

The Gospel of John

Chapter 16:1-15

October 19, 1997

- **The Gospel of John Outline:**

- Chapter 1 Our Lord is the Word, the Light and the Life
- Chapter 2 The Lord of the Wedding Feast; Zeal for the purity of the temple
- Chapter 3 Spiritual Birth, Belief and Salvation vs. Unbelief and Condemnation
- Chapter 4 The Ministry in Samaria, The Harvest, The Faith of the Nobleman
- Chapter 5 Paralytic man healed on the Sabbath, Unity of The Father and Son
- Chapter 6 The Bread of Life
- Chapter 7 The public debates about Jesus during the Feast of Tabernacles
- Chapter 8 Public debates: Woman caught in adultery; The Son makes you free; Abraham's true children
- Chapter 9 Jesus heals a man born blind.
- Chapter 10 Jesus is the Door and the True Shepherd
- Chapter 11 Our Lord is the Resurrection and the Life
- Chapter 12 Jesus Anointed and Worshipped as King, God softens some and hardens some, Public ministry ends
- Chapter 13 Jesus Loves His Disciples, Judas Betrays The Master
- Chapter 14 The Way, The Truth and The Life
- Chapter 15 Jesus is the True Vine
- Chapter 16 The Spirit will guide into all truth

- **Review and Introduction**

Our Lord and His disciples are on their way to the garden of Gethsemane. The events of chapters 15 & 16 appear to occur along the way to the garden where Jesus is arrested. Jesus is giving His final didactic instructions to His disciples before He is captured. He has commanded them to love one another, to abide in Him, to understand that the world will hate them and to expect the Helper. Jesus concludes His instruction in this chapter and explains why He has given them this teaching.

Exposition of John 16:1-15

"These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble.

- The Lord was giving these final instructions as a preparation for the upcoming conflicts. Jesus knew and anticipated that His students would be persecuted and He wanted them to be well equipped so that they would not waiver in their faithfulness in the heat of conflict.

2 "They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.³ "And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me.⁴ "But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.

- Here, Jesus goes on to give more detail of the anticipated conflict. Jesus predicts their death at the hands of the faithless to whom He is sending them. These murderers were also those who claimed to be servants of God but in fact they were not known by God at all. He reiterates that He has told these things to them so that when the conflict comes, they will know that this is what the Lord intended and they can walk in full assurance. How sweet and effective our confidence is when we know we are walking in the will of the Father! Ephesians 2:10
- Notice carefully that Jesus is now telling them these things because He is anticipating His departure. While He was with them He protected them and after He leaves, His opponents will kill the disciples. Was Christ negligent in leaving? Not at all. Jesus fully expected His church to be persecuted and for that reason He prepared them and promised the Holy Spirit to be sent to indwell them. The existence of persecution toward the church is in no way a sign that Christ is not ruling or that Christ is not protecting His Bride.
- The heart is deceitfully wicked. In the name of righteousness, God haters will do things that simply prove their true nature. Sincerity is not the measure of whether or not someone is a true question; nor is zeal. Our understanding of what is true and what is false should come from an examination of the scriptures not the external appearance of the people.

5 "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?'⁶ "But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

- In light of the prophetic instruction given to the disciples about their upcoming persecution, Jesus' going away might have been cause for concern. "If the persecution was imminent", they might have thought, "why doesn't He just stay here and protect us?" "Sure we are more valuable to Him alive than dead!" This reasoning simply shows our arrogance. Somehow we believe that persecutions are bad for the church and yet it was the persecution at the hands of wicked men of our Lord

(the exact same kind of persecution that He predicted for the Church) that brought about our reconciliation. The persecution of Christ was our blessing. It was also an indictment on the Jews who executed the very Messiah they claimed to long for.

- Although they had at one time asked Him *where* He was going, now they understood where He was going but the sorrow in their hearts demonstrated that they did not know *why*.

7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

- Despite the threat of persecutions, it was a great blessing for our Lord to proceed to the throne of the Father where Christ rules and cleanses His Bride. We see here that the Spirit goes at the request of the Son. The Spirit comes from the Father and goes where the Son requests Him to go. And what is the Son's purpose in sending the Spirit? Matthew 11:27 says that Jesus reveals the Father to those who He pleases. The Spirit comes and testifies to the glory of the Father and teaches and guides in all truth and wisdom.

8 "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:⁹ "of sin, because they do not believe in Me;¹⁰ "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;¹¹ "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

- Christ gives a threefold function of the conviction of the Spirit. A conviction is something that comes from being convinced. Therefore the Spirit comes and convinces men of sin, righteousness and judgment. This means that the Spirit is the One who overcomes the objections; who brings about a broken and contrite heart; who teaches us what it means to live righteously and godly lives. Titus 2:11
- The Spirit is what opens our eyes and renews our hearts so that for the first time we see our sinfulness. Prior to our regeneration we could not know the way of righteousness even though a form of the law was written on our hearts. We were helpless in doing what was pleasing to the Lord. Notice that here (and many other places) unbelief is equated with sin. Ultimately all sin is unbelief in who Jesus is. But our foolish thinking sometimes believes that unbelief is not someone's fault rather it is just an unfortunate choice that should not be counted against them.
- Secondly, the Spirit convinces men of righteousness. Not only does the Spirit convict of that which is contrary to the law of God, He also leads us in our sanctification by our initial renewal, but we are subsequently taught by the Spirit the righteousness of God. Recall in the Titus verse that it was the grace of God that did the teaching. The grace of God is poured out through the Son and administered by the Spirit. The Spirit also is the agent by which the deeds of the body are put to death. Because the Son goes to the Father and has established the pattern of righteousness and secured grace for the Elect, His departure to the throne is the basis upon which they are made aware of the righteousness of God.
- By His death and resurrection, Christ has triumphed over Satan and made a public spectacle of him and his followers. Although not annihilated, he has been vanquished by Christ such that he does not rule as he once did. The government of darkness is in disarray and its final, ultimate destruction ensured. If the ruler of the world, Satan, is judged this effectively, how equally certain will the judgement be for the rank and file of the kingdom of darkness.

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.¹³ "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.¹⁴ "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.¹⁵ "All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.
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- Christ was not running out of time. This betrayal did not come at some unfortunate time. Rather the timing was exactly what the Father ordained should occur. Jesus says that He had many more things to tell them but they were not ready to learn them. They would be made ready by the Spirit who will guide and teach the things that the Father and Son wish to be taught.
- The Spirit comes and manifests the glory of the Father and Son because all that the Father has is given to the Son and all that the Son has is declared to us. Therefore, we have the fullness of the Father given to us for the sake of the Son through the Spirit. In no way can we say that Christ was negligent in leaving. His leaving brought to us the fullness of the Father so that we are fully equipped to face persecution and do the good pleasure of the Father.