

## **SERMON NOTES:** THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE SPIRIT (28 February 2016)

### **SCRIPTURE**

*John chapters 13-15*

### **KEY POINTS**

- + The disciples are facing a faith without Jesus being present, and this troubles them. But Jesus is preparing them for a different way of understanding, a different faith.
- + The truest way to be human is shown to us by Jesus. He shows us it is actually possible to live in the fullness of God as a human being.
- + Seeing ourselves truly comes with surrendering to Jesus' Lordship and to the truth of his presence through the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.
- + It is a destructive myth to believe that we are the captain of our own soul, a myth driven by the lens of the flesh. Jesus calls us to trade the lens of the flesh for the lens of the Spirit, submitting to His leadership.

### **REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

- + **What stuck out to you from the teaching?** Did God remind you of something, or reveal something new? Did the Spirit minister to you?
  - + **Were any questions raised for you?** Did you get stuck on any scriptures or points? Anything you need clarity on?
  - + **Where do we see Jesus Christ in this teaching?** Jesus is at the centre of everything in the Scriptures. It follows that he is at the centre of everything we understand about church, faith and the Kingdom. What in the teaching has helped you see more of Jesus and the cross, or moved you to love him more?
  - + **How can you personally apply this teaching?** Identify and commit to something you sense the Spirit is leading you to do in obedient response. Make it actionable and personal. What is in place to help you stay accountable to this?
  - + **What/with whom can you share from here?** Who in your life needs to know the truth you've discovered? How can you share it with them?
- + Reflect on the ways you see yourself that are not in line with how Jesus sees you. What truth is God wanting to replace these false beliefs with? Write things down for yourself or share if you feel comfortable.
  - + Look at the disciples' questions as Jesus speaks to them (13:36,37; 14:5,8,22)—do you see your own doubts/fears/misunderstanding reflected in these questions? What hope does Jesus speak personally to you in his responses?
  - + How do you relate to God's 'present-ness' in your life? Do you see the Spirit as your active counsellor, empower, teacher?