

Sermon Notes John 14:15-26, 16:7-15. The Spirit's work 5/6/22

Context. Jesus is about to go to the cross which he knows will deeply disturb his disciples. Yet Jesus anticipates his resurrection and the coming of the Spirit to strengthen his disciples as they face persecution.

A. 14:15-27 The Spirit's work is Trinitarian

1. Vv. 15-21. The new Counsellor, the Spirit, will be sent by the Father at the request of the Son to be with Jesus' disciples 'for ever'. Jesus is united to the Father and his disciples are united to him, through the Spirit.

2. Vv. 22-27. The Father and the Son will come and dwell with believers through the indwelling of the Spirit. Through the Spirit the triune God comes and dwells. The Spirit will teach the believers especially by reminding them of what Jesus taught.

B. 16:7-15 Discerning the Work of the Spirit

1. 7 The Spirit can only come after Jesus has gone away - that is has completed his mission of dying on the cross for the sins of the world and after overcoming death - shown in his resurrection. Now, the Spirit can take and apply the Good News of God's love and forgiveness to all people - he is not restricted as Jesus was to a particular place and time - the mechanism God has set up for us to experience the joy His forgiveness is by practising forgiveness ourselves. (see the Lord's Prayer)

2. Vv. 8-11. The Spirit will work in the world as well as dwelling with and in believers - (16:7) 'he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment'. The Spirit has a role as a prosecutor toward the world. Apart from the Holy Spirit people do not know the truth about Sin, Righteousness and Judgment (see Eph. 2). Each of these works_ of the Spirit toward the world is linked to the person and work of Christ.

3. V. 12. The Spirit will guide believers into all truth - he only teaches the truth and is the means of discovering and living the truth.

4. V. 13 The Spirit will teach only what he hears - it will be in harmony with the Father & the Son.

5. V. 13. The Spirit will speak about the future - the implications of the death & resurrection of Christ & how Christians are to live constantly relying on the Spirit, and to help believers live expecting the return of Christ.

6.V. 14. The Work of the Spirit is focussed on giving glory to the Son - (not on drawing attention to Himself) - making Christ & his teaching known to all.

8. V. 15. The Spirit's work is a Trinitarian work - by focusing on Christ, the Spirit is both glorifying Jesus and glorifying the Father as did Jesus; *'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.'* (says Jesus).

Reflection/Response. How have we grown in our experience of the presence of the Holy Spirit? How can we use Jesus' teaching to test whether we are or are not being led by the Spirit? In what ways is the Spirit challenging and guiding us to become more and more like Christ? BB