weaver...

Remember our UMC...M

This is not a goodbye...

This song not a farewell...

This is a separation that is not final...

This is a "see you later..."

Amen!

BENEDICTION:

May the Lord bless you and keep you...

The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you...

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace...

May the road rise to meet you...

May the wind be always at your back..

May the sun shine warm upon your face...

May the rain fall soft upon your fields, and until we may again...

May God hold you in the palm of God's hands...

Amen!