

LESSON 26: JOHN 16
MARCH 20, 2019

OVERVIEW

- . The threefold ministry of the Holy Spirit – John 16:5-15
- . Concluding conversation – John 16:16-33

THE THREEFOLD MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – JOHN 16:5-15

- . To comfort the disciples after the ascension of Jesus – John 16:7
 - . At this point, the disciples were depressed and scared
 - . Jesus assured them that this too was their darkest hour
 - . He told them that they would soon be receiving the Advocate, the Holy Spirit
 - . However, Christ had to first return to the Father
 - . When that time comes, they will have Christ in them and be in His presence, and feel His presence all the time
 - . While Jesus was with them physically, there were many limitations
 - . He was not always with them
 - . There were farewells and reunions
 - . He could only help people that He was physically with
 - . He was confined by time and space
- . To empower the disciples to witness to the world – John 16:8-11
 - . Jesus told the disciples that they alone, without the Holy Spirit would be powerless to impact the world
 - . That is why He gave them specific instructions to not leave Jerusalem until they received the gift of the promised Holy Spirit – Acts 1:4
 - . He also went on to say, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses” – Acts 1:8
 - . The Holy Spirit would so empower the disciples in their witness to the world as to overthrow the world’s unbelief and bring individuals to a saving faith in Christ
- . Three points to notice concerning the Holy Spirit’s work toward the world when He indwells believers – John 16:9-11
 - . He convicts the world of sin – John 16:8-9
 - . When the world (Jewish and Roman) crucified Jesus, the Jews refused to believe that they were sinning
 - . They believed they were serving God by eliminating this distraction
 - . When the Holy Spirit came and indwelt Peter, he was transformed

- . Peter went on to speak with Holy boldness, daring to speak convicting words of reproof of sin to leaders of Jerusalem
- . He spoke with tremendous power (the power of the Holy Spirit) to a multitude of Jews
- . "You have taken Jesus, the Messiah, and by collaborating with wicked men, have crucified Him" – Acts 2:22-23
- . This convicting power of the Holy Spirit was so great, that 3000 of the formerly unbelieving multitude were cut to their heart and convicted of their personal sin
- . Later, John and Peter, stood accused before Sanhedrin, and spoke with such boldness that several of the high ranking Jews were converted
- . When Stephen was martyred, Many Jews heard and were convicted of their sins and converted
 - . Scripture mentions that Saul of Tarsus was there that day, an eye witness to the events
- . To reject Christ as our Lord and Savior is the greatest of all sins
 - . Such an attitude actually reveals an ingrained hatred of personal holiness and of God's rulership
- . Only the Holy Spirit can truly convict a person of their sinful nature
- . It is the Holy Spirit who convinces a worldly person that this stubborn attitude of unbelief is actually a deliberate choice of darkness rather than light – John 3:19-20
- . He convinces the world of righteousness – John 16:8,10
 - . Conviction of sin must always be associated with a standard of righteousness
 - . The unregenerate person sets personal standards of sin and righteousness according to the environment or public opinion
 - . This is aggregate opinion of fallen human nature and can never rise above its own level
 - . Already that person has crushed the inner law of conscience and chosen instead the standards of the surrounding world to be law
 - . Jesus, in living the perfect human life before others, exhibited in His person God's standard of glory for every member of the human race
 - . The proof of His perfect righteousness is seen in His resurrection, ascension and exaltation at God's right hand
 - . It is the Holy Spirit who gives people the profound conviction that this is all true when we read the record and open our minds to receive these facts
 - . Because Christ's sacrifice was the perfect sacrifice, God now counts me righteous, by my accepting and embracing of Christ
 - . It is the Holy Spirit who ultimately persuades people that God's righteousness can be theirs because Jesus' sacrifice has been accepted and he has gone to the Father on our behalf

- . He convicts the world of judgment – John 16:11
 - . Christ's victory over death also represents the judgment of the prince of the world
 - . Fallen humanity is under Satan's control
 - . Christ, as the Messiah, came to rescue us from his grasp
 - . Through Christ, we have a means to our salvation
 - . The cross represents the best attempt that Satan could muster to separate Christ from God
 - . Christ's victory at the cross is a reminder to all, that there is a way to separate us from the darkness of sin and eternal judgment
- . The third ministry of the Holy Spirit was to teach the disciples – John 16:12-15
 - . The Holy Spirit guides us in to all truth – John 16:12-15
 - . Many of Christ's teachings, that the disciples were eye witnesses to, didn't fully resonate in meaning until after they received the Holy Spirit
 - . Peter speaks of this guidance of the Holy Spirit into all truth
I Peter 1:11-12, 2 Peter 1:20-21
 - . Paul speaks of being guided by the Holy Spirit into all truth
I Corinthians 10:1-5, Galatians 3:8-10
 - . Only when the Holy Spirit is free to work in us to illuminate our minds with God's thoughts do we truly come to understand God's truths and learn to delight in His truths and then find the power to communicate those truths to others
 - . The Holy Spirit shows things to come – John 16:13
 - . It was the power of the Spirit working through the disciples that caused them to write with authority concerning things of the future
 - . Paul declared that it was according to the Lord's own word that he Prophesied the things of 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17
 - . The Spirit helps us to better understand this time we live in, between the resurrection and the second coming
 - . The Spirit glorifies Jesus – John 16:14-15
 - . The Spirit glorifies Christ within our own minds and hearts
 - . Through the Spirit Jesus becomes real to us
 - . It is the Spirit who helps to make these facts about Jesus applicable to us today, in our 21st century lives

CONCLUDING CONVERSATION – JOHN 16:16-33

- . The threefold meaning of "a little while" and "in that day"
 - . An immediate fulfillment
 - . The brief time between His burial and the resurrection
 - . An impending fulfillment
 - . The period between the ascension and Pentecost

- . A future fulfillment
 - . The period in which we now live between Pentecost and His eventual return
- . The prophecy regarding Christ's remarks
 - . Christ is foretelling the events of the next several days and weeks
 - . He emphasizes that He must return to the Father before He can ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit
 - . Their grief will be replaced by great joy when that day comes
- . Characteristics of the double interval illustrated – John 16:20-22
 - . Intense sorrow, like a woman in childbirth
 - . Intense joy after sorrow – permanent joy
 - . The joy of the presence of Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, the joy of seeing Him and being with Him forever
- . "In that day" – new relationship and new privileges– John 16:22-28
 - . After the ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit, a believer will be in a new relationship with God, where they will be able to go directly to God in prayer in Jesus' name
- . The disciples response and the Lord's last words – John 16:29-33
 - . The disciples understanding of these words and their new declared faith must have brought inexpressible comfort to Jesus
 - . However He also knew there would be a time, in the immediate future, when they would scatter and abandon Him
 - . Despite this, He assured them he would not be alone, but with the Father
 - . The Lord ends by telling them to take heart because He has overcome the world

NEXT LESSON – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019 – JOHN 17