

## The Gospel of John: That You May Believe Our Help in a Hostile World

John 16:4-15

Sunday, September 24, 2017

### Introduction

As we return to John 16 we pick up a conversation that we have been following for some time. Jesus has been preparing His disciples for His departure, and in the previous section He told them some difficult things: Not only is He going away, but when He goes they can expect to be hated and persecuted because of their message.

Between Jesus leaving and the expectation of opposition the disciples became overwhelmed with emotion, but it's at this point that Jesus points them to a great hope: The coming of the Holy Spirit.

As we consider our call to take the message of the Gospel to the world, this is our hope, we don't go alone. We have the power and provision of the Spirit of God.

### The Emotions of the Disciples (vs. 5-6)

- As the disciples contemplated all that Jesus was saying they were overcome with sorrow and fear. But we must recognize that we often have the same fears. As we go to the world with the message of the Gospel we too face opposition and hatred.

### The Advantage of Jesus's Departure (vs. 7)

- It seems unfathomable that Jesus's leaving could be viewed as an advantage to the disciples, but this highlights the incredible work of the Spirit. The Spirit is not bound by time or space and has the power to convict the world and communicate truth to the disciples at the same time.

### The Work of the Spirit (vs. 8-15)

### The Spirit Brings Conviction to the World (vs. 8-11)

The idea of conviction in this context is best understood as convincing or persuading. The Holy Spirit has the ability to communicate truth to the world and convict them of the realities of sin and righteousness and judgment.

### • The Spirit Convicts the World Concerning Sin

While most people in the world will probably admit they sin, most do not recognize the seriousness or the pervasiveness of their sin (Romans 5:12; James 2:10)

As we consider sin, this is good news: That there is an answer for sin. Jesus came to free us from sin and the consequences of sin (Romans 6:23; John 3:16-18; 8:24)

### • The Spirit Convicts the World Concerning Righteousness

While most people in the world know they aren't perfect, most consider themselves to be good people. They believe they have done more good than bad and therefore God is probably pleased with them. But this completely misses the standard; they don't understand the righteousness of God. (Romans 3:10-11)

The good news of the Gospel is that Jesus is righteous and through faith in Him we can be seen through His righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21, Romans 4:1-5)

### • The Spirit Convicts the World Concerning Judgment

While most people prefer to think that a loving God would never come in judgment, this is not the teaching of the Bible. The Bible teaches that God is both loving and just and He must punish sin (John 3:18)

The good news of the Gospel is that in Christ we can be free from condemnation and judgment (Romans 5:1,9)

### The Spirit Communicates Truth to the Disciples (vs. 12-15)

In addition to convicting the world, another ministry of the Spirit is the ministry of communicating truth. In many ways this gift of the Spirit was directed to the disciples, but there are great benefits for us.

Because of the work of the Spirit in communicating truth to the disciples we have the inspired and inherent Word of God (John 14:25-26; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:16.

**Conclusion:** Although we don't have the privilege of knowing Jesus in the flesh, He has given us a great gift. Through the Spirit we have all that we need to minister to our world.