

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN SESSION 18

Review: Last week we went through chapter 15 which centers on the "Vine and Branches" metaphor. Jesus explains that He is the source of all spiritual life, urging His followers to "abide" (remain) in Him to produce lasting fruit. He transitions their status from servants to friends, and commands them to love one another just as He has loved them.

John 16:1-4 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you. *The Lord forewarns his disciples that they will face severe persecution, excommunication and death from religious leaders. These people are so in the dark that they will think they are serving God by doing these things. Saul of Tarsus was one of these. The Greek word translated as "offended" is "skandalizo" which is where we get our English word "scandal" from and it means to entrap, offend, stumble or entice to sin. Jesus wanted them to know that these things would befall them so that the devil could not entrap them in snare and cause them to stumble.*

John 16:5-7 But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou? But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. *The Lord knows that his impending departure is disheartening to his disciples. He has spoken briefly about the coming Comforter (Holy Spirit) in the previous two chapters. He will talk much more about his coming and work in this chapter. The word "expedient" means it's for your good. Jesus said that his departure would actually profit them. As long as Jesus was on earth he was limited by locality, but when the Holy Spirit comes and indwells believers, he is with them all the time.*

John 16:8-11 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. *The Holy Spirit's threefold conviction of the unsaved world:*

- **Sin** – He will reprove the world of sin or show it to be wrong. The first work of the Holy Spirit in unbelievers is to turn light on their darkness. When sinners feel that

something is missing in them or that they are at not right with God, that is the working of the Holy Spirit. He also convicts sinners of their unbelief concerning Christ. Believing in Jesus historically won't save anyone. He convicts them of not believing on him, savingly.

- **Righteousness** – Righteousness is God's standard of perfection. Outside of Jesus Christ, no man has ever lived up to that standard. The reason that Jesus could go back to the Father after his resurrection is because he lived a life of sinless perfection. So, Jesus Christ is now the standard to measure the world by. It doesn't matter that some sinners live better than other people, they don't live up to the standard that Jesus Christ set. The Holy Spirit convicts sinners of their righteousness deficit.
- **Judgment** – The world is facing judgment. There is a judgment day scheduled in which God's holiness will respond to sin and rid the creation of it. Judgment is already started because Satan was judged at the cross. The resurrection was proof that Satan's rule had been overthrown. All who remain in their sin will be judged in righteousness and found wanting. The Holy Spirit forewarns the world that judgment is coming.

John 16:12-15 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you. *Why could they not bear the things that Jesus wanted to show them? The death and resurrection of Christ is the end of one dispensation and the start of another. A dispensation is a distinct period of human history defined by a specific way God administers His will, covenants, and plan of salvation. The disciples lived all their lives in the dispensation of law and their minds are hardwired to that program. Christ's suffering and death is the end of the law, and his resurrection starts a new dispensation of grace. Christ can't expound on the coming dispensation because they would've choked on it. But when the Holy Spirit comes, he will guide them into all truth. The truth that the ceremonial law has been done away. The truth that the body of Christ will be a joint body of Jew and Gentile with no difference between. The truth that the dietary laws of Moses are done away etc. The Holy Spirit will be the messenger of Christ – Christ will speak to us through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will not say anything independently of Christ. He will show us things to come – literally means he will at certain times reveal the future before it happens for our safety and to build our faith. He shall glorify Christ meaning he will make him visible! Jesus glorified the Father by teaching, working and walking only where the Father instructed*

him. That's why he could say "If you've seen me, you've seen the Father". The Holy Spirit now glorifies Christ by doing his work through his body. The full title of the book of Acts is "The Acts of the apostles" Chuck Missler said it should've been called the "The Acts of the Holy Spirit" because he was leading and empowering all of it. The Holy Spirit takes the things (precious things) of Christ and reveals them unto us.

John 16:16-20 A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father. Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father? They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith. Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye inquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me? Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. *The disciples couldn't understand the little while in between not seeing the Lord and seeing him. They wanted to ask him but were nervous so Jesus took the initiative and explained that at the cross, the world would rejoice but they would be sorrowful. They would not see him for three days but their sorrow would be turned into joy when they would see him alive again after his resurrection.*

John 16:21-25 A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you. And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father. *A proverb is a short traditional saying or metaphorical message that communicates a perceived truth, practical life lessons or godly wisdom. The proverb spoken here is about childbearing. The labor is intense and full of sorrow, but it's only temporary and the joy that follows the birth long outlasts the sorrow of the labor. The disciples have sorrow and heaviness now, but it's temporary and the joy of seeing Jesus alive again and having the Holy Spirit indwell them will long outlast this time. The Lord reveals to them that they are going to gain direct access to the Father. By praying "in Jesus' name", believers receive answers to their requests, resulting in complete and overflowing joy. We have this access because of the blood of Christ on the mercy seat in heaven and his office as our eternal High Priest.*

John 16:26-31 At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father. His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb. Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God. Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe? *He assures the disciples that they have direct, intimate access to God because of their love and faith in him. The Father loves them unconditionally and hears their prayers directly. The disciples have a “lightbulb” moment during this final discourse. Much of what Jesus said was beyond their understanding and he used parables and proverbs to express himself. He explains that he came from the Father and that he is now going back to the Father. They grasp that he was more than a man and not from our world. In other words, they wrap their minds around his deity. They mistakenly think because they believed that, that they fully grasped his mission...they did not. While their realization is a beautiful moment of faith, it is also somewhat ironic. They proudly declare “This makes us believe”, thinking they fully understand everything. However, Jesus immediately challenges their overconfidence in the next verse with “Do you now believe?”. Christ knows their faith, while sincere, is still shallow and untested. He proceeds to warn them in just a few hours, when he is arrested, their confidence will shatter and they will scatter, abandoning him.*

John 16:32-33 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. *The Lord assures his followers that despite facing inevitable suffering and trials in a troubled world, they can have unshakable inner peace because he has already defeated the world.*

Tonight’s Application: How is your relationship with the Holy Spirit. This is his time. We have been placed in his care. He is our guide, helper, intercessor, advocate, teacher, revealer, corrector, and comforter. The Holy Spirit is a person with a personality, not an idea or “force”. The Christian life is a partnership between the believer and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit’s work is to glorify Jesus Christ the way that Christ glorified the Father when he was here, and he wants to do that through us!

- **Acknowledge His personality** – The Holy Spirit has a mind, will, and emotions. Treat him with the same respect and affection you would show to Jesus Christ. Recognize that he resides in you as a permanent helper.

- **Practice active listening** – Carry out your day with a quiet awareness of his “still, small voice”. Spend dedicated time in prayer but leave space to listen rather than doing all the talking.
- **Emphasize obedience** – The Holy Spirit can be grieved by careless living or unaddressed sin. Respond quickly to his convictions and follow his promptings to build trust.
- **Engage with scripture** – The Holy Spirit inspired the Bible. Reading scripture helps you to learn how he operates. The Spirit, in turn, will illuminate those words to your heart.
- **Yield to the fruit** – A Spirit-filled life naturally produces the fruit of the Spirit. The more yielded you are to the Spirit, the more fruit is produced in you.