

The Helper Will Guide You

March 13, 2022

John 16: 1-15 (ESV)

1 "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. 2 They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. 3 And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. 4 But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. "I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. 5 But now I am going 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. 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 go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. 12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Do you think saying goodbye or bidding farewell to friends or loved ones is ever easy?

You have probably seen a recent picture or two of a man in Ukraine saying goodbye to his wife as he stayed back to defend his city.

I say this because the disciples of Jesus began to grieve as soon as Jesus announced that his mission on earth was coming to an end. Verse 6 tells us that sorrow, sadness and grief had filled their hearts because Jesus had said *all these things* to his disciples.

What *things* did Jesus say? Last week, we saw Jesus giving his disciples a heads up that they will be *hated* and *persecuted* as they go out into the world to proclaim his message. *What is his message?* Repentance and forgiveness of sin. Those who truly turn from their sin and trust in Jesus' death alone are forgiven of all their sin. They are granted divine amnesty. Those who continue to refuse to repent only have wrath and judgment waiting.

Last week, we also saw that the key thing to remember is to be about the Gospel business *in Jesus name*. You know people won't bother you too much if you say Jesus is *optional*. If you live like Jesus is like a compartment in your life, you can use him when you have some need and put him back when the need is met. But if you *live* like Christ is everything to you and you say that Jesus is the *only way* and the *true way* and the *life*, then the backlash and the criticism comes. But remember the words of Jesus – "*a servant is not greater than the master*". In the last verse of chapter 15 Jesus tells his disciples that they would witness about him through the power of the Holy Spirit. And these early disciples also called apostles had been with Jesus from the beginning meaning they were with Jesus to see his death, his resurrection and his ascension.

And in today's passage, Jesus takes it up a notch from what he said in the previous chapter. Previously, Jesus said his disciples would be *hated* and *persecuted*. Now, Jesus says his disciples may have to face *death* for his sake.

Now, as I said last week, it's unlikely that you and I are going to be hated, persecuted and killed the same way the early disciples were but you are to expect some measure of it.

Experiencing trials when you take a stand for Jesus is expected and unavoidable.

I have *four* implications from this passage.

Implication 1: Allow trials to refine you not offend you.

Verses 1 thru 4.

I I am saying these things to you all in order that you all may not stumble/fall away/sin/offended

2 They will put you all out from the synagogues but the hour is coming that those who kill you all will think they are offering worship/service to God.

3 And these things they will do because they do not know the Father nor me.

4 But all these things I have said to you all in order that when their hour comes you yourselves may remember that that I said this to you all. And I did not say these things to you all from the beginning because I was with you all.

You see Jesus knows that his disciples will face trials. But Jesus does not want his disciples to be offended by such trials. That's what he means by verse 1. Jesus is telling them ahead of time to that they ought not to stumble or fall away from their faith when such things happen. Some people see trials as a stumbling block to their faith. Some may even see trials as a reason to sin. God you don't know what I am going through. So I am going to give into a little temptation a little pleasure a little lying a little cutting-the-corners and before you know it you become sin's puppet. Some believers see trials as if God never ought to trouble them such a thing. They might feel like they deserve a trials free life. You might be surprised to what Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:12 *"Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted"*. Same word that Jesus uses in John 15.

Have you ever read the fine print on anti-inflammatory pills like ibuprofen? This is what one bottle says. *"NSAIDs such as ibuprofen may cause ulcers, bleeding, or holes in the stomach or intestine. These problems may develop at any time during treatment, may happen without warning symptoms, and may cause death"*.

Standing up for Jesus is similar. You may be hated, persecuted, harassed, canceled, sidelined or even killed for standing up for Jesus. And I think this statement out to be bold print not in fine print. Some sadly say - come to Jesus everything will be alright instantaneously. You'll have the best of everything you can dream about now.

Well, if Jesus already the best thing in your life. Why contaminate it with the world's dirt?

But what does Jesus say? Verse 2 – *"the hour is coming that those who kill you all will think they are offering worship/service to God."* This must have been hard for these disciples to hear.

Now I do not believe every single believer or follower of Christ has this level of persecution or death threats or martyrdom waiting for them.

However, there are some who may be killed for the sake of the Jesus. And that is a great honor.

A few years ago, there was a picture circulating in the news showing Christian brothers in orange suits kneeling on a beach with ISIS terrorists holding a knife to their necks. Those were Egyptian followers of Christ who was supposedly martyred for Jesus. They refused to deny Jesus as their Savior. And they are now in heaven enjoying fellowship with Jesus. So, every generation may have some martyrs for Christ. Jesus says people think they are doing God a service by killing Christians. And Jesus says they don't really know God or who He is. Jesus came to save the world, into a world already condemned.

Jesus wants his disciples to know that carrying his name comes at a cost. Trials.

The thing with trials is that when you see them under the sovereign hand of God, they *refine* you.

You know Job in the Bible went through a lot of suffering and something he says in Job 23:10 caught my attention *"But he (God) knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come as gold"*.

"though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold" That's Peter writing in 1 Peter 1:6-7

Do you desire to like gold to others? So that God's light may shine through you. Then, let trials test you and refine you.

Implication 2: Let the Holy Spirit comfort you through life's sorrows.

Verses 5 through 7.

5 But now I am going to the one who sent me and no one out of you all asks me, "where you are going?"

6 But because I have said these things to you all sorrow has filled your heart.

7 But I tell you all the truth it is better for you all in order that I go, for if I do not go, the Helper will not come to you all and if I go I will send him to you all.

These are some weighty things for these disciples to process. They had been with Jesus for three and half years now. They saw great things through Jesus' ministry. Now Jesus himself is leaving them. And if that was not painful enough to comprehend, the disciples are even more grieved because Jesus just told them that they lose their lives for his sake. You know when soldiers go into battle for the cause of freedom, some of them know they may not come back. Similarly, Jesus chose his disciples for the greatest cause – for the rescue of precious souls from darkness into light.

Jesus is not just warning them about trials but preparing them to endure suffering.

However, Jesus assures them that a Comforter will come after he leaves. He tells them it is better for them that he goes.

Why is it better that Jesus goes away?

Two reasons-

1. Jesus wants his disciples to live by faith. If Jesus was around, they would live by sight not by faith. They would become too dependent on Jesus. Jesus is giving this wonderful privilege to his disciples to become his representatives on earth.
2. It was God's sovereign plan that Jesus should come in human form. Die on a cross for sinners. Rise on the third day. Ascend into heaven after 40 days. And then the Holy Spirit would arrive.

The Christian may have a life of trials and sorrow and sadness but the Holy Spirit is your Comforter during those trials.

Implication 3: Has the Holy Spirit convicted you?

Verses 8 through 11.

8 And when he comes he will convict the world of sin and regarding righteousness and regarding judgment.

9 Regarding sin indeed, because they do not believe in me.

10 And regarding righteousness, because I go to the Father and you will no longer see me.

11 And regarding judgment because the ruler of this world has been judged.

See the contrast? The Holy Spirit surely comforts those who belong to Jesus. But the Holy Spirit also convicts. Really, this is the reality of someone who is truly a child of Jesus. Whoever is *comforted* by the Holy Spirit must have been *convicted* by the same Spirit. Conviction and comfort are two sides of the same coin.

Jesus says there *three* ways the Holy Spirit convicts the world:

1. Regarding sin – The word 'convict' is to expose. The Holy Spirit exposes the world of its sin not sins. This sin is the sin of unbelief. Jesus himself says in verse 9 – "*regarding sin indeed, because they do not believe in me*". The Holy Spirit is the agency in this world to continue what Jesus had done during his time on earth. Jesus was in the business of exposing this particular sin of unbelief. In John chapter 8:46, Jesus told the religious leaders these words – "*If I tell you the truth, why do you not believe me?*" Some of the most religious people in Jesus' day did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Instead of accepting Jesus for who he said he was, they killed him. And this sin of unbelief is what the Holy Spirit will expose or convict the world. And those who humble themselves and repent and trust in Jesus receive eternal life. Those who continue to unbelief are already condemned. John 3:19 – "*whoever does not believe is condemned already*". This conviction of sin is mediated through the preaching of the Gospel through his disciples. When Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost, he tells all the people who gathered that you all crucified Jesus. And when they heard this, they were cut to the heart. This is what the Holy Spirit does. Exposes the rebellion and the indifference of the heart to God. *Jesus knows that this world is living in darkness, it is on the broad way to destruction. The problem is unsaved people are convinced that they are doing right in their own eyes. But what is the outcome of living in sin? I knew someone who had divorced his wife. And then he began dating multiple women, living in sin. He gave an impression that he was*

having the time of his life. One day he confronted me with a very unusual question. He asked me “Francis, can Jesus forgive my sins?”. I was quite taken aback. Something bothered him. His conscience was troubling him.

2. Regarding righteousness – Jesus is the only righteous person and he is the only one to meet the righteous requirements of God. It is only the basis of Christ’s righteousness that you are saved. No one gets to have a right standing before God on their own righteousness. So, the Holy Spirit also convicts the world that Christ alone is the righteous one. Again, when Peter preached in the temple premises, in Acts 3, he said to all the people these words *“But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses”* Acts 3:14-15. Jesus is the only acceptable Righteous person before the Father.
3. Regarding judgment – because Satan has already been judged. Satan thought he was baiting Jesus through Judas to go to the cross. Satan used the religious leaders to incite the false judgement against an innocent man. So, the Holy Spirit convicts the world of its false judgement of the Holy and Righteous Son of God. So those who don’t see their error in rejecting the Son of God will remain condemned. And this is what Satan loves to do. He is a liar and a thief and a murderer. *“This is the judgment that light came into the world but men loved darkness more than light because their deeds were evil”*. John 3:19

The truly born-again Christian is someone who has been convicted of sin, has been convicted that his or her righteousness were like dirty rags before God and comes to the sober realization that he or she will be judged and condemned apart from Christ. And in that sober realization they turn to Jesus Christ as the only Savior of their soul. And when you do that your soul is refreshed with the pure living water of God.

I want to take his opportunity to plead with you as you hear this – If you have been convicted of your sin, have you repented to get right with God or have you continued to ignore and resist the Holy Spirit? The most extravagant love awaits you when you turn to Jesus. In a believer’s life this is ongoing. And when you get right with God, you will get right with fellow human beings too.

Implication 4: Be led by the Holy Spirit into God’s Truth

Verses 12 through 15.

12 Still I have many things to say to you but you are not able to bear them now.

13 And when he comes, the Spirit of Truth he will lead/guide into all truth, for he will not speak of himself, but as much as he hears He will speak, and He will declare to you what is to come.

14 He will glorify me, because he will take from me and declare to you all.

15 All that the Father has is mine on account of this I said that that he will take what is mine and declare it you all.

When the Holy Spirit comes, his ministry is to lead and guide his disciples into all truth. There are many who say the Holy Spirit told me this that and the other. Here Jesus says, the Spirit will lead into truth about God. Truth about Jesus. These early disciples did not completely understand the meaning of the cross until after the the death and resurrection of Jesus. How do you know you have the Holy Spirit?

1 John 3:24 *“Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us”*.

Anyone who says they have the Holy Spirit and yet have no *internal* desire and show no *evidence* to obey God and his commandments are simply making false claims.

This is a supernatural thing not a sensational or a mysterious thing as some claim. Anyone who has the Holy Spirit will truly love the words of Jesus. Not to impress others but in their own soul to cherish and love what Jesus says.

----- Discipleship Questions -----

MESSAGE SUMMARY: **The Helper Will Guide You.** John 16:1-15

HEAD: These questions help you examine the truth of God's Word.

1. What is the connection between the leading of the Holy Spirit and God's Word – the Holy Scriptures? John 16:13-15.

HEART: These questions help you wrestle with what you believe.

2. Do you believe the Holy Spirit is working in your life? Describe some ways or characteristics of the Spirit's work in you? John 16:8-11, Acts 2:37, Romans 8: 6,13,16
3. What is God convicting you of and to believe in light of this message?

HANDS/HABITS: These questions help you bring the truth into your everyday life and develop behaviors that change your habits.

4. For personal reflection: Do you desire to be led and guided by the Holy Spirit? Is there anything in your life that would grieve the Holy Spirit? (Ephesians 4:30-31)