

John 16:1-33

Counseling and Conviction

In chapter 15, Jesus is telling the disciples that as they are loving one another, bearing fruit, and testifying about Him, the world will hate them.

Why has He told them this? To prevent them from going astray.

How will this news keep them from going astray? It will keep them from falling away out of fear. It will prepare them for what lies ahead so they won't be caught by surprise.

Application: Does the world hate us? The unbelieving world hates what we stand for and can't separate us from the message.

Application: How can we prepare to face a world that hates us? We sink our roots deep. Psalm 1:2-3 says this about the solid Christian, "His delight is in the law of the LORD, and in his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season, and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers." If we get rooted and grounded in the Word of God, we will not get burnt when the heat of persecution gets turned up.

What is the big deal about putting someone out of the synagogue? Is it like telling me I can't go to my church anymore? It's a huge deal for a Jew to be put out of the synagogue. They are socially and spiritually ostracized. They cannot find work nor can they conduct business. They are totally excluded from the Jewish community.

Why will the disciples be persecuted? The persecutors have not known the Father or Jesus

Jesus is leaving His disciples and in verse 2 He paints a bleak picture of what the future holds for them. As He prepares to leave them, He has good news—He is sending them the Holy Spirit!

In verses 7 through 15, Jesus tells them much about the ministry of the Spirit. What are some of the roles of the Holy Spirit?

Verse 7: The Spirit is sent as a Counselor (also translated "helper"). How does He help us? The Spirit helps by interceding in prayer for us, because we don't always know the will of God.

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will" (Romans 8:26-27).

Verses 8-11: Three-Fold Conviction

Jesus explains the three-fold conviction of the Spirit: of guilt in regard to sin, righteousness, and judgment.

1. **Convictor of sin** - The Holy Spirit's main job in the world is to convict people in the world of sin. The Holy Spirit's conviction of the world's sin is one sin: the rejection of Jesus Christ. See verse 9.
2. **Convictor of righteousness** -- Not only does the Spirit convict the world of the sin of rejecting Jesus Christ, but He is also the convictor of the guilt of righteousness. The Holy Spirit, working through us, convicts the world of righteousness. They no longer see Jesus walking the earth, but they see us, walking in the Spirit, living righteously. See verse 10.
3. **Convictor of the guilt of judgment** -- He is also convicting the world that the leader they're following has a sure eternal place in the lake of fire. See verse 11.

What are some other roles of the Holy Spirit mentioned throughout the Gospel of John?

- John 16:13 "He will guide you into all truth"
- John 16:13 "He will tell you what is yet to come"
- John 16:14 "He will bring glory to me" The Bible is all about God's plan of redemption and since the plan of redemption centers on Christ, glorifying Christ is the topic on which the Spirit will concentrate His teaching.
- John 14:26 "(He will) remind you of everything I have said to you"
- John 14:26 "(He will) teach you all things"
- John 15:26 "...He will testify about me"

Application: How have you experienced the Holy Spirit at work in your life?

In verses 16-22, what does Jesus mean as He talks about disappearing and reappearing—in a little while? This very night, He will be arrested, falsely accused, and tortured. Tomorrow morning they will watch Him die. He will disappear (be buried!). They will spend two days in fear and hiding. They will know sorrow, discouragement and despair like they've never known. But Sunday morning, they will know joy like they've never experienced as He reappears.

In verse 21 how does Jesus illustrate “a little while”? In comparison to a woman giving birth. While she is delivering the baby, she is in excruciating pain. But “a little while” later when the baby is born, the pain is forgotten and the joy of—and love for—her newborn child overwhelms her.

Note: In verses 23-26 Jesus talks about prayer very similarly to what He said in John 14. This time He goes into a little more detail.

What does Jesus mean by “in that day” in verse 23? The context indicates that the day in view is the time when the disciples' joy would become full. That would be after Jesus' resurrection and ascension. The disciples would ask Him no questions then because He would be bodily absent from them. They would have to request answers to their questions from the Father in prayer.

In verse 24 what is different about the way Jesus tells the disciples to pray? The disciples had not appealed to the Father in Jesus' name before now. As Old Testament believers, they had undoubtedly grounded their petitions on God's promises in the Old Testament. And the consequence of answered prayer would be fullness of joy for them.

What is Jesus referring to in verse 25 when He would no longer speak figuratively but clearly? He is probably referring to the time following His resurrection and ascension when He via the Spirit would help the disciples understand the meaning of what He had said earlier. Previously Jesus used parables to teach the multitudes because they were not ready to receive clear teaching.

Note: In verse 28 Jesus summarizes His mission from the incarnation to the ascension. It is a description of His round-trip journey.

How does Jesus respond in verses 29-32 when the disciples think they finally understand? It's as if Jesus is saying, “Do you now believe you have it together? In just a little while tonight, you're going to run away in fear and leave me all alone.”

What is the great reassurance Jesus gives the disciples at the end of this chapter? “I have overcome the world.” There is no need to be afraid of the world and all of its tribulations.

Application: Verse 33 is powerful reassurance of the peace found in Jesus. Seeing Jesus promise peace to the disciples at this incredibly troublesome time reinforces its power. How have you experienced the peace of Jesus in your life?

MEMORIZE: John 16:33