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"You are obstinate people," declares the LORD... you are rebellious, deceitful, and unwilling to listen to the My instruction.

What is God going to do with us?

It goes on.

The Lord longs to be gracious to you; he will rise up [an advocate] to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice.

My people you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help!

As soon as he hears, he will answer you.

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a whisper, a still small voice, behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

And I will bind up your bruises and heal your wounds.

Vote Jesus number 1 and those unbelievable promises – of forgiveness and love when you don't deserve it, abundant life on earth, eternal life in heaven, become the believable - those promises become our gift and hope – because of our Holy Spirit advocate.

And like Mary when we hear the voice say **go left and we go right she is still there** – saying I love you are a child of the father.

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You know most languages are gender specific - except English.

The poor Holy Spirit -

he's masculine in Latin and German – Der Heilige Geist.

In Greek it's an "it" – a neuter – the King James follows this and calls the Holy Spirit "it".

But in Hebrew in Jesus language – she is feminine – Ruach – she's a she – I like that.

I'm asking you to be a Mary – a girl – standing behind the person for whom you are an Advocate –

Whispering alongside and with the Holy Spirit to your loved one – "you are a child of God – Jesus loves you – your have abundant life here on earth and eternal life in heaven".

Who can you be a Mary to today?

Holy Spirit thankyou for bringing Flic and Addeline here today – thanks for bringing all of us here today to hear your promises.

Who did you vote for?

I voted for a government who promised:

- to bring us out of a trillion-dollar debt
- to fix the medical system and stop ramping
- to overhaul, again, the National Disability Scheme to make it better and cheaper
- to roll out even faster internet,
- to boost renewable energy,
- to increase our standard of living,
- and not tax us anymore in the slightest.

I was so keen to vote for this party - then I discovered that all the other parties were promising the same things – just that some it was to animals, and or with guns or marijuana.

How many of us would vote for these promises if it wasn't the law?

You know Jesus promises us much more – forgiveness of sins, abundant life on earth - eternal life in heaven.

He promises no more tears, no more toil, no more pain – none of the politicians promise that.

He promises Peace – peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.

He asks us to vote for him – just like the politicians

"Acknowledge me on earth – and I will acknowledge you in heaven."

We know, deep down that all the political promises are unachievable – yet we want to believe in them.

We are forced to vote for them.

How do we believe in the parties?

These advocates are there to step in if the leader stumbles – to remind the leader of a key point – but mostly they just smile and nod their heads – assuring us.

What about the Jesus party – and all his promises.

He also has an advocate - the Holy Spirit.

Jesus says, the advocate, the Holy Spirit, will teach you all things and instil in you the promises I have made to you.

We see this with Lydia – The Holy Spirit worked in her heart to convince her the promise of forgiveness through baptism – so she asked to be baptised.

And Lydia came alive as the promises came true – she was a businesswoman – she became a businesswoman on a mission, supporting and financing the mission of Jesus with the gift of hospitality: *"Now that I am a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my house."*

Flic you have an advocate – or you wouldn't be here – Addeline you have an advocate, or you would be here – every one of you have an advocate or you just would be here.

The promises here are just too unbelievable.

I can't force you to come here like election day – you have to come on your own free will and accept the unbelievable promises of Jesus – this is not normal - **we need an advocate.**

Let me take you on a new direction.

I love blues music – if you want to know what an advocate is just look up Jimmy Reed and his wife - Mary.

Who is old enough to know Jimmy Reed – famous blues musician?

Jimmy Reed was a foundational blues player in the 50's, 60's.

I was telling Sarah about this and I had her listening to Muddy Waters and Robert Johnson.

But back to Jimmy Reed and his wife Mary.

To know Mary you need to know Jimmy.

He was totally illiterate – after his Navy time in the war he was a total drunk.

Abusive, obnoxious, no job. But he could make music – people would come near and far to hear him play.

Mary – Mary promised to love Jimmy and she loved him no matter what. She did her best to make him look good when he was at his worst.

At Jimmy's worst he would get on stage, drunk, and forget the words to his songs. Mary would slide up behind him and whisper the words in his ear.

If you listen carefully to his songs you can hear her whispering the words to him.

She wanted the best for him – she didn't want him to look stupid on stage. For over 20 years she carried him – she was his advocate.

She would write for him because he couldn't write.

She wound speak for him when he couldn't speak.

She would whisper to him when he couldn't remember.

She always stood behind him - nodding.

But here's the thing – He made a promise to love her – but he failed over and over.

She made a promise to love him and stand by his side always – look she was human, but you can see **beautifully and clearly** in the worst of times she was there – standing behind him.

The perfect advocate - reminding him that he was loved, that he was a great musician, that he could do good with his music.

He didn't deserve her love – she promised him her love.

He died one night after a gig – like most musicians he became more famous dead than alive.

Mary never left him.

I'm not sure if it does it for you – but The Holy Spirit is my Mary – my advocate – quietly standing behind me – reminding me – whispering to me: You are a child of God - he forgives you – He loves you – no matter what dark state I am in.

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