

The Work of the Spirit

Lesson 16

John 16:5-16

Opener

Ask Do you remember a moment in your life when someone that you loved had to leave? How did you feel when you realized they were leaving? Or have you received something you did not want, but needed?

Today we are going to read a passage in the Bible when Jesus was explaining to His disciples that He was going to leave. The disciples became very worried. After having known Jesus, they could not imagine a world without Him. They did not worry about where Jesus was going, only that He would not be with them.

Scripture

John 16:5-11

But now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

Discussion

Ask: In verse seven, why does Jesus say that it will be better when He leaves?

The Advocate refers to the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. When Jesus left, He sent the Holy Spirit to be God in us. When Jesus died on the cross, in the Bible it says that the curtain of the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two meaning that the presence of God was no longer in only one place. Now, the presence of God dwells in whoever believes in Him by faith. That refers to the moment when all of Jesus’ work was completed and that He suffered for our sins. Since that moment, we can have the same presence of God dwelling in us when we accept Christ and His death and resurrection by faith. If Jesus had not died, we would not have God in our lives in this way. That is why it is good for us that Jesus left and sent us the Holy Spirit.

It is for our good that Jesus went and left us the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit teaches us our need for God. Now we can have the presence of God in us instead of only being in God’s presence in only one place (where Jesus is). Also without Jesus’ resurrection we cannot overcome death and have the eternal life that God promised us.

Ask: What are the three works of the Holy Spirit mentioned in these verses?

- 1.) To prove the world to be wrong – The Holy Spirit is the one who helps us to repent, showing us the bad things that we do.
- 2.) To teach us that in Jesus alone is there justice – the world declared Jesus guilty the moment of His death, but God rejected that raising Him from the dead. The Holy Spirit is the one who helps us understand the Scriptures and our need of a Savior who is Jesus Christ. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:3.** The Holy Spirit is working in us before we encounter Jesus. He is the one who helps us accept Christ as our Savior and Lord.
- 3.) To teach us judgment – that the devil has lost the battle and that Jesus has overcome death.

John 16:12-16

“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.” Jesus went on to say, **“In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”**

Ask: When do we receive the Holy Spirit, and where will He lead us? (v. 13)
He will lead us to all truth.

Ask: Who does the Holy Spirit glorify?
Jesus.

Read the following verses and note what happens when we receive the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:5-7 – We are saved and we have eternal life.

Romans 8:9 – We submit to the control of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:12 – We can understand what God has given us, His love and salvation.

1 Corinthians 3:16 – We will be temples of God where the Holy Spirit dwells

Application

How do we receive the Holy Spirit? He comes to our lives when we personally accept Christ. When we accept Him, we are saying that we want Him to come into our lives to save us and to take control of us. We are saying that we do not want to live under the control of our sin and we want to live under the control of Jesus who gave His life for us. Have you asked God to save you?

We talked last week about the fruit we should bear when we are believers. When the Holy Spirit is in our lives, He begins to change us. **Read Galatians 5:22-23. What is the fruit we see in our lives when the Holy Spirit is in control?**

How can you live more under the control of the Holy Spirit this week?