

“The Promised Holy Spirit”

John 16:1-15

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Teaching Aim: To recognize that Jesus was within hours of His crucifixion as He gave these final instructions to His disciples. To understand it was to both the disciples and our advantage that Jesus was crucified and buried only to rise again on the third day. At the ascension Jesus sent another Helper (the Gk “*Parakletos*”) ten days later (the Holy Spirit), to permanently indwell His followers. To realize Jesus could only be in one place at one time in His human nature, but the Holy Spirit could indwell all born-again believers on earth at once.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: Jesus warns His disciples of the coming persecution after His crucifixion (John 16:1-4)

1. “*What things*” was Jesus talking about to in **verse 1**? (See **John 15:18-25**) What concern did Jesus have in **verse 1b**? Have you ever stumbled in your faith over something that was said or done to you? If so, what was it? How did you get back on track again?

2. Jesus never promised us health, wealth, and everything we want; He promised us persecution if we walk closely with Him. According to Jesus, what kind of persecution would His followers face (**vs. 2**)? Would these persecutors think they were serving God?

3. Being kicked out of the synagogue and losing your livelihood was bad enough, but others would kill Christians and think they were doing God “*a priestly service.*” Who is the most famous person in the Bible to persecute the church? (See **Acts 8:1-3; 26:9-11**) What changed this man’s mind? (See **Acts 9:1-4**)

4. It is a sad day when “*religious people*” persecute and murder others in the name of God. What world religion is infamously known for doing this today? Note: There are many peaceful Muslims today, not all of them are radicals; they have just followed a lie and fallen into Satan’s trap.

5. Have you ever heard the saying, *"What goes around comes around?"* How do we see this being played out in the life of the Apostle Paul? (See **2 Cor. 11:24-28**) Note: In his case, the persecutor became the persecuted. In light of what Paul had done, was this okay with him?

6. Sadly, persecution will get worse as we approach the end times. Look at what is happening in Ukraine today and how easily it could turn into a world war, or worse yet, a nuclear war. How should Christians respond to the present crisis in Ukraine?

7. What kind of persecution were Christians facing during the days of Christ (See **John 9:20-23; 12:42-43**) To be put out of the synagogue was a huge blow for the Jew; what kind of cost would they have to pay? Some Jews chose to compromise in order to keep the status quo. Have you ever been guilty of compromising your Christian principles for the sake of keeping the peace?

8. In the case of **John 9:20-23** and **12:42-43**, being cast out of the synagogue for believing in Jesus was dead wrong. Should churches still be instituting church discipline today? Why or why not? What are some ways that the church has been weakened over the years when it comes to church discipline?

9. The Jews claimed to know the God of Scripture, but did they (**vs. 3**)? What can we learn about Jesus from **1 John 4:14**? What can we learn about the relationship of the Father and Son from **John 10:30**? Does this mean they are one in *"Person?"* What does it mean?

10. According to **verse 4**, why did Jesus tell His disciples these things? Does it help if we are prepared for a crisis when it comes? Why is it so important for us to be prepared?

Part II: Jesus announces His departure and the ministry of the coming Holy Spirit (John 16:5-11)

1. The comment from Jesus in **verse 5** is curious since Jesus was already asked this question by Peter and Thomas in **John 13:36** and **John 14:5**. What Jesus probably meant here was *“None of you asks me at this time where I am going.”* Sadly, the disciples appeared more concerned about their own impending loss of the company of Jesus than they were about the coming crucifixion of Christ (**vs. 6**). Although they had been told numerous times that Jesus would die, be buried, and rise again, they did not understand. Why do you think the disciples didn't get it?
2. What unexpected truth did Jesus tell His disciples in **verse 7**? What is the significance of the Helper (or Gk *“parakletos”*)? (Hint: Search online) Who is the Helper and when did He come? (See **Acts 2**) What was Jesus, in effect, telling His disciples? (See **Heb. 13:5**) Why is it to our advantage that Jesus died, was buried, rose again from the dead and ascended into heaven? What could the Holy Spirit do that Jesus, in His human nature, could not?
3. What do the Mormons believe about the deity of Jesus and His relationship to Satan? (Hint: Search online) What do the Jehovah's Witnesses believe about the deity of Christ? How do these teachings differ from what the Bible teaches? (See **John 1:1-3; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 1:8-12**) Note: Jesus is not a created being; He is the Creator of all things.
4. According to **verse 8**, the Holy Spirit would have three important tasks when He comes. What are they? William MacDonald said, *“The Holy Spirit condemns the world by the very fact that He is here. He should not be here, because the Lord Jesus should be here, reigning over the world. But the world rejected Him, and He went back to heaven. The Holy Spirit is here in place of a rejected Christ, and this demonstrates the world's guilt...the Holy Spirit's presence in the world is witness to their crime.”* What are your thoughts on MacDonald's comments?

5. What sin is Jesus specifically talking about in **verse 9**? Why makes this sin so deadly? (See **John 3:18-19**) According to **verse 10**, does the Holy Spirit convict the world of righteousness or unrighteousness? Whose righteousness? The righteousness of Jesus Christ is a foreign righteousness (or an alien righteousness). What is the theological difference between an “*imparted righteousness*” and an “*imputed righteousness*?” (Hint: Search online) When it comes to the doctrine of salvation, which believed by Protestants?

6. What kind of judgment will the Holy Spirit convict (or convince) the world of? What looked like Satan’s biggest victory (Jesus’ death on the cross) turned into His greatest defeat. How do we see this defeat portrayed in **Gen. 3:15**? When will Satan be removed from the world as it relates to Biblical history? (See **Rev. 19:19-21; 20:1-3,10**)

Part III: The Holy Spirit will guide the disciples into all truth and glorify Christ (John 16:12-15)

1. Jesus was rapidly approaching the crucifixion and still had many more things to say to His disciples. Why didn’t Jesus open up with His disciples and share all these things at this time (**vs. 12**)? Have you ever had to grow spiritually before you were ready to receive a particular teaching from the Lord? What was it?

2. After the ascension of Christ, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to earth in order to indwell His believers. What title did Jesus use for the Holy Spirit in **verse 13a**? What title did Jesus use for Himself in **John 14:6**? Jesus said He spoke only what the Father told Him. (See **John 12:49-50**) In what way is the ministry of the Holy Spirit similar to that of Jesus? What are some of the differences? Note: The unity of the entire Godhead is seen in **verse 13**. What are some ways that the Holy Spirit guides God’s people to all truth today?

3. What important ministry of the Holy Spirit is revealed in **verse 14**? (See **John 15:26-27**) What are some ways that you can give glory to Christ today?

4. How does the Father take from what belongs to Jesus and declare it to us today? Do you spend time in God's Word each day getting to know Him more deeply and intimately? Why is it so important for each Christian to have a daily quiet time with God? What are some ways that you can improve in your spiritual walk with Christ?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Persecution will come to those who truly walk with Jesus Christ.
- To know the Father is to know His Son and vice versa.
- The disciples appeared more concerned about their own impending loss of the company of Jesus than they were about the coming crucifixion of Christ.
- It is to our advantage that Jesus died and went to heaven, only then would the Holy Spirit come and permanently indwell believers all over the world.
- The Holy Spirit came to convict the world in the three areas of sin, righteousness, and judgment.
- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth and will guide the believer in Christ to all truth.
- Born-again Christians are blessed beyond measure through our union with Jesus Christ.