

OPPOSITION FROM THE WORLD

TEXT: John 15:26-16:4

PLACE: Jerusalem, upper room

TIME: Thursday evening

NOTE: One again Jesus tells about the Holy Spirit's ministry with the disciples. He has told them they will suffer. He now reassures them that they will have help in their trials.

◆ Two Great Promises

1 - The Holy Spirit will come as a helper, vs. 26

- What is the meaning of the word "helper".
 - He will stand beside them through all their trial and persecutions. (Same with us today.)

2 - The Holy Spirit will help them in their witnessing, vs. 27

- He will come to them and guide them infallibly in calling to their remembrance, without error, what they had seen with their own eyes and heard with their own ears (cp. 1 John 1:1-4; 2 Peter 1:16-21), and He would guide them into all truth.

◆ Further Warnings, 16:1-4

- Why did Jesus speak these things to them?
 - Does the Word do the same for us today? Cp. Psalm 119:11
- Verse 2 speaks specifically of some of the suffering they would endure and that the persecutors would do so thinking they were doing God's service.
 - Can you think of such a one? (cp. Acts 22:3-5; Acts 26:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:12-16)
- Verse 3, how could they do this? Why were they so blinded to the truth?

THE COMING AND MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT

TEXT: John 16:5-15

➡ The Comforting Of The Disciples By Jesus, vs. 5-7

- The selfishness of the disciples, vs. 5,6
 - Verse 5 - They were so wrapped up in their own sorrow and misunderstanding that they failed to be really interested in what Jesus was saying or where He was going.
- The selflessness of Jesus, vs. 7
 - What appears to be a disadvantage, in truth, is to become an advantage for:
 - If He didn't die - sins would not be forgiven.
 - If He didn't rise - no eternal life.
 - If He didn't ascend - they wouldn't receive the Spirit.

➡ The Convicting Of The World By The Spirit

NOTE: Verses 8-11 give an explanation of the work of the Spirit as it relates to the commission of the disciples to preach the Gospel in the whole world. As the Word is preached, He will work on the hearts of the haters.

- His Ministry: "He ...will _____ the world..."
 - Two-fold work
 - 1) To Convince (that Jesus is Lord and Savior)
 - 2) To Convict (that we need Jesus)

A man is not convicted of sin until he is convinced there is a standard between right and wrong and that perfect standard is Jesus Christ.

- His Material: "...concerning _____ and _____, and _____."
- Sin - what is sin? What is the major sin that condemns men to hell?
- Righteousness - The Spirit not only shows us sin and that we are sinful, but He shows us how good Christ is and that we can have His goodness applied to our lives. (cp. 2 Corinthians 5:14-21)
- Judgment - Verse 11 says that "the ruler of this world has been judged." What we need to know is that at Calvary and because of the resurrection Satan has been defeated and we have the victory. Christ destroyed him who had the power of death over men (Hebrews 2:15) and delivered men from this bondage of fear.
 - The Holy Spirit wants us to know that because He wants you to get ready to make some changes in your life so that you don't suffer the same judgment.

SUMMARY: Verses 12-15 Jesus brings to a conclusion this section on the Spirit. He must have wanted to say to much more, but the disciples were not able to hear anymore. Read these verses and note the further ministry of the Spirit in relation to Christ.

To Friends...

Who obey with understanding.

- How do we know the Master's way and plans?

- o What a privilege it is that God has revealed Himself and His will to us and has treated us not as slaves but as His Children!

◆ Jesus' Friends Are Chosen, vs. 16a

- ➡ This verse makes it very plain that our relation to Him as friends is dependent first and foremost upon His divine willingness to grace. (cp. Romans 5:6,8; Ephesians 1:3-14.)

Paul Butler's commentary (College Press) helps us on this great topic - "Potentially all men are elected to be saved, but only 'In Christ.' Man then must exercise his freedom to choose whether he desires this election or not by coming 'into Christ' or remaining out of Him by obedience to His commandments. Even among these first disciples they were chosen by election but they themselves had to choose whether or not they wished that election. One (Judas Iscariot) refused the divine election. Yes, the Shepherd always seeks the lost sheep before the sheep seeks the Shepherd, but the sheep must hear and follow the voice of the Shepherd to realize the safety bountifulness of the fold."

◆ Jesus' Friends Bear Fruit, vs. 16b

1st - that is our command... we should bear fruit. (See verses 2, 3)

"_____ branch in Me that does _____ bear fruit, He _____; and every branch that bears fruit, He _____ it, that it may bear _____ fruit."

2nd - that fruit should _____ - what does this mean?

◆ Jesus' Friends Have Their Prayers Answered, vs. 16c

- How should we ask? What does this mean?
 - "When we make our wishes and desires Christ's, and Christ's desires ours, we shall be satisfied." (Paul Butler, College Press)

OPPOSITION FROM THE WORLD (Pt. 1)

TEXT: John 15:18-25

NOTE: The vital union between Christ and His followers results in a fellowship of fruitfulness (vs. 12-17); a fellowship of confidence and communion (vs. 12-17); this union also results in a fellowship of suffering. (Paul Butler, College Press)

As best we can tell from history, the world managed to martyr eleven of twelve disciples. So Jesus prepares His followers for this truth: hostility from the world is the cost of discipleship.

◆ Reasons For The Hatred Of The World, vs. 16a

1 - Because We Are Not Of This World, vs. 18, 19

- What is meant by the term, "world"? Is this system against everything Godly? (cp. 1 John 5:19)
- Why does the world hate the believer? Cp. John 17:14; Philippians 2:15. Also look at John 3:19-20. Paul says of the believer, 2 Corinthians 2:15, 16.
- "Not of this world." Cp. Ephesians 5:11

◆ Because They Hated Our Lord Jesus, vs. 20

⇒ The world has redirected its hatred towards the Christian because he radiates Christ's love to the world.

- If we don't feel that opposition, maybe we should re-examine our boldness for Christ in this world!

◆ Because They Don't Know God, vs. 21-25

⇒ Whose choice is it to know or not or not to know God?

⇒ Why do men choose to not know God.

⇒ Do those who reject have an excuse? (cp. vs. 22)

- o The greatest sin - to have all the specifics of God's revelation and then reject it! Men are responsible for rejecting Christ and will answer before God at Judgment.

⇒ Let all beware ... even the Christian. (Remember Hebrews 6:4-6)