

Our Advocate Testifies To Us, and Through Us

Introduction

- J predctd, prphsd, prmsd Pent when: vs. 26-27 (HS). You heard how fulfld: 50 after Easter (10 Asc), sound/wind, tongs/fire, spoke diff langs. Ppl gathrd, Pt prchd, J poured out HS on ppl. Many came to faith in Xp; 3k baptzd; Xian Ch born. That's: what hapnd on Pent; what celbrtng today; what J fortld: vs. 26-27. On day/Pent, J sent his HS, who testified re J, and who led discs to testify re J.
- And it's not like this only time J promsd send HS. These words, Jn 15, J spoke on MT. Same night, also: **"I will ask the Fr, and he will give you anthr advct to help you and be w/you forever – the Spirit of truth... All this I have spkn while still w/you. But the Advct, the HS, whom the Fr will send in my name, will tch you all thngs and will remnd you of evthng I have said to you"** (Jn 14:16-17, 25-26). So, big deal to J before died: make sure discs knew he'd send HS. That's: what said do; what did.

Advocate

- But what may sound strng to you in J's wrds: title Advct. Calls HS Advct. KJV: Comforter. NIV84: Counsellor. Here, NIV11: Advct. Transltn of word that hard to trnslt. When we use wrd advct, usually mean smone: stands up for you, supports, promotes/helps, smone on your side. If you're in charge of a prjct, smone who promotes prjct: advct. Advct Aurora: name of my dr's hlthcr system; named Advct Aurora, I think, bec they want support/promote my physcl hlth. An advct is also smone on your side when you're in trbl. Think of defense attorney. When a defndnt accusd in crtrm, the defndnt's legal counsel is their advct. They stand up for accused, support, come to defense.
- And that's what J means here when calls HS the Advct. HS is like our defense atourny in God's crtrm; comes to our defense. Compare it to earthly crtrm setting. If you have to go to court for sm reason & need attorney to defend you, that defense attorney is not only going stand up for you in crtrm; also going work/talk w/you in private before you go court. Teach you what to say, counsel, encourage, prepare outside crtrm. Has best interests in mind and is there to protect/help you. That's what means that HS is our Advct, defense attorney. Long before we appear in God's crtrm on J Day, our Advct counsels us & gets us ready.

To Us

- Here's how does that: testifies re J to us. **Vs. 26.** Our Advct testifies truth re J to us, bec he's Spirit/truth. 2 most imp truths, 2 main doctrns/Scrptr (drill into Cat stdnts; want evone in cong know by hrt) – L&G. If you've heard this before, okay; worth repeating. Law: what God expects of ppl; stndrd/behvr he demnds fr us all. And that stndrd: perfctn. When we break God's law, he is angry, calls us guilty, & threatens punshmnt. That's truth #1: law. But truth #2: Gos. Gos: good news/frgvnss, that instead of punshng us, God has punshd J in our place & declared us innocent of all our sins bec of J's dth/res. So now when God looks at us, doesn't see our sin; just sees J's prfctn. That's Gos.
- When J says, **"[Advct] will testify re me,"** means HS gets us ready for J Day by tchng us truths/L&G. If you are Xian; if bel sinner (L) saved by J (G) – only reason you bel that is bec HS testified that truth into your hrt. Only reason 3000 came to faith on day/Pent: bec HS testified truth re J into their hrts. And only way we'll remain bels/J is if HS, thru MofG (Gos in W&S), continues to testify truth into our hrts. That's why so imp be in ch and not take summer off fr worship. When we gather to worship J in ch, it's kind of like Pent all over again, just w/o tongs/fire and sound/wind. HS comes among us as we hear Gos and receive J's bdy/bld; he works faith in hrts to bel in J, to trust in his res, and to be ready for J to come again. HS is sent by J to be our Advct who testifies truth, to us...

And Through Us

- ...and thru us. **Vs. 27.** On day/Pent, Pt prchd srmn so good: 1000s ppl came to faith! But know who really did convrtng? Wasn't Pt. Was HS working thru Pt's wrds that bght ppl to faith. Pt: just mthpiece; HS did work. It's very imp for us remem that today when we hear J: **vs. 27a**; and I bel he's spkng to us, as well. To be blunt: J wants all/us to spread Gos, not just clergy. J wants his ch, and ppl/ch, to actively look for opps, and take advntg/oppo, to testify re him: among our frnds, fam, nghbrs, cowkrks, even random intrchns w/strngrs. **Vs. 27a** – indivdly, in your persnl circle/inflnc, bec you can do lot on own; and tog w/fellow ch mems, in robust congrgtl outreach program, bec we can do lot tog! Saw t-shirt just other day: "Hvn is my home; I'm just here recruiting." I kinda like that! Or, I remem my dad once saying: "We have two goals in life: get hvn & bring as many along w/us as can." True!
- But let's admit: reaching out w/Gos can smtms be bit intimidng. Might make you nervous, if you think you're not good speaker, or don't know what say, and rather stay quiet. Here's a little secret: smtms sharing Gos makes me nervous too. And I'm pastor, trained to do it!
- But what we all have remem: HS is the Advct J sent us to help us & testify thru us. We're just mthpiece; he does the work. We can't convert anyone; only Spirit can do that. Yet J says, **vs. 27a**. Ystrday, over in New Ulm MN, MLC, our WELS college/min, sent 135 graduates out into harvest field to testify re J as tchrs & staff minstrs, including our own SJ member: Amber Wenman. Our cong did not receive the tchr grad we had reqstd, bec the synodwide need for tchrs is far greater than studnts graduating. Same is true for WLS, where our WELS pastors train. This coming Thurs, 26 pastor grads will be assigned to chs & mission fields across our WI synod. But we still have 160 pastoral vacancies. So a lot/chs will go w/o pr bec/shortage. The need for Gos proclmtn is very great! What role can you play? How can you share the Gos and testify to truth? As a called wrkr – pr/tchr? Could you do that? As a mission-minded Xian? Could you do that? Whatever you do, don't not testify. On first Pent, it'd been lot easier for Pt say, "Know what guys: they think we're drunk. We shld probly just keep it on down low; they're nvr going listen to us anyway." But Pt had Advct, HS, who counseled him & helped him, who tght him truth re J & strngthd his faith, who testified to him and then thru him.

Conclusion

- Today as we celebrt Pent, what I want you know/remem is this: we have same Advct who still counsels us & helps us, who tchs us truth & strngthns our faith. The HS testifies to us re love/Sav, and then testifies thru us to others re love/Sav. And so today we pray, "Come, HS! Fill the hrts of your faithful ppl, and kindle in us the fire of your love." Counsel us, help us, teach us, encourage us, be by our side, and be our Advct, who testifies saving truth re J to us & thru us.

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.

