

## Easter 6 Gospel Reflection--John 14:15-21

By Michael Brown

In today's reading Jesus tells his disciples of the promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit, which would occur on Pentecost. Here he assures his disciples that while they will no longer see him his presence will be with them through this Advocate and this Advocate will be with them forever.

In this passage Jesus reveals to us the oneness and interconnectedness of humanity through God. Jesus is in the Father, and us in him, and he in us. This Holy Spirit that dwells within all of us, even in our brokenness and disbelief, unifies us all as children of God.

Jesus also illustrates that love of God and love of neighbor, the two greatest commandments, are also interconnected. You cannot love the one without also loving the other. Those who have his commandments and keep them are those who love him. And what are his commandments but to love one another as he loves us. To love your neighbor, that the Holy Spirit dwells within and that also dwells within you. You cannot love God without also loving your neighbor.

In this uncertain time of pandemic and economic collapse let us always remain mindful that our survival and thriving is dependent on everyone's survival and thriving. That we are interconnected in ways that we never think about. That this greatest commandment, love of God and love of neighbor, is the most important thing we can do to ensure not only our own survival and thriving but also all of creation's.