



Participant: September 2, 2018

HIGHLIGHT: John 15:26 - 16:15

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²⁶“When the Counselor comes, the One I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—He will testify about Me. ²⁷You also will testify, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

16 “I have told you these things to keep you from stumbling. ²They will ban you from the synagogues. In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³They will do these things because they haven’t known the Father or Me. ⁴But I have told you these things so that when their time comes you may remember I told them to you. I didn’t tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you.

⁵“But now I am going away to Him who sent Me, and not one of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ ⁶Yet, because I have spoken these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don’t go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸When He comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: ⁹About sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to

the Father and you will no longer see Me; ¹¹and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

¹²“I still have many things to tell you, but you can’t bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. ¹⁴He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you.

¹⁵Everything the Father has is Mine. This is why I told you that He takes from what is Mine and will declare it to you.



EXPLAIN

From Chapters 13 through 19 in his gospel, John recounts one single 24-hour period in the life of Jesus and His disciples: the night before and day leading up to His crucifixion. He takes this time to impart some of His most personal teaching to His closest followers. In today's passage, Jesus teaches them that persecution is coming their way and that He is leaving them, but that they will be better off because of what He's sending when He's gone.

- 15:26-27** Jesus says that the Counselor will testify about Him; He also says that the Apostles will testify about Him. Commentator Henry Morris wrote of this relationship: "Their witness is linked with that of the Holy Spirit. It is the same Christ to whom they bear witness, and it is the same salvation of which they bear witness. At the same time it is their witness. They cannot simply relax and leave it all to the Spirit."
- 16:1** The word for "stumbling block" is *skandalethron*, which is different than an object lying dormant for you to stub your toe on. It refers, instead, to a sort of object or trap that may spring up when it's not expected. Jesus wanted to forewarn His disciples of what was coming so that they would neither be caught off guard or scared away by it. Instead, it would strengthen their faith in their Master: He told them it'd come, and it did.
- v.4** Jesus wasn't withholding information from them in order to keep them in the dark; rather, while He was alive, the brunt of the attacks would come to Him. When they killed Him, those who opposed Him expected Him to stay dead, His cause buried with Him. To their horror, however, He rose again and His followers wouldn't shut up about it. The disciples then became the object of their outrage. We, His disciples, will still experience persecution on His behalf, and the same promise remains: we have been given a Counselor to help us.
- v.8** Convicting the world about sin, righteousness, and judgement is the essence of what the Spirit does. He sheds light on the truth about man (**sin**), the truth about God (**righteousness**), and what happens when those two things meet (**judgement**). 17th century commentator John Trapp calls the Spirit's work of conviction "undeceiving." It is by the Spirit that we realize we are sinners in need of a Savior.
- v.14** No matter what the Spirit does, He glorifies Jesus. If one is ever in doubt as to whether the Spirit is speaking, one of the first tests that he can perform is, "Does this magnify the crucified, buried, and resurrected Savior of the world?"



A**APPLY**

1. What stuck out to you or challenged you in what you heard in the sermon or read in the text?
2. These words from Jesus all come less than 24 hours before Jesus would die—and He knew it. If you knew you had 24 hours to live, what kinds of things would you want to tell your closest friends and family?
3. Jesus told His disciples some considerably troubling things in John 16:2-3. What should followers of Jesus expect to encounter? What does He say to comfort them? How is learning about the Holy Spirit going to comfort them?
4. Jesus said that it's for their benefit that He goes away and the Holy Spirit comes in His place. Why is it better for us that we have the Spirit instead of Jesus' physical, bodily presence on the Earth?
5. How do you experience the Holy Spirit today? Where do you need His guidance, comfort, assurance, or power?

R**RESPOND**

- Are you surrendered to the work of the Spirit in your life? Have you died to self and allowed Him to work through you?

