

## Lighthouse Bible Church

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014

John 16: 1 – 7 *Scripture reading: Acts 10: 34 - 48*

**‘The Advantage of Jesus going away’**

### Stand – Read – Pray

We just finished looking at John Chapter 15 and what Jesus had to say to His disciples on the night before His crucifixion and death. He encouraged them with the friendship relationship that He has with them and then He also warned them that with that friendship would come hatred from the world.

He told them that He chose them out of the world, for Himself, and because they would no longer act and talk and live like the world, the world would hate them, because it also hated Him too.

He said you will experience more hatred from the unbelieving **religious** world than from anyone else and the reason is, is because, although they may profess to know God, they really don't know Him at all.

And in their ignorance of God and willful hatred of His Son, they are showing that they don't know either the Father or the Son and their hatred of Him is without cause, just like their hatred of His followers is without cause as well.

Jesus said this unjust hatred of Him would happen because it had been written about in their law and was being fulfilled in His day and in our day as well. So Jesus ends by telling them that regardless of what may happen to you, in the worlds hatred of you, just know that I will send you another Helper, another Comforter, The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, who will empower you to live and witness for Me.

And now, in our passage this morning, Jesus wants to elaborate on what He has just said about the hatred of the world and to tell His disciples why He needs to go away and what the Helper, the Holy Spirit's, ministry will do for them and how He will confront the hostile unbelieving world.

The Holy Spirit will convict the world, as Verse 8 says, and He will do it through the witness of the believers He indwells as they share and testify about Jesus Christ. That really began at Pentecost as **Acts 2: 1 – 4** says and continues on even today that the ministry of the Holy Spirit, using believers, is to point people to Christ as they are convicted about their sin, about the righteousness of Christ and judgment to come.

When Peter finished that Spirit empowered message after receiving the Holy Spirit, **Acts 2: 37 – 38** says **now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles 'men and brethren what shall we do?'**. Peter said to them **repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit...**

In **Acts 10: 34 – 48** in that passage read earlier, Peter had just finished **preaching peace through Jesus Christ as Lord** and shared the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ **whoever believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins, and that He is the Judge of the living and the dead**, and then all of a sudden **Verse 44** says **while Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word**. Then Peter says **can anyone forbid water that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit...**

You see, before anyone can be saved and come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, they have to have a sense of their own sin and a need for a Savior from the judgment and punishment of that sin, which is death and hell. And that is what the Holy Spirit does, He convicts of sin and righteousness and judgment to come.

So the ministry of the Holy Spirit is a convincing and convicting ministry through the preaching and teaching by born again believers.

What Jesus will share in our passage this morning and next week is more detail as to how the world will show it's hatred toward the disciples and all believers and more detail as to what the convincing and convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit will be to this hostile, sinful world. So let's look at it starting in Verse 1.

**Verse 1: these things I have spoken to you that you should not be made to stumble.**

Jesus says, **these things**, referring to the hatred of the world, **I have spoken to you** so that you would not be surprised and **not be made to stumble**.

Jesus says, 'when I leave, all of this will begin to happen to you just as it happened to Me and I am telling you this because I don't want you to **stumble**. That word stumble is *skandilidzo* in the Greek and it is where we get our English word scandalize. But it is more than that; it means to trap or trip up or entice to sin; it is *a stick for a trap Explain*. Jesus says 'I don't want you to be trapped unaware by the hatred of the world that would trip you up, you know it is coming.

And if you think about it; when the hatred and hostility and persecution did start happening to them, they could have looked back and said 'Jesus said this would happen' and increase their faith because they are fulfilling His prophetic words and know that He is in control, even in the world's hatred.

But, they didn't do that at first, did they. Remember what Jesus said to them in **Matthew 26: 31 all of you will be made to STUMBLE**, the same word, **because of Me this night for it is written I will strike the Shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.**

Later in **Matthew 26: 56** it says that as they arrived to arrest Him, as the Scriptures foretold they would, it says **then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.** They were trapped and stumbled for fear of what would happen to them.

But they eventually got it, didn't they? Instead of being afraid of the world and stumbling because of the threats and persecution of the world or being tripped up and enticed by the world, they boldly spoke against the sin of the world. And in **Acts 5: 40 – 42** after they preached the gospel and were jailed and released and jailed again, it says **and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus and let them go. So they departed from the presence of the council, Rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. and daily in the temple and in every house they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.** Then Jesus says in Verse 2 that when you do that, expect trouble.

**Verse 2: They will put you out of the synagogues, yes the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.**

Jesus says, this is how the world will show its hatred and hostility toward you. They will **put you out of the synagogues.** You will be unsynagogued or excommunicated. As we have seen before, the synagogue is central to the life and culture of every Jew. Their social, economic, and religious lives revolved around the synagogue and to be put out of that would be disgraceful and shameful.

Remember the threat back in **John 9: 22** where the parents of the blind son did not want to tell the religious leaders how his son gained his sight for fear of being put out of the synagogue. You could have been put out temporarily or permanently, depending on what you did. And if you died while unsynagogued then they would have no funeral for you. If you wanted to get back into the synagogue you had to lay at the door of the synagogue and let everyone walk on you and over you as an act of contrition.

Later in **John 12: 42** it said **among the rulers, many believed in Him but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him lest they should be put out of the synagogue.**

To be put out of the synagogue would in essence be cut off from your nation and your people and that would have been devastating enough but Jesus says it will not stop there. He says **they will kill you** and when they do, they **think that they offer God service.**

Can you imagine that? They killed the Son of God and now they will kill His followers and then they will say to God 'this is for you God'. How messed up is that? That is the depth to which their sin and depravity and lack of knowing the true God will take a religious unbeliever. Think of all the Christians who are persecuted today by religious unbelievers who think they are serving God.

Think about it! John has been presenting Jesus as God in human form as we have seen over and over again. He quotes Jesus many times saying 'I and the Father are one', or 'if you have seen Me you have seen the Father'. And the Jewish religious leaders claimed to know God better than anyone and for Jesus to be equal with God was blasphemous to them, so they eventually killed Him thinking they were serving God; but they were not.

By the way, that word **service**, *latría* in Verse 2, is only used 4 other times in scripture, twice in Romans and twice in Hebrews and it is always used of Worship. They thought they were worshipping God in killing His Son and His followers.

The Apostle Paul was zealous for God in his worship of and service to Him when he was gathering Christians from all over and jailing them and torturing them and killing them.

No different than today that is why Paul told Timothy in **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3: 12** that **all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will (what) suffer persecution.**

And you have to ask the question; what kind of God do they think they are worshipping and serving to do all that? The answer is; it is a god of their own choosing, but not the God of the Bible, because they don't know Him so they have to come up with one that accommodates their sin and selfishness. Look at what Verse 3.

**Verse 3: and these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me.**

Like we saw last time, people may worship and serve what they call God, but it is an empty and vain worship and service to a foreign god of their own creation, with all the religious trappings, but not a worship or service of the One true God. They are like the people of **Romans 1: 21** that **although they knew God they did not glorify Him as God.**

One of the greatest attacks of Satan against God is to convince people to do things in the name of God that are blatantly against God. Satan has done more harm in the name of religion than anything else and Jesus says they are going to come against you in the name of religion. Then Jesus says in Verse 4

**Verse 4: but these things I have told you that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning because I was with you.**

Jesus said in Verse 1 'I told you these things so you wouldn't stumble', I am telling you them again so **that when the time comes you may remember that I told them to you.**

In other words, when you go through the hatred and persecution, your faith can be deepened and strengthened because I told you it would happen, which means I know it would happen because I am sovereign God and I and My Helper, the Holy Spirit, will go through it with you.

He told them the same thing back in **John 14: 29** and now I have told you **before it comes that when it does come to pass, you may believe.** Your faith may be strengthened; just like it will be here when all this happens to you that I had told you about as well.

Jesus also said to them **and these things I did not say to you at the beginning because I was with you.** Jesus says 'I didn't tell you all of this because I have been with you and I have been receiving most of the persecution and hatred of the world and it will culminate in My death. I am telling you now because I will be leaving you shortly and they will begin their full out attack against you.

And as we saw before, it did continue with the disciples and continued on with many of the followers of Christ throughout church history and it continues today and will continue through the tribulation period until Christ comes back. The people who are Christians living during the 7 year tribulation period can take comfort in these words as well, because they were predicted long before they would happen as well.

In **Revelation 6: 9** it says **they were slain for the word of God and the testimony they held. Revelation 11: 7 says the anti-Christ, after they, the 2 witnesses, finish their testimony will make war with them and overcome them and kill them. Revelation 17: 6 says the people of the anti-Christ will be drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. Daniel 7: 25 says that the anti-Christ and his people will speak openly against God and persecute the saints and overcome them for 3 ½ years.**

That is why Satan is like a **roaring lion** 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5: 8 says **seeking whom he may devour**. And it is talking about Christians there, because he has already devoured the unbelievers, he is looking for believers to destroy their testimony and witness to the world, to undermine their faith, to shipwreck their faith, as it were or to persecute them and destroy them.

That is why Ephesians 6: 11 says to **put on the whole armor of God that you can stand against the whiles of the devil**. You can't flirt with the world or live like the world and not expect to be affected by the world. But when you live like Christ you can expect hardship and difficulties and trials but as Paul said in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4: 17 **for our light affliction which is but for a moment is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory**. Then in:

Verses 5 – 7: **but now I go away to Him who sent Me and none of you asks Me 'where are You going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 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 depart, I will send Him to you**

Jesus is saying to His disciples; 'none of you are asking Me where I am going and how I am going to get there because you are too worried about what things I have just told you that has caused **sorrow in your hearts**.

In other words, these disciples were more concerned with themselves and the things that will happen to them when Jesus leaves, then they were with what Jesus is about to go through to go back to His Father. Jesus told them in John 14: 28 that they should be joyous because He is going back to the Father. Yet they are not because they are so consumed with themselves.

You know, the disciples had asked Jesus at least once before **where He was going** when He told them that He was going back to the Father;



And that was back in **John 13: 36**. Why aren't they asking here? Because they are too consumed with themselves. Back in John 13 when they asked Jesus where He was going ... they were expecting to go with Him or follow Him shortly.

But now, they know that when Jesus leaves them to go back to the Father, He is leaving them in the midst of a hostile world and they are not going with Him and that brought selfish **worry** to their hearts. The time they should have been ministering to Jesus they were too worried about what would happen to them, to even ask where He was going and what He would go through to get there.

But their selfishness, like their stumbling was short lived, because Jesus rose from the grave and appeared to them several times after His resurrection and then they were not worried about themselves at all; because they went toe to toe with the world and would do so even at the cost of their own lives.

Then Jesus says in Verse 7 **it is to your advantage that I go away.**

If Jesus doesn't die, then our sins couldn't be atoned for and forgiven. If Jesus didn't raise from the grave, we are of all men the most pitiable as Paul told the church at Corinth in **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: 19** and we would have no eternal life. If Jesus didn't go back to the Father we couldn't have the Helper, the Holy Spirit that He would send. So Jesus says, **it is to your advantage that I go away.**

It will be to their advantage that Jesus goes because they can only be with Christ in the physical sense when they are with Him. But when He leaves, He will send the Holy Spirit who will be IN them and be with them always. And, like the disciples, He will empower you to live like Christ and strengthen you for trials that come and convict people through your preaching and teaching of the word.

You see the Holy Spirit couldn't be sent until Christ finished His work and ascended into heaven to send Him. Because the Holy Spirit's work, when He comes is to (what) **John 15: 26** to testify of Jesus. As a matter of fact in **John 16: 14** Jesus says the Holy Spirit **will glorify Me for He will take of what is mine and declare it to you.**

The Holy Spirit cannot testify of Jesus because Jesus' work is not complete. He still needs to be betrayed, sentenced, tortured, crucified, die and rise again and ascend into heaven. Then the Holy Spirit of God can come and, through the lives of believers, witness of the gospel of Jesus Christ. That is why Jesus will say in **John 17: 4 ...I have finished the work that you have given Me to do.**

We now carry on the work of Jesus, and like the disciples, will be hated by a hostile, angry, God and Christ-hating world but we also have the Helper, the Holy Spirit living within us to accomplish what God wants us to do amidst the hostility of the world.

If you think about the Christian life and all the warnings and promises we have in Christ and by the power of His Spirit, we should be the most content, peaceful, joyous people around.

Jesus said 'the world will hate you'      Jesus said 'I will love you'

Jesus said 'the world is your enemy'      Jesus said 'I am your friend'

Jesus said 'the world will persecute you abuse you and kill you'  
Jesus said 'I will never leave you or forsake you and supply all your needs'

Jesus said 'the world will bring trouble and anxiety to you'  
Jesus said 'I will give you My peace'

Jesus said 'the world will bring you sorrow and heartbreak and sadness'  
Jesus said 'but I will give you My joy that your joy may be complete'

Jesus said 'the world will try to kill you and they, in many cases, will  
Jesus said 'I will give you everlasting life'.

Jesus said 'Satan will come against you with all the power he has'  
Jesus said 'I will give you My Spirit' because greater is He that is in you..

Next week I will finish up verses 8 – 11 and would encourage you to invite those  
who are not believers because this will have a strong evangelistic message.

Closing prayer and gospel

**Lighthouse Bible Church**

**July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**John 16: 1 – 7**

**‘The Advantage of Jesus going away’**

Introduction and Review:

Acts 2: 1 – 4, 2: 37 – 38, 10: 34 - 48

Verse 1:

Matthew 26: 31, 26: 56, Acts 5: 40 - 42

Verse 2:

John 9: 22, John 12: 42, 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3: 12

Verse 3:

Romans 1: 21

Verse 4:

John 14: 29, Revelation 6: 9, 11: 7, 17: 6  
Daniel 7: 25, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5: 8, Ephesians 6: 11  
2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4: 17

Verses 5 – 7

John 14: 28, John 13: 36, John 15: 26  
1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: 19, John 16: 14  
John 17: 4

**Lighthouse Bible Church**

**July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**John 16: 1 – 7**

**‘The Advantage of Jesus going away’**

Introduction and Review:

Acts 2: 1 – 4, 2: 37 – 38, 10: 34 - 48

Verse 1:

Matthew 26: 31, 26: 56, Acts 5: 40 - 42

Verse 2:

John 9: 22, John 12: 42, 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3: 12

Verse 3:

Romans 1: 21

Verse 4:

John 14: 29, Revelation 6: 9, 11: 7, 17: 6  
Daniel 7: 25, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5: 8, Ephesians 6: 11  
2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4: 17

Verses 5 – 7

John 14: 28, John 13: 36, John 15: 26  
1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: 19, John 16: 14  
John 17: 4