

Week of April 29-May 5

## **ANOTHER**

**Scripture Reading:** Read John chapter 14

Sometimes a word makes all the difference in the world. In the field of advertising, for example, the wrong word can cost a company millions. Clairol introduced a curling iron in Germany by the name of “Mist Stick” only to discover that “mist” is also a German slang term for manure. Clairol, obviously, didn’t sell too many “manure sticks.” General Motors couldn’t understand why their Chevy Novas weren’t selling in South America until they were informed that “no va” mean’s “it won’t go” in Spanish. Perhaps one of the most dangerous was when Kentucky Fried Chicken translated its slogan, “finger-lickin’ good” into Chinese; it came out as “eat your fingers off.” Yikes!

In today’s chapter reading, Jesus uses an important word in teaching his disciples and it’s vital that we understand its meaning. Jesus promises his disciples in verses 16-17, *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--the Spirit of truth...”* In the context of this passage, Jesus is obviously referring to the Holy Spirit. That’s pretty clear. What may not be clear is the word he uses to describe this Counselor from above. That word is “another.”

John’s gospel was originally written in Greek and the Greek language has two separate words that can be translated “another.” One of those words is the root from which we get the word, “heterodox,” a word that means unorthodox and deviating from accepted doctrine. This use of “another” basically means “another of a different kind.” The other word for “another” means “another of the same kind.”

In the text of John 14:16, the word that is used for “another” is the second one, “another of the same kind.” There is significance to this in that Jesus has just announced that he is leaving his disciples. He is returning to his Father in heaven. No doubt, they felt like they were being abandoned. Jesus, however, assures them that he was not going to leave them as orphans. He was going to ask the Father to send them “another of the same kind” Counselor who would be with them forever. Just as Jesus was to his disciples while on earth, the Holy Spirit would be to them after Jesus departed. The Holy Spirit would not be a Counselor of a wholly different kind. He would be just like Jesus as he guided them, watched over them, taught them, encouraged them, convicted them, challenged them, empowered them, etc. On top of that, he would take up residence in them. Think of that for a moment: When Jesus was on earth, he was only with the disciples. Jesus promises, however, when the Holy Spirit comes, this Counselor would be in his disciples. Another Counselor...and forever.

**Action Step:** Take a few moments to reflect on all the ways Jesus interacted with his disciples while he was on earth according to the gospels. Now, consider how the Holy Spirit does the same things today for believers.

**Prayer Focus:** Welcome the Holy Spirit’s work in your life as ANOTHER Counselor.

**Take-away:** *The Holy Spirit is ANOTHER counselor just like Jesus.*