



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

October 8, 2023

"I have told you all of this..."

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear." (John 16:12, NIV)

"More Than You Can Bear" – Reflection on John 16:12-15

What would you think on the first day of a math class if the teacher said, "This class is basic to your understanding of mathematics, but I can't teach you some things because you won't understand them."

Or how would you react if one Sunday the preacher began the sermon like this: "There are essential aspects of our faith, but I can't preach about them because you would not be able to understand. They are far too complicated and way over your head."

Yet, this is fundamentally what Jesus says to his disciples in John 16:12-15.

Jesus says he has many things yet to tell the disciples about God, Jesus' mission on Earth, and the Advocate who will be coming. But until his crucifixion and resurrection these essentials of Christian faith would not make sense because Jesus' mission is not complete. The "Spirit of Truth" has not yet come to guide the disciplines "into all truth."

What are the truths that the Spirit will reveal? I am indebted to Lucy Lind Hogan, Professor of Preaching and Worship at Wesley Theological Seminary, for her insight into the Gospel of John, especially "Jesus' Final Discourse." Professor Hogan suggests that Jesus could not reveal the mystery of the Trinity, the relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and their future work in the world.

Like the disciples, are we sometimes confused about the Mysteries of Christianity? How often do we feel unable to understand the things that Jesus wants us to hear in today's world? How often do we neglect to let the Spirit guide us, relying too much on our own wants and desires? How often do we listen too much to the voices of this world instead of God's Word?

These are questions Jesus invites us to ask ourselves in John 16, and these are questions that the Spirit will help us answer ... if we open our hearts and minds to the Spirit's presence and guidance.

God's Blessings and Peace! - Vance

A Declaration of Faith from the Northumbrian Community

We believe and trust in God the Father almighty;

We believe and trust in Jesus Christ, his son;

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit;

We believe and trust in the Three in One.

Prayer box: let us pray for our friends and family members facing surgery, especially Ron, Maggie, and Liz; those struggling with disease, especially George. Pray for the soul of Fr. Rick and comfort for his family and friends. **Lord, hear our prayer!**