

Our Advocate Testifies To Us, and Through Us*Introduction*

- Jesus foretold Pent: **vs. 26-27 (HS)**. You know how fulfilled: 50 after Easter (10 Asc), sound, fire, spoke in language. People gathered, Peter preached, Jesus poured out HS on people. Many believed, baptized; 3000. That's what happened on Pent; what celebrating today. What Jesus foretold would happen when said, **vs. 26-27**. On day of Pent, Jesus sent Spirit; Spirit brought people to faith; disciples testified about Jesus to people of every language.
- Not like only time Jesus promised to send HS. These words, Jn 15, MT. Same evening, also: **"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever – the Spirit of truth" (Jn 14:16-17)**. **"All this I have spoken while still with you. 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" (Jn 14:25-26)**. Big deal to Jesus, before died, to make sure disciples knew, Jesus would send them the HS. On Pent, did.

Advocate?

- You know that; heard verses before. What probably sounds strange to your ears, term: advocate. Sound funny to you? NIV11: advocate; NIV84: counselor; KJV: comforter. Last decades called comforter, counselor, advocate. Gotta ask: what mean that HS is advocate?
- Explain like this: advocate, here, means defense attorney. When defendant accused in courtroom, advocate is defendant's legal counsel, someone who stands up for defendant, comes to defense. What word means here – defense attorney.
- Thing is: not normally what we think of HS doing; what Jesus does. In 1 Jn: **"If anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One" (2:1)**. Picture here: Father is about to judge us because of sin. But Jesus, advocate (defense attorney), "Paid for their sin; can't accuse; innocent; free to go." So in God's courtroom, Jesus is our advocate.
- But here, HS is called advocate. Mean? Let's think of it this way: if you have to go to court, and need attorney to defend you, he's certainly going to work with and talk with you in private way before you go to court. Your defense attorney not only stand up for you in courtroom, also counsel, encourage, prepare you outside courtroom. I think that's what it means that HS is our advocate. Long before we appear in God's court on J Day, our advocate/counselor will counsel, encourage, help, get us ready.

To Us

- Here's how: testifies about Jesus to us. **Vs. 26**. Our advocate testifies truth about Jesus to us, because he's Spirit of truth. Two most important truths, doctrines of Scripture (drill into Cat kids; want everyone in cong to know) – law and gospel. If heard before, okay; worth repeating. Law, what God expects of people; standard of behavior he demands from us all. Standard is perfection. When break God's law, he is angry, calls us guilty, threatens punishment. Truth #1. But #2 is Gospel. Gospel is good news of forgiveness: that instead of punishing us, God punished Jesus in our place and declared us innocent. Now when God looks at us, doesn't see sin; just sees Jesus' holiness. That's Gospel.
- When says, **"[Advocate] will testify about me,"** means HS gets us ready for J Day by teaching us truths of law and gospel. In fact, if you are Christian, if believe sinner (law) saved by Jesus (gospel), only reason you believe is because HS testified that truth into your heart. Only reason 3000 came to faith on day of Pent is because HS testified truth about Jesus into their hearts. Only way we will remain believers in Jesus is if HS, through God's Word and sacraments, continues to testify truth into our hearts. I said this Asc, but what's why so important to be in church, not take summer off from worship. When we worship Jesus in church, HS counsels, speaks to our hearts, encourages us in our faith; gets us ready for Last Day. He's advocate who testifies truth to us.

And Through Us

- And through us. **Vs. 27**. On Pent, Peter preached sermon so good that thousands came to faith! Know who really did converting? Wasn't Peter. Was HS who worked through Peter's words to bring people to faith. Peter was just mouthpiece. HS did work.
- Important to remember today when hear Jesus: **vs. 27a**; I believe he's speaking to us, as well. Blunt: Jesus wants us all to spread Gospel, not just clergy. Means Jesus wants us all to look for opportunities and take advantage of opportunities to tell others about him: among friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, even random interchanges with strangers. Make you nervous (not good speaker; don't know what to say; rather stay quiet)? Secret: sometimes sharing Gospel makes me nervous! I'm pastor, trained to do it!
- But here's what we all have to remember: HS is an advocate who helps us and testifies through us. We're just mouthpiece; he does the work. We can't convert anyone; only Spirit can do that. Yet Jesus says, **vs. 27a**. You can testify about Jesus through words, actions, lifestyle, offerings, prayers, to children, to friends.
- But don't not testify. On first Pentecost, lot easier for Peter to say, "They think we're drunk; should probably be quiet; they'll never listen." But Peter had advocate, someone who counseled and helped him, someone who taught him truth about Jesus and strengthened his faith.
- On this Pent, I want us to remember that we have that same advocate who counsels us, helps us, and testifies to us about love of Savior who sometimes even shares the gospel through us. May God's Spirit richly fill you and encourage you with Jesus' love and give you the Pentecost courage to reach out with that love to others.

John 15:26-27

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. ²⁷ And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.