Gospel of John, chapter 14 verses 22 – 29:-

The reading this week comes after the familiar words of the Lord Jesus Christ in John 14 verses 1 – 6.

Verses 22 – 24:- It makes for a better understanding of the answer if the question in verse 22 is included! Note that this Judas was known as *"Judas the son of James"* (Luke chapter 6, verse 16). The difference between the followers of the Lord Jesus and the world is love and obedience (verses 23 and 24).

Verses 25 – 26:- Remember that this is the last 'teaching session' that the Lord Jesus Christ will share with his disciples before his crucifixion. The promise of the coming of the 'Councillor', 'the Holy Spirit' (the Greek word *"Parakletos"* literally means *"someone who is called to one's side"*) is given and the Lord God Himself will be present in life of the believer (1 Corinthians chapter 3, verse 16). When He comes He will be their guide and mentor *"in all things"*. Bringing to mind and deepening the understanding of the teaching being given by the Lord Jesus.

Verse 27:- *"Peace"* - *"Shalom"* was the ordinary term of greeting or farewell. But on the lips of the Lord Jesus it meant something special. That special gift was his bequest. *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give you."* This gift of 'peace' is more than a good wish! It is effectual and actually bestows a permanent possession. Since our peace is grounded not in circumstance but in the Lord, we should be free from all dismay. ***"****Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."* These words echo those spoken by the Lord God to Joshua as he prepared to move the Children of Israel across the Jordan into the Promised Land – see the Book of Joshua chapter 1, verse 9. The Lord Jesus Christ, in his work as the greater 'Joshua', the Saviour of the People of God, was through his death to take them into the 'Promised Land', the Kingdom of Heaven.

Verse 28:- That the Lord Jesus was going to return to the Father is the ground of the hope and strength, not only of the disciples but of all his followers who would come afterwards. (See the prayer of the Lord Jesus later in Gethsemane John chapter 17, verses 20 – 21). This 'return' was fulfilled at the Ascension where the message of the *'two men in white robes'* also affirmed the reality of His coming again. See Acts chapter 1, verses 9 – 11.

Verse 29:- Points up the reality of the foreknowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. He had spoken again and again of his coming suffering and death – see for example Mark chapter 8, verse 31 and chapter 9, verses 30 – 32. After his resurrection the full meaning of his suffering and death became the basis of the preaching and teaching of the apostles - see for example the preaching of Peter in the Book of Acts chapter 2, verses 29 – 33 and chapter 3, verses 13 – 26.

Our blest Redeemer, ere he breathed
his tender last farewell,
a Guide, a Comforter, bequeathed
with us to dwell.

2) He came in semblance of a dove
with sheltering wings outspread,
the holy balm of peace and love
on earth to shed.

3) He came in tongues of living flame
to teach, convince, subdue,
all powerful as the wind he came
as viewless too.

4) He came sweet influence to impart,
a gracious, willing Guest,
while he can find one humble heart
wherein to rest.

5) And his that gentle voice we hear,
soft as the breath of even,
that checks each fault, that calms each fear,
and speaks of heaven.

6) And every virtue we possess,
and every conquest won,
and every thought of holiness,
are his alone.

7) Spirit of purity and grace,
our weakness, pitying, see:
O make our hearts thy dwelling place
and worthier thee.

Harriet Auber 1829

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