

Sermon Notes John 15:26-27 and 16:4b-15 23/5/2021

Context. Jesus is about to go to the cross which he knows will deeply disturb his disciples. Yet Jesus anticipates and prepares his disciples for his resurrection and departure and the coming of the Spirit to strengthen them.

The sending of the Spirit. 15:26-27. Jesus has a key role in the sending of the Spirit, and the Spirit's role is to testify about Jesus.

Discerning the Work of the Spirit (16:7-15)

1. (16:7) The Spirit can only come after Jesus has departed - that is, has completed his mission of dying on the cross for the sins of the world, overcoming death and rising from the dead. With the departure of Jesus, 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 means by which we continue to experience God's forgiveness is by daily repenting and by daily forgiving others (Lord's Prayer). The Spirit is sent by Jesus (and the Father 14:26).

2. (16:8-11) The Spirit will work in the world as well as dwelling with and in believers - *'he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment'*. Normally the Spirit exercises a comforting (counsellor) role in relation to believers. Here 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) and how Jesus deals with our guilt. Each of these works of the Spirit toward the world is understood in relation to Christ and his work.

3. (16:12) The Spirit will guide believers into all truth - He only teaches the truth and is the means of discovering and living the truth, which comes from Jesus (Jn. 14:6).

4. (16:13) The Spirit will teach only what he hears - it will be in harmony with the Father & the Son.

5. (16:13). The Spirit will speak about the future - a) the implications of the death & resurrection of Christ, b) how Christians are to live constantly relying on the Spirit, c) helping believers live expecting the return of Christ.

6. (16:14) The Work of the Spirit is focused on giving glory to the Son - (not on drawing attention to Himself) - making Christ & his teaching known to all. He receives the truth (13) from Jesus (14).

7. (16:15). The Spirit's work is a Trinitarian work - by focusing on Christ, the Spirit is glorifying the Father also as did Jesus, 'all that belongs to the Father is mine' (says Jesus).

8. Chapter 16 ends with Jesus recognising that all his disciples will **leave him. Yet he continues to trust his heavenly Father, 'my Father is with me'**. In his death and resurrection Jesus has overcome the world.

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?