

From Pity Party to Powerful Partner

John 16:5-11

Reading: Acts 2:32-36

The end of chapter 15 ties the co-witness of the Holy Spirit and the Disciples to the Great Commission.

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...pray...

Suicide mission...

You know what that is, *right?*

A mission that is *so dangerous* you might not survive it.

But *so important* that you can't afford to ignore it.

The **Great Commission** is *so dangerous* that *persecution* is guaranteed.

But *so important* that Jesus *insists* we pursue it.

Turn with me to John 16:1-11 (this morning , vv.5-11).

Jesus is about to *finish* His great work, the Disciples are about to *begin* theirs.

But they are *distracted, sorrowful*.

Because Jesus is *leaving*, and because of *persecution*, they need Help.

They need the **Helper**.

Jesus goes so the Spirit can come.

1. Why is it good for Jesus to go to the cross (vv.5-7)?

"...it is to your advantage..."

2. Why is it good for Jesus to send the Helper (vv.8-11)?

"...I will send Him to you..."

Why is it *good* for Jesus to go away? Let's reread vv.5-7.

1. There are two words to help us understand the disciples' *emotions* and Jesus' *message* in these first verses: v.6 – *sorrow* and v.7 – *advantage*.
2. There is a *pity-party* going on here. The disciples are *overcome* by to the *point of distraction* by all the things Jesus is teaching.
 - a. We can *sum it all up* in the expression: “ *these things...*”
 - i. **V.1** – *these things I have spoken unto you*
 - ii. **V.3** – *these things they will do*
 - iii. **V.4** – *these things I have spoken to you so that when the hour comes, you may remember that I told you*
 - iv. And ***what things*** is Jesus warning them about...?
 - v. **Flip back with me to 15:18-21 (read)**. Do you see it there in v.21 – *these things!*
 1. The world is *hating* on Jesus. But Jesus is about to return to heaven, so the world will *start* hating on His people!
 2. *Those things* are bothering the disciples!

b. Jesus has been clear:

i. He is about to be *betrayed, mistreated, and crucified...*

1. And because of that their *sins* will be *paid for*.

ii. Then on the *third day* God will *raise* Jesus from the dead and *receive* His Son back into heaven.

1. That will *signal the triumph* of God's great plan of *redemption*, and exalt the glory of His Son.

2. Setting the stage for God to *send forth* the Holy Spirit to take Jesus' place in the lives of every one of Jesus' followers (from now on).

iii. But not much of that seems to have *stuck!*

1. The disciples (5) don't seem to *care much at all* about *where* Jesus is going or *what* He's about to accomplish!

2. They are *unexcited* about the promise of the Holy Spirit (7).

3. As result (6): *sorrow has filled your heart*.

a. Jesus is *disappointed* (that's the tone)!

b. Not *all* sorrow is *bad* sorrow, but the disciples are filled with *selfish sorrow*.

c. The disciples should be *crowding around Jesus* to *encourage* Him to endure His suffering and *worship* Him for His imminent victory.

d. But all they can hear is *persecution* and *leaving* for Jesus, and ...

- c. *Persecution and mission impossible* for the disciples.
 - i. Jesus is *leaving His disciples behind* to pursue the Great Commission.
 - ii. This means they will quickly become the *new target* of Jewish and then Roman *persecution*.
 - iii. ? Remember 15:20 – “*If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.*”
 - d. This is the *future* that the disciples are *painting*, and it looks very *dark*: Jesus *dead*, Jesus *gone*, the disciples *left alone* – the new focus of the world’s hate.
3. What these men need to see is the *big picture*!
- a. Look at v.7: “*It is to you **advantage**...it is to your advantage that I go away.*”
 - i. Here is Jesus’ *interpretation* of all these *overwhelming announcements and events*: *good news, **not** bad news!*
 - b. Here is *why*: if Jesus *goes*, He sends the Spirit to the disciples. Jesus simply *stays*, the Spirit stays away!
 - i. And thus these men (you and I) will **never** *experience* the personal indwelling and help of the *Paraklete*!

- c. *Why...?* Jesus does not fully explain. But we can make some reasonable conclusions.
 - i. The purpose of the Spirit is to *glorify* Jesus (person/salvation).
 - ii. But Jesus must *go, die*, and be *raised* to enter into His glory.
 - iii. So if Jesus **doesn't** go to the cross, there is **no** *gospel-glorifying* reason for the Spirit to *come*.
 - iv. If Jesus **doesn't** go to the cross, there is **no** *soul-saving gospel promise* to offer lost sinners.
 - v. If Jesus **doesn't** go to the cross, there is **no** *mission* (Great Commission) for these men, and **no** *need* for the Helper's help!
...pause...

- 4. In summary (5-7): It is good for Jesus to *go* to the cross to *complete* His mission,
 - a. ...*clearing the way* to send the Holy Spirit (Parakletos)
 - b. ... to *help* his disciples pursue the Great Commission
 - c. ...even in the face of *persecution*.

“It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away the Holy Spirit will not come.”

Why is it *good* for Jesus to send the Helper? Read vv.7-11

1. It is about to become clear in the **NT** narrative that Jesus is leaving these men behind to pursue a *mission*: “*to go... and make disciples of all the nations.*” **Not** disciples of the Twelve, but followers of Jesus.
 - a. That is a job that is *too big* for Twelve men, *too big* for every church on the globe!
 - b. But it is *also* a job that God has designed so that the *participation* of every Christian is required.
 - c. The key our success is *partnership* with the Holy Spirit! This evangelistic relationship becomes clearer when you review Jesus’ words to His friends in **15:26-27 (read)**.
 - i. Did you catch the parallel references to the idea of *testifying*?
2. But now let’s pause and tackle a *theology lesson* that we’ve already hinted at. Our text says (8) “*and He, when He comes...*”
 - a. The Holy Spirit did **not** always live in every saint. In the **OT**, God sent the Spirit to specific believers for specific purposes for specific periods of time (*kings, priests...even artisans*).
 - b. But at *Pentecost* (sins atoned for, Jesus is on the throne), God *poured out* the Spirit on every single one of the elect, leading to *new birth, new nature, complete forgiveness, indwelling* permanent presence of the Helper (Spirit), and the birth of the **NT Church**.
 - c. As we consider John 16 this morning, Pentecost is ~ **40** days away.

3. Now Jesus is going to *comfort* His friends by telling them how the Holy Spirit will help them endure *persecution* and fulfill the *Great Commission*.
 - a. The key word is *convict* (8). *Convict* has a couple of possible nuances:
 - i. A very legal sense of bringing evidence to win a *conviction* in a *criminal argument*. E.g. the *smoking gun* convinced the jury.
 - ii. A broader, moral sense in which *conviction* means [*to awaken the conscience to its guilt.*] (2X) E.g. he could *no longer deny* his struggle with *anger*.
 - iii. Greek scholar **WF Moulton** suggests that the *convicting power* of the Holy Spirit brings to light the *true nature* of man, and man's *conduct*.
 - iv. “*The world*” (8) is, as often in John, *the current world system that God has allowed to operate in created order and humanity, under Satan's oversight*.
 - v. ...The Holy Spirit either brings *judging* or *saving* conviction to the world.
 - b. Jesus goes on to explain that the Spirit's convicting power is pressed home in the realms of *sin* and *righteousness* and *judgement*.
 - i. (Before we *drill down* on these three expressions of Holy Spirit *power*, I want you to bear in mind that this is a promise that He is *working alongside you* to make your witness *more effective*, according to His *sovereign will*.)

- c. **V.9** – “*concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me.*”
- i. In general, *sin* is the rejection of whatever *revelation* God allows in your life (conscience, creation, Jesus, Scripture, Spirit).
 - ii. The *ultimate expression of sinful rejection* is to full and clearly hear the gospel of Jesus, and *reject* Him.
 - iii. **Dutch Theologian Herman Ridderbos** – *the world’s deepest misery and lostness does **not** consist in its moral imperfections but in its estrangement from God and its **refusal** to allow itself to be called out of that condition by the **One** whom God has sent for that purpose (472)*
 - iv. Consider the *Sanhedrin*, or *Pilate*, or the *philosophers* on Mars Hill!
 - v. When your neighbor hears you share the gospel with him, the Holy Spirit will either *expose* their sinful rejection to them (softening), or *harden* them in their unbelief.
 1. *But either way, your evangelism is a success!*

- d. **V.10** – “*and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me.*”
- i. Jesus’ connection between *righteousness* and His *ascension to the Father* require our close attention.
 - ii. First, *righteousness* means that Jesus was right and the world (beginning w/Jews) was wrong.
 1. Jesus was the spotless *Lamb of God* and all that He said and did was completely *righteous*.
 2. Which, again, means that rejecting Jesus is a *moral disaster!*
 - iii. The *proof* is that God *raised* Jesus the right hand of Heaven’s throne (where Christians/world can no longer see Him).
 - iv. The Passover mob cried out, “*His blood on us and our children!*” Jesus’ *ascension* to the Father *reverses* the world’s *unrighteous sentence* against Him.
- e. **V.11** – “*and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.*”
- i. The Spirit is *indicting* Satan...but not *just* Satan.
 - ii. The Greek verb for judged (11) is in the *perfect tense*: Satan has been under God’s judgment since the beginning.
 1. I.e. Satan is under God’s *ongoing* judgement and *absolute* control.
 2. We can trace that *back* to the **Fallen Angel** being *ejected* from Heaven during the week of Creation.
 3. We can trace that *forward* to day He will be cast into the **Lake of Fire** in the **Final Judgement**.

4. *And in the meantime*, the **Ruler of this World** is judged at the *Cross of Christ*.
 - a. The event the Devil thought would seal his greatest and final *victory*...
 - b. ...*killing* God's Son and *ruining* God's salvation plan....
 - c. ...*ruined* everything for Satan, *providing* a payment for sinners, and *judging* this world's ruler for the *evil deceiver* that he is!
- iii. Which means the *cross of Jesus* is a *point of judgement* for every *man, woman, girl, and boy* in the world, the Kingdom of Darkness.
- iv.
 1. If you *stack-hands* with Satan, you will be *judged* with Satan.
 2. If you *turn* from Satan, you will be *acquitted* from judgement by the righteous blood of Jesus!
 3. **MacArthur notes:** *There are only two responses to the work of the Spirit: rejection or repentance.*
4. It is *good* for Jesus to **go**, and it is *good* for Jesus **send** the Holy Spirit, because He will make *your gospel witness effective* by convicting the world of its need for Jesus.

Παρακλητος (Gr.) – **Helper**. And *Helper* implies *Partner*.

How can **BBC** *benefit* from our partnership with God's Spirit this year?

1. Let's start with the task that is closest to this morning's text! The Great Commission, even in the face of *rejection*..
 - a. We need to become more *intentional* and *effective* in sharing our faith.
 - b. Jesus just *admonished* us (ch.15) that we need to *bear more fruit!*
 - c. We **just** *read* that when we tell people about Jesus, the Spirit is their *convicting* them of *sin* (Rm 3:23), *righteousness* (Jn 1:29), and *judgment* (Hb 9:27).
 - d. Let's pray and ask God for *opportunities to witness!*
2. A little more generally, the task of *revitalizing* our church is never far from my heart. Are we as *spiritually healthy* as we should be? Will we *sustain* our ministry into the future? Only the Holy Spirit can really grow a church!
3. We are experiencing, in God's wisdom, a *transition of leadership*. May the Spirit give us wisdom and submission! The Spirit leads God's people. **Rom 8:14:** *For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*
4. We want to establish some *new ministries* (e.g. Family Ministry). But we don't want to invest resources and emotions **without** the Spirit's *leadership*.
5. Finally, I assume you have *personal ministries* and *spiritual goals* in your *families, workplaces, community, and your hearts* that you want to grow. *Discipling* kids/grandkids, *speaking* with coworkers, *growing* in the spiritual disciplines, *drawing closer* to God...
6. In all these things, the Holy Spirit is your *partner!*

And that's how I wish to *close* this morning, with this *simple*, but simply *glorious truth*:

*The Holy Spirit is your **partner!*** ☺

...pray...