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Teacher's Aide

John 14.26

Series: Signs of Life

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I. Introduction

A. Carnegie Hall

1. Much anticipated concert featuring the great Polish pianist Jan Paderewski
 - a. It had been sold out months in advance
 - b. Everyone who was anyone was there
2. In addition, there was a young mother in attendance
 - a. She had managed to scrape together enough to get tickets for herself and her 9 year old son
 - b. Her son – just having started learning to play the piano
 - c. She wanted him to catch a sense of the marvelous artistry of a virtuoso musician
3. The tickets she was able to acquire were near the front of the auditorium
 - a. The excitement of such an occasion was palpable

B. As the time of the concert approached, the young mother was engaged in conversation with new acquaintances in the adjacent seats

1. The youngster, as 9 year old boys are wont to be, was captivated by these new and unusual surroundings
 - a. The enormous 9 foot grand piano on the stage had captured his attention
 - b. He had never seen a piano so huge before

C. As the house lights dimmed just before the concert was about to begin, the attention of the audience was redirected to the stage

1. At which point the young mother was horrified
 - a. There, sitting on the bench of the enormous grand piano, was her little boy
 - b. In his boy-like fascination, he had wandered away from his mother
 - c. And there he was, sitting at the piano
2. And horror of horrors – he began to play
 - a. Play the only song he knew – Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star
3. The audience gasped
 - a. Some were amused
 - b. Some were outraged – after all, they had come to hear the great Paderewski, not some child tinker with a \$50,000 toy
4. The ushers immediately leaped into action to remove the boy
 - a. But before they could get there, the great one himself was already on his way to the bench

- b. He motioned to the ushers to stand down
 - 5. Paderewski quietly approached the boy from behind
 - a. And he whispered into the boy's ear, "Don't stop; keep playing"
 - b. And so the boy did
 - 6. Paderewski sat down beside him
 - a. His left hand began to play a bass accompaniment to Twinkle
 - b. And then his right arm reached around the young man and he began to play an obligato
 - c. And together they composed a beautiful theme and variations on Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star
 - d. A piece that turned out to be the highlight of the program for the evening
 - D. As best as I understand it, that story, which has been around for years, probably never actually happened
 - 1. It is apocryphal
 - a. More the stuff of legend
 - b. More fiction than non-fiction
 - c. Sometimes the story is told with Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star; sometimes it's Chopsticks
 - 2. At the same time, it serves well as an illustration of what teaching excellence looks like
 - a. And even more, as an illustration of what the ministry of the Holy Spirit looks like
 - b. As He takes our feeble attempts at life in the faith
 - c. Comes along beside us
 - d. Puts His arms around us
 - e. Enhances and expands our efforts
 - f. And creates genuine artistic expression
 - 3. And we then begin to think and act more like the Master, the Lord Jesus Christ
 - a. And less like a spiritual juvenile

II. Text

- A. The teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit is on display in our text
- B. **John 14:26** (NASB95) — 26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

III. **Dull Students**

- A. The first thing we must observe about this text is something that is not stated but is implied
 - 1. If you have need of a teacher, it means you have students who need to be taught
 - 2. **John 14:26** (NASB95) — 26 "... He will teach *you* all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to *you*."
 - a. "You" are these disciples
 - 3. The word "disciples" means "students"

- B. And as it turns out, these students are particularly dull
 - 1. Remember, they had gone to seminary
 - a. The greatest seminary in the history of the Church
 - 2. Their one and only professor was none other than the incarnate Son of God
 - a. He was the only One on the planet who could teach the things of God with absolute truthfulness and authority
 - 3. And they had not only listened to Him teach for three years
 - a. They had lived with Him
 - b. They had walked with Him
 - c. They had observed His lifestyle
 - d. They had been with Him when His popularity was at its highest
 - e. And they had been with Him when so many had left Him, walked away from Him
 - f. In fact, they had seen when the tide of religious authorities sought to oppose Him
 - 4. I spent 30 years as a professor
 - a. My students didn't come home with me, eat with me, play with my kids
 - b. These disciples had every advantage any students could ever have
 - 5. Their Rabbi was the best anyone could hope to have
 - a. He was authoritative
 - b. He was comprehensive
 - c. He was thorough
 - d. He was consistent in His message
 - e. His life reflected His doctrine
- C. And yet, they really didn't understand what this Jesus was talking about
 - 1. The greatest religious education in the world
 - a. And they were dull
 - 2. Even this greatest Rabbi needed a teacher's aide
 - a. Even Jesus needed to Holy Spirit to teach them
- D. Take Peter, for instance
 - 1. Number one in his class!
 - a. And yet, when Jesus told them He was going to be take from them
 - b. That He was going to be crucified
 - c. Peter told Him, "No Jesus, that will never happen to you!"
 - 2. Three years of the greatest seminary education imaginable, and the most important truth escapes him!
- E. Jesus, being the wonderful teacher that He was, didn't ordinarily chastise His students
 - 1. But on that occasion, He told Peter, "Get thee behind Me, Satan"
- F. These were dull disciples
 - 1. They needed even more than the great Rabbi could give them
 - a. They needed a teacher who would live in them
 - b. Who would make them His home
 - c. Who would transform them into the abode of God

- G. If you think these disciples were dull – after spending three years with Jesus
 - 1. What about us?
 - a. If they needed the HS to teach them
 - b. We all the more!

IV. **It Takes a Trinity**

- A. The second thing that we learn from this verse is that in order for us to truly understand the things of God, it takes a village
 - 1. You've heard that phrase before
 - a. In order to raise a child these days, it takes a village
 - b. In other words, it takes more than parents to raise a child
 - 2. Well, actually, in order to understand the things of God, it's not so much that it takes a village
 - a. It takes a particular kind of village
 - b. In fact – a particular village
 - 3. In order to understand the things of God, it takes the Trinity
- B. The Trinity
 - 1. The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit
 - a. The One God, in three persons
 - 2. It takes all of God to enable us to understand the things of God
- C. **A Trinitarian verse**
 - 1. **John 14:26** (NASB95) — 26 “But the Helper, **the Holy Spirit**, whom **the Father** will send in **My name**, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”
 - 2. The Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit
 - a. All present
 - b. All engaged in the teaching enterprise
- D. **Father – Schoolmaster**
 - 1. It is His initiative to create and raise up disciples, students, who will proclaim the things of God
 - 2. He is the One who sends the Son (John 20.21)
 - 3. He also, it says in this text, sends the Spirit
 - 4. The Father sends the Rabbi
 - 5. And the Father sends the Rabbi's aide
- E. **Son – Teacher**
 - 1. Indeed, He is called Rabbi for a reason
 - a. The people were amazed at His teaching
 - b. “For His message was with authority” (Luke 4.32)
- F. **Spirit – Teacher's Aide**
 - 1. But even the great Rabbi needed a teacher's aide
 - a. The Helper, the Holy Spirit
 - 2. They needed One who would not teach them from the outside
 - a. But One who would reside in them
 - b. Who would teach them from the inside
 - 3. **John 14:16–17** (NASB95) — 16 “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit

of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.”

4. As wonderful as Jesus’ teaching was
 - a. He needed His own Spirit on the inside
 - b. Illuminating, activating, applying, motivating the disciples
 - c. In the things that Jesus was teaching

V. **The Teacher’s Aide**

A. **Paraclete**

1. Helper = paraclete
 - a. One who is called along beside (cf previous message on the HS)
 - b. The Paderewski story is a wonderful illustration of that great truth
2. The Holy Spirit is a hands-on teacher
 - a. Not just a teacher who stands aloof from His students
 - b. Lecturing them from a podium on a platform
3. No, He is the One who comes and lays His hands, as it were, on the disciples
 - a. Who actually prompts and assists the disciples to hear and to respond to teaching
 - b. And actually do what the Rabbi tells them to do
4. I spent a career teaching people how to teach physical activity
 - a. Education went through a phase – in some ways, as a culture, we’re still in it – when we were told we should never lay our hands on students
 - b. You can understand why that idea was being promoted
 - c. Growing culture of abuse was becoming more and more prominent
 - d. And for teachers, even if it wasn’t abuse, the best way to avoid getting in trouble or even being accused was to keep our hands off of students
5. But that’s throwing the baby out with the bath water!
 - a. The touch of one human to another is a wonderfully affirming encouragement
 - b. And if done appropriately, can humanize the teaching space and communicate genuine love from teacher to student
6. And for us in the physical activity setting, teaching without physically helping students move in skillful ways is simply non-sensical
 - a. It’s impossible!
 - b. In many skills, the best way for students to learn movements is for teachers to physically place their bodies in position and move them through efficient response patterns
 - c. In gymnastics, for instance, there is a science of spotting
 - d. In which a teacher’s hand placement on an athletes’ body is highly instructive
7. I can’t imagine teaching in a physical activity setting without physically prompting students in appropriate ways

8. And even more, I can't imagine learning anything of spiritual significance without the hands-on prompting of the Holy Spirit
 - a. He's the paraclete
 - b. He comes along beside
 - c. He helps us, strengthens us, pokes us, prods us, assists us
9. And ultimately, we learn the things of God in ways we would could never otherwise do

B. **The Holy One**

1. The Spirit is, after all, the Holy Spirit
 - a. Holy = set apart; other
2. As applied to the Spirit, His holiness promotes a moral quality of godliness
 - a. A moral quality that we as fallen human beings by nature lack entirely
3. It's the kind of moral quality we see later in John in Chapter 16
4. **John 16:7-8** (NASB95) —
 - a. 7 “But 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 go, I will send Him to you.
 - b. 8 “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...”
5. We'll explore that passage more substantially when we get to Chapter 16
 - a. But you can gain the sense of the moral ministry of the Holy Spirit
 - b. **Sin** – the degree to which human beings stray from law and character of God
 - c. **Righteousness** – the standards which God has for all His morally accountable creatures
 - d. **Judgment** – the consequences for failing to live up to those standards
6. The bottom line is that teaching is a moral enterprise
 - a. That used to be the recognized purpose of some of our most renowned educational institutions
 - b. Harvard's original mission statement: “Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ, which is eternal life, and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom, as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning.”
 - c. How far Harvard has strayed from that original mission is legendary
 - d. And Harvard has plenty of company in its dash into secular disintegration
 - e. It and most other institutions of higher education have adopted a morality that actually promotes sin, demeans righteousness, and could care less about any kind of divine judgment
7. But the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit is, well, holy
 - a. No purely academic enterprise
 - b. Always designed to glorify God and His Son Jesus Christ

- c. Always seeking to bring men and women into conformity with the nature and character of our Savior

C. **Teacher**

1. So the Holy Spirit is the Helper, the paraclete – one who is called along beside for hands-on assistance
 - a. And He is holy – prompting and enabling in believers lives that increasingly conform to the nature and character of Christ
 - b. But the primary focus of today’s text is on the Holy Spirit in His teaching ministry
2. The Holy Spirit, in this text, is said to “teach you all things”
 - a. What does “all things” mean?
 - b. I don’t really think “all things” means every conceivable area of knowledge
 - c. Like quantum physics, differential calculus, or cellular biology
 - d. But I do think that it means that the Holy Spirit teaches us all things necessary to understand and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ
3. What kinds of things would that include?
 - a. Nature and **Character of God**
 - b. **Nature of humanity** as made in the image of God
 - c. Nature of **Our fallen state** as a result of sin
 - d. The consequences of our fall in standing under the **Judgment** of God
 - e. The **Love of God** in providing for the redemption of humanity
 - f. The **Sending of God’s Son** to live a righteous life that we could never live
 - g. The **Death of the Son**, taking upon Himself the just punishment of our sin in our place
 - h. The **Resurrection of the Son**, vindicating His Sonship and conquering the final enemy of death and giving us the assurance of a final resurrection
 - i. The **Ascension of the Son** to the right hand of the Father, the place of all rule and authority
 - j. The need for **Faith**, to believe in the life, death and resurrection of the Son in order to anticipate a life in the joyful presence of God for all eternity
4. All of these things are necessary elements of the gospel
 - a. And none of them can be understood apart from the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives
5. Without the Holy Spirit, we can read the Bible cover to cover – every year for all of our lives
 - a. And we still won’t get it
6. Without the Holy Spirit, we can listen to preachers like me proclaiming as best as we know how, the essence of the gospel
 - a. But we still won’t get it
7. Every time I stand in this pulpit, I ask the Spirit of God to be the teacher

8.
 - a. Because without Him, all that I say is just so much noise
 8. And if you do indeed profit from what I say, or what you read in the scriptures
 - a. You can be sure that the Holy Spirit is living and abiding in you
 - b. And that He is your teacher
 9. Even more specifically, what the Holy Spirit teaches is the truth about Christ
 - a. The Holy Spirit's work is to turn our attention to the Son
 - b. We get a sense of that when our text says, "whom the Father will send in My name"
 - c. The Holy Spirit is sent by the Father in the name of the Son
 - d. And we also get a sense of that when our text says that the Spirit will "bring to your remembrance all that I said to you"
 - e. The words of Jesus comprise the fundamental content of the Spirit's teaching
 10. **John 15:26** (NASB95) —
 - a. 26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me..."
 11. **John 16:13–15** (NASB95) —
 - a. 13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.
 - b. 14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.
 - c. 15 "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you."
 12. The teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit is decidedly Christo-centric
 - a. It's all about Jesus
- D. Coach
1. Not only is the Holy Spirit the teacher as described in this text, I like to think of Him as the coach
 2. **John 14:26** (NASB95) — 26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."
 - a. He will teach you
 - b. And He will bring to remembrance
 3. Those of you who have been involved in athletics and have had coaches will understand this very well
 - a. All coaches teach
 - b. They develop skills
 - c. They teach strategies
 - d. They spend hours upon hours in practices helping athletes develop the response patterns that will increase the probability of winning

4. But then, the games are played
 - a. And what do coaches do then?
 - b. They prompt their athletes to remember to do what they have been trained to do
 - c. They remind them to do in the game today what they did in practice yesterday
5. And you know what?
 - a. We need to be reminded
 - b. We need to be prompted
 - c. Once we've learned something doesn't mean that we'll respond the way we need to next year
 - d. Or next month
 - e. Or next week
 - f. Or maybe even tomorrow!
6. We need to be taught
 - a. And we need to be reminded
7. We need a teacher-coach
 - a. And the Holy Spirit is that teacher-coach
8. And you know what? Whatever you think about my teaching
 - a. No matter how clear and compelling may be my teaching
 - b. I'm not following you home to make sure you do what you're supposed to!
 - c. I'm not like the My Pillow commercial when the guy opens the medicine cabinet and sees the My Pillow guy telling him, "Looks like you're not sleeping well"
 - d. You'll never open your medicine cabinet and see Andy Hawkins
9. But the Holy Spirit will be there
 - a. He will prompt you
 - b. He will remind you
 - c. He will motivate you
 - d. He will encourage you
10. Because not just the teacher
 - a. He's your coach
 - b. Your omnipresent coach

VI. **Greater Works**

- A. Remember, Chapter 14 is a chapter of promises
 1. One of them is in v. 12
 - a. **John 14:12** (NASB95) — 12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father."
 - b. Greater works than these
- B. Only after the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost did these dull disciples
 1. These obtuse students
 - a. Who had been with the greatest Rabbi on the planet for three years
 - b. Who had the best theological education imaginable

- c. But who really didn't understand the essence of the gospel
 - 2. On then did these dull disciples "get it"
 - a. And get it, they did
 - 3. The same Peter who told Jesus that He would never be crucified, that it would never happen to Him
 - a. Would boldly teach the gospel of the crucified and risen Savior to crowds of people and see thousands come to salvation
 - 4. The same Thomas who told his companions that unless he would see the wounds in the hands of Jesus he would not believe
 - a. Would boldly teach the crucified and risen Christ as far as India
 - b. Far outside the Roman Empire
 - 5. The same John who cowered with his fellows in the hours following the crucifixion
 - a. Would after Pentecost teach the gospel of the crucified and risen Christ all the way into Asia Minor
 - b. Until he was exiled – where he continued to preach Christ through his writings
- C. All because the Holy Spirit is the teacher
 - 1. Teaching them all things in the gospel
 - 2. Teaching them about the person and work of Jesus Christ
 - 3. So they would become teachers!
 - a. These obtuse, dull students would become the bright lights of the gospel
 - b. They would become Spirit-filled teachers!
- D. And He is your teacher too!
 - 1. Listen to Him
 - a. Respond to His promptings