
Sermon Notes

July 19, 2015

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

The Heart of Jesus: The Convicting Heart

John 16:1-15

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.

Timing is Everything

- ❖ Jesus knows His disciples have reached their saturation point
 - other truths will be revealed to them by the Helper (Holy Spirit) when the time is right
 - the Holy Spirit will remind the disciples of the things Jesus has already told them
 - the Holy Spirit will “fill in the blanks” about things Jesus chooses not to reveal at this moment
- ❖ Jesus’ main concern at this moment is that His disciples be equipped and prepared to stand strong as the evil hour arrives
 - He wants to keep them from falling away
 - He wants them to have peace filled, untroubled hearts (John 14:1, 27)
 - He wants them to know they will not be left alone
- ❖ The promise of persevering grace

Why Now?

- ❖ Up until now, Jesus has shielded His disciples like a protective parent
- ❖ During the time Jesus is with His disciples, He keeps the burden of impending persecution on Himself

- while He is with them, Jesus is Satan's target
- once Jesus goes away, His followers will be wearing His bull's-eye on their backs
- ❖ The disciples are filled with sorrow (16:6) and need to be both comforted and prepared for what lies ahead

The Positive Spin

- ❖ Jesus does not leave all this on a negative note (16:7)
 - Jesus' absence from His disciples sounds like bad news
 - Jesus assures them it is GOOD news, it is to their ADVANTAGE
- ❖ The active power, presence, and person of the Holy Spirit will have a drastic, unimaginable impact on the way God's Word goes out to extend the borders of His kingdom

The Spirit's Ministry

- ❖ Jesus unfolds three facets of what the Holy Spirit is coming to do in vv. 8-11
 - apart from the Spirit's work, we fallen human beings cannot get a grip on our own sin
 - we need to be convicted of our sin
- ❖ The convicting work of the Holy Spirit involves bringing us to a personal awareness of our sin and our need for Christ

- the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin because the people of the world fail to believe in Jesus
- without the Holy Spirit, there is no way anyone could or would even want to turn to Jesus
- ❖ The Spirit convicts the world of its futile attempts to define righteousness on its own terms
 - Isaiah 64:6
 - as an example, the Pharisees attempt to manufacture their own way to achieve and hold onto righteousness (Romans 10:3, Philippians 3:8-9)
- ❖ In the same way, the Spirit convicts the world of its unholy attempts to define justice and make judgments based on limited, human wisdom
- ❖ We see these three facets of the Holy Spirit's ministry at work on Pentecost (Acts 2:37-38)

Personal Application

1. In light of Jesus' withholding things from His disciples for their protection, how does the statement: "We cannot have tomorrow's grace today" instruct us about the way we are to live individually and as a church body?
2. It is easy for us to fall into the trap of questioning God's wisdom, judgment and/or goodness when we do not have answers from Him about the trials and testings that come into our lives. How do the truths Jesus expresses in this passage safeguard us against falling into this trap?
3. What encouragement do you take away from this text about your opportunities and your ability to make Christ known to others?