



Calvary of Albuquerque

Four Part Harmony - John 14:15-18

From the Series, Believe:879

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

Some of the best moments on American Idol aren't the solo performances, but when all the singers join together and blend their voices in harmony. There's nothing sweeter than well-trained voices blended together in first, thirds, and fifths. Spiritual harmony is much the same—when believers blend with the triune Godhead there is an alignment that results in a deep sense of fulfillment. And what is the note we are to sing in this spiritual song? It is the note of loving obedience!

OUTLINE

- I. The Father's Part—Provider
- II. The Savior's Part—Intercessor
- III. The Spirit's Part—Helper
- IV. The Believer's Part—Conformer



Pondering the Principles:

1. We often find it difficult to understand how God could be absolutely One and yet Three-in-One. Even though we may study the Trinity and wrestle with such theological subjects, the good news is that we need only be responsible for our part—showing we love God by obeying Him. How are you doing with your part?
2. How much help do you experience from the Holy Spirit in your daily life? How do you know He is with you and in you? What telltale signs does He leave?
3. When was the last time you thanked God for His provisions for your life? (See Psalm 103.)

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Unity in the Trinity
 1. Eternal
 2. First revealed: "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:26-27).
 3. No dissension
 - B. If our spiritual life is out of tune, who's singing off key? Us!
 - C. This passage is the first time in John that Jesus introduces the concept of the Trinity
 - D. Cannot unravel the mystery of the Trinity
 - E. Unveil the ministry of the Trinity
 1. Father: Great Composer
 2. Jesus Christ: First Violin
 3. Holy Spirit: Conductor
 - F. The church takes our cues from Him
 1. Our job is to cooperate
 2. We are not to rewrite the score, ad lib, try to be the conductor
 - G. Ludwig Van Beethoven
 - H. The genius is not so much in the capability as it is the cooperation
- II. The Father's Part—*Provider*
 - A. The Father gives, supplies furnishes what is necessary; He is the source
 - B. Yahweh Yireh; Jehovah Jireh - the Lord will provide (see Genesis 22:14)
 - C. "Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;" —*Doxology*, Thomas Ken
 - D. God provides:
 1. Life (see 1 Timothy 6:13)

2. Satisfaction (see Ecclesiastes 2:26)
 3. Ability to work (see Deuteronomy 8:18)
 4. Salvation (see John 3:16)
 5. Holy Spirit (see John 14:16)
 6. "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32)
- E. In The Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11) we are to rely on Him for everything
- F. God treats us well
1. "My cup runs over" (Psalm 23:5)
 2. "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:11)
- G. Our part
1. To receive those gifts He provides
 2. Have you received His greatest gift, Jesus Christ?
- III. The Savior's Part—*Intercessor*
- A. Communicates with the Father as an equal
1. Not inferior to superior, as we do
 2. As king to king
- B. V. 16 marks the intercessory work of Jesus for His followers
1. The ministry Jesus has been performing for 2000 years
 2. Jesus talks to the Father about His disciples
 - a. For the apostles (see John 17:9)
 - b. For us: "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;" (John 17:20)
- C. The work of Christ
1. Finished work: Jesus paid for our sins when He died on the cross "It is finished" (John 19:30)
 - a. Can't add to it
 - b. Can't take away from it
 2. Unfinished work: intercession
 - a. "Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us." (Romans 8:34)
 - b. "Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." (Hebrews 7:25)
 - c. "If anyone sins we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." (1 John 2:1)
 - i. The enemy accuses us day and night (see Revelation 12:10)
 - ii. Jesus is our defense attorney
 - d. His unfinished work is based on His finished work
- IV. The Spirit's Part—*Helper*
- A. How the Bible speaks of the Holy Spirit
1. A Person
 - a. Jesus uses personal pronouns (Whom, Him, He) to describe Him
 - b. Not a force, feeling, or mode of God
 2. God
- B. The Trinity is incomprehensible
1. One God eternally existent in three persons
 2. Like putting the ocean into a hole; impossible to take the limitless and stuff it into something limited (Augustine of Hippo illustration)
- C. Παράκλητος; Parakletos - Helper
1. Counselor, Comforter; One called alongside you to help you
 2. God knows we need all the help we can get; the Christian life is not easy
 3. "Watches, cars and Christians can all look chromed and shiny. But watches don't tick, cars don't go, and Christians don't make a difference without insides. For a Christian, that's the Holy Spirit. "—Tim Downs
- D. Another Helper
1. In Greek, two words for another
 - a. heteros - another of a different kind
 - b. allos - another of the same kind
 2. Exactly like Jesus had been
 3. Not orphans (orphanos - orphans, fatherless, desolate)
- E. Permanent Helper - forever
1. With you; comes after you to save you
 2. In you; sanctifies you
 3. Upon you; empowers you
- F. Reliable Helper
1. The spirit of truth (v. 17)
 2. aletheias - truth
 3. The genuine source of truth
 4. Tells the truth about you and about God and His righteousness
 - a. "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into

all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." (John 16:7-13)

b. Apart from the Holy Spirit, no one can know the truth about their sinful condition, the righteousness of God, and what it takes to get to God

5. How you can tell a person is filled with the Holy Spirit

a. Holy

b. Truthful (love truth, a balance of all Scripture, not focused on one truth)

G. Exclusive Helper

1. World cannot receive the Holy Spirit

a. Don't believe in what they cannot see

b. "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Corinthians 2:14)

2. The Holy Spirit opens eyes and hearts

V. The Believer's Part—*Conformer*

A. Keep and obey the commandments (General lifestyle of obedience)

B. If we are not obedient, we are fighting the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

C. "Once there was a tune and everyone knew how it went

But as time went by, people began to forget

Until at last no one could remember.

And there was hatred, and wars, and death.

Then one day somebody said, "How does the tune go?"

"There is no tune, there never was; it's only a myth."

These were the philosophers.

"You mean there's no tune at all?"

"Well, it doesn't really matter what tune you play

As long as you play something."

These were the religious leaders.

And so the world played on.

And there was hatred, and wars, and death.

Then one day the people became weary of this song

And they all sat down on the side of a hill

And suddenly they heard a very strange voice

And somebody said, "That sounds like the tune."

"There is no tune, there never was, there never will be."

"Well, it doesn't really matter what tune you play

As long as you play something

And you don't hurt anybody - especially me."

But the people listened

And a man appeared before them

With a smile on his face

And a sad look, too,

And he was singing the tune.

And some of the people began to sing along.

And the people who loved Him

Decided to follow him,

But the people who hated him

Decided to kill him. And they did.

And when it was finished,

They went back to their houses of philosophy and religion

And they sat down to their tables to eat and drink.

Suddenly, they were interrupted by a familiar voice

And they ran to their windows and looked outside

To see who it was. It was him.

And they became confused and afraid

And they wondered how they could be rid of him

Once and for all.

And while they were watching him,

Something very strange happened.

"How did he do that?"

"I don't really know, but he's gone..."

And when trouble goes, you don't ask where.

He'll never return again. I hope."

Yet again they were interrupted.

This time they ran out into the streets to lay hold of him

But they couldn't find him.

Just a lot of people smiling, and they all know the tune.

And when the people made a mistake

They stopped and they listened.

That's how they knew the tune,

Because they listened.

And if you listen, you'll hear it.

It's all around you.
Just listen to your radio,
Watch television,
Listen to your leaders, to the authorities,
To the governments, to the experts.
But if you really listen,
You can hear another tune,
But you have to listen quietly,
And you have to listen every day."— *The Tune* by Larry Norman

Hebrew Terms: יהוה ירה; Yahweh Yireh; Jehovah Jireh - the Lord will provide

Greek Terms: Παράκλητος; Parakletos - Helper; ἕτερος; heteros - another of a different kind; ἄλλος; allos - another of the same kind; ὀρφανός; orphanos - orphans, fatherless, desolate; ἀληθεία; aletheias - truth

Publications Referenced: *Doxology*, Thomas Ken; *The Tune*, by Larry Norman

Figures Referenced: Augustine of Hippo; Tim Downs

Cross References: Genesis 1:26-27; Deuteronomy 8:18; Psalm 23:5; Ecclesiastes 2:26; Matthew 6:11; Matthew 7:11; John 3:16; John 16:7-13; John 17:9; John 17:20; John 19:30; Romans 8:32; Romans 8:34; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 1 Timothy 6:13; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1; Revelation 12:10