Intro

* \*transition from *Praise The King* (possibly a word about John MacArthur?)
  + We’re continuing our summer series through Jesus’s intimate fellowship and teaching right before His road to the cross
    - We’ve entitled it: **Untroubled: Relying on the Comfort of Christ**
      * Jesus is amazing in every way – yet consider that He didn’t think of Himself on the edge of His suffering, but rather thought of others
  + John 16:4b-15 (pg ///////)
  + Jesus was about to suffer and die
    - His followers would be left without Him for a time – He’d be in the grave for a few days, and then with Him once more for 40 days
      * After that, He’d ascend to be with the Father
        + But instead of fixating on the torturous death Jesus was about to endure, His focus was on how this news would be received by His disciples
    - Many of them had left everything to follow Him
      * They’d relied on Him in every way: His teaching for life, His provision for housing, His leadership for purpose, His food and drink for sustenance – and all of it was about to go away
        + Besides all this – all but one of them loved Him dearly

The foreknowledge that He was about to leave them and die was more than they could handle

* + - * In this deep sorrow, Jesus gives them a promise
        + They won’t be left alone – if He goes away, He’ll send someone to be with with
    - In our text, Jesus focuses in on **The Holy Spirit’s Help**
* Let’s read our passage – please follow along…

Text

* + *John 16:4b-15 – These things I did not say to you at 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****But 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 He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;****9****concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;****10****and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;****11****and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.* ***12****“I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.****13****But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.****14****He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.****15****All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.*
  + The majority of this passage is dedicated to the ministry of the Holy Spirit
    - Jesus mentioned Him back in chapter 14, a bit in 15, and alluded to Him elsewhere in John; but this section serves as the bulk of what He says about Him
      * Teaching on the Holy Spirit is incredibly important
        + Why? (because He’s God, for one!) (\*expound?)
    - But there are several ways to err when getting into pneumatology (\*study of the Spirit (necessary to talk about coming into this passage))
      * You can minimize Him, or believe Him to be a *lesser* member of the Trinity
        + Some even deny His divinity altogether – Jesus provides some of the sternest warnings about this in Matthew 12

Others call Him “it” – whether deliberately or not (\*personhood of the Spirit, as evidenced by the preponderance of personal pronouns in this passage)

* + - * Others ascribe to the Spirit wild things that have nothing to do with His ministry
        + Holy barking, slain in the Spirit, “prophetic” utterances that go against the teachings of Scripture – all of this defames the reputation of God
      * But others, still, talk about Him in ways we wouldn’t think of describing the other two members of the Trinity
        + One subtle example of this comes in the form of pneumatology that contains more *negative* than *affirmative* teachings of the Holy Spirit

In other words, I’ve reviewed a lot of articles, heard a lot of sermons, and read several books that speak more of what the Holy Spirit is NOT than who He actually IS

While He’s often the most misunderstood and least discussed member of the Godhead—we certainly don’t talk about Jesus or the Father in these ways (\*who He *isn’t* more than who He *is*)

* + - * + And while the Spirit is His own distinct, divine Person, He’s also an inseparable member of the Trinity – after all, we’re not polytheists, worshipping several “gods;” we’re monotheists who worship one God

Jesus speaks of the Spirit as an entirely different being (which He is), but simultaneously, we see the great ministry of One God in three persons

Acts 16 highlights this point:

**Acts 16: [Paul and Timothy] passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them…**

Which Spirit is indwelling them and guiding them?

Jesus revealed more of this mystery back in chapter 14 of John:

**John 14:23 – Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him…”**

So, it is the Spirit who is commissioned to indwell the believer, but since He’s God, we have GOD in us—spoken of in His trinitarian nature

WOW! (\*possibly explain that all Christians are indwelt (Rom 8))

And by way of application—how many Holy Spirits are there? (just one)

And yet, how many Christians are in this room, indwelt by the Holy Spirit?

The Spirit of God brings about incredible *unity*, since He’s in no way *fractured* by residing within such a quantity of people

We’re indwelt by one Spirit, redeemed by one Savior, adopted by one Father

Jesus isn’t simply providing *comfort* in this passage – He’s also building our understanding of who God is, and how His church fits into His plan

* + - * In our passage, Jesus provides us with three activities, or *ministries* of the Spirit:
        + He comes to CONVICT, to GUIDE, and to DISCLOSE
  + But first, let’s take a moment to…

**I. Rejoice in the Gift of the Spirit**

* Isn’t it awful when you give a gift and the response is underwhelming?
  + There’s an art of gift *receiving* that I certainly haven’t mastered – I’m just as bad a *giving* gifts as I am at receiving them (\*explain further?)
    - One way we can err when discussing the Spirit is by a lack of overwhelming *gratitude* for His indwelling presence
      * But in our passage, we see that…
* **A. He comes amidst sorrow** 
  + As mentioned before, this teaching on the Spirit is in the context of Jesus telling His disciples that He’s going away from them…
  + **John 16:4b-6 – These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.**
    - Quick theological point of clarification: Peter in chapter 13 and Thomas in chapter 14 both ask Jesus where He’s going
      * But context shows that their question was from a wrong intent, and pursuing a misguided response
        + Peter’s question was from a heart of pride (which Jesus would fully expose in Matt 26:33 (“though all forsake you…”)—Peter mistakenly believed He could go wherever Jesus went

And Peter’s anticipated response was of an earthly origin

* + - * + Likewise, Thomas—to no one’s surprise—questions Jesus out of a heart of doubt

Jesus had just said that the disciples know where He was going, and Thomas retorts by saying they most certainly do NOT know where He’s going or even how to get there

* + - Jesus circles back here to show that none of them have understood where He is going—none of them have asked the question with a heart of believing humility in line with the Messiah’s mission
      * Naturally, a mistake here would lead them to misunderstand the mission of the Holy Spirit
        + Jesus was going to the Father – it had to be so, otherwise the Spirit would not be sent
    - But as Jesus goes to the Father…
* **B. He comes as a helper**
  + - Here’s where the misunderstanding extends to today
      * We don’t feel the same sorrow the disciples experienced, but Jesus’s statement here shows the weighty significance of the Holy Spirit and His role, even today:
  + **John 16:7 – But 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.**
    - It’s hard for us to grasp this concept: BETTER for Jesus to go and the Spirit to come?
      * If given the choice, we would naturally see it as *better* for Jesus to be with us than the Spirit to be in us—that’s one of the struggles of the disciples in that upper room
        + We imagine it’d be easier to *love* Him if He was before us – easier to *consult* Him if He was walking with us – easier to *follow* Him if He was in front of us

Have you ever needed wisdom and thought, “I wish Jesus were right in front of me…”

Calvin states it concisely for us…

* + - * **“But far more advantageous and far more desirable is that presence of Christ, by which he communicates himself to us through the grace and power of his Spirit, than if he were present before our eyes.” – John Calvin, *Commentary on the Gospel according to John*, 137.**
        + Brothers and sisters: we HAVE that which is BETTER!

Not to say the Spirit is better than Jesus – that’s not the case He’s making in our passage

Our circumstances are more advantageous with the indwelling presence of the Spirit than if Jesus were walking among us!

For the Christian, He’s more than a Helper: Jesus was actually sending His most intimate friend to dwell IN His followers

* + - * When my wife taught an FCI class (Theology Gals) on the Holy Spirit, here were some of her observations regarding this friendship:

1. From the moment Jesus was conceived in the virgin Mary, the Holy Spirit was within Him. The Holy Spirit conceived Jesus.
2. As Jesus grew in stature and in favor with God and man, the Holy Spirit was within Him.
3. When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit anoints Jesus for His new season of ministry.
4. Right after that, the Holy Spirit led Jesus out in the wilderness and when Satan tempted Jesus, Jesus resisted him by the power of the Holy Spirit.
5. Jesus cast out demons in the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling inside of Him.
6. Romans 1:4 says that Jesus was declared to be the Son of God with power by the “Spirit of Holiness.”
7. Romans 8:11 says that the Holy Spirit who dwelt inside of Jesus [gave] Him power to raise Himself from the dead.
8. John 14 and 15 says that when Jesus ascended to Heaven, the Son sent the Holy Spirit. It's like He says to the Father… “the best friend who has been with Me, send Him to them.”
   * We cannot overstate the blessing of the Spirit of God!
     + This leads into His stated roles
       - Now that we’ve taken some time to rejoice in His presence – let’s walk through what Jesus has to say about His coming…

**II. The Spirit Convicts the World**

* + Let me be frank – certain circles of Christianity make the Spirit of God out to be a divine errand boy whose only purpose is to deliver warm fuzzies to all people
    - The notion that the Holy Spirit is almighty God of both immeasurable love *as well as* perfect wrath is lost on such groups
      * Jesus first introduces Him as a Comforter and Helper, but here He speaks of the Spirit’s role in a way that expands His infinite complexity
        + As a first order of business: He will *convict*…

When you hear that word, what comes to mind?

If you’re familiar with the justice system, that word is most often used to reference the handing down of a sentence by a presiding judge

* + - * + In this passage, Jesus calls upon courtroom imagery to describe the Spirit’s role…
  + **John 16:8 – And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;**
    - To help explain the courtroom proceedings, commentator Gerald Borchert describes the role of each three elements:
      * **“The first appears to be like a charge for which the defendant has been indicted. The second can be envisioned as the standard to which the defendant is required to conform, and the third can be viewed as the rationale the presiding judge uses to render the verdict. All of these elements can come within the basic meaning of this Greek verb, which is ‘bring to light, expose, set forth.’” – Gerald L. Borchert, *John 12–21 (NAC)*, 165.**
    - How, then, does this conviction (or “bringing to light”) look today?
      * It’s helpful to understand *who* this conviction involves
        + This first action is directed towards “the world,” or those who stand in opposition to the Kingdom of God
      * First, He convicts the world…
* **A. Concerning sin**
  + - Jesus knows His disciples are in need of further explanation for most of His teaching – we are no different
      * Helpfully, Jesus goes into detail in the next 3 verse about each of the 3 elements of conviction: sin, righteousness, and judgment
  + **John 16: 9 – concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me…**
    - This conviction of sin is an incredible grace of the Spirit
      * No one likes to be told they’re a rotten sinner…
        + But do you know what’s worse?

BEING a rotten sinner, and yet never informed on the matter

* + - * Jesus came to SAVE
        + What type of person looks for a Savior?

Only those who are first convinced of their need for saving

* + - The Spirit of God came to convict the world of sin, and since everyone IS as sinner, those who first acknowledge this base fact understand their desperate state
      * Only *then* can they “believe in [Jesus],” as our passage presents it (\*invitation + evangelistic encouragement for believers)
  + But the Spirit also convicts the world…
* **B. Concerning righteousness** 
  + This “righteousness” is not divine righteousness, but *worldly* righteousness – the context and Christ’s further explanation make that clear
    - Which is to say, these are all the “good deeds” that men and women of the world accrue for the vain purpose of ascending to God – they tried it at a place called Babel thousands of years ago, and the world is still building its bastions of faux righteousness to this day
      * The Spirit convicts…
  + **John 16:10 – concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me…**
    - When the world fails to see its sin, it will never cry out for a savior
      * Worse yet, those of the world may believe they’re actually *righteous* of themselves!
        + John 1 states that Jesus came as a light to the world, exposing the deeds of darkness

Now that He was ascending to the Father, the Spirit would come to expose their supposed righteousness, like a sudden burst of sunlight into a dark canyon

* + - And lastly, the Spirit would convict the world…
* **C. Concerning judgment**
  + This is the final act in the courtroom, where *judgment* is rendered
  + **John 16:11 – concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.**
    - …and Satan has been found guilty – alongside all those who would ally with his kingdom and ways
      * The cross of Jesus would serve as the final word on the Christian’s judgement, however
        + There WAS a guilty verdict rendered, and it was handed down due to our own sin

Only, the punishment came down on the sole innocent party, allowing all those who were of the world and its ruler to apply His judgment to their own account

* + The Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment
    - Those who heed His conviction are led to the cross of Christ, where the courtroom verdict has already been settled, and freedom is available to all who call upon the Name of Christ
      * But all who suppress His conviction: denying their sin and the insurmountable debt it accrues, clinging to their worthless “righteousness,” and awaiting the pending judgment—all who reject the Spirit’s work in the world will know His wrath
* While that’s not the typical portrait of the Holy Spirit, it’s the portrait Christ seems to be painting of Him
  + But He turns His attention from the world and shifts to the Spirit’s ministry towards His followers
    - For the Christian…

**III. The Spirit Guides in Truth**

* + Knowing the exhaustion of the disciples, Jesus takes a pause, followed by supplying more encouragement
    - They can’t handle all they would need to know upon His departure, but that’s alright, because one of the Spirit’s roles is that of guiding the believer in all the truth…
  + **John 16:12-13a – I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak…**
    - From this passage, we see that…
* **A. He enables a believer to know what is true**
  + - D.A. Carson clarifies this often misunderstood concept in his commentary over the Book of John:
      * **“The notion of ‘guidance’ (the Greek verb is ὁδηγέω) in all truth has nothing to do with privileged information pertaining to one’s choice of vocation or mate, but with understanding God as he has revealed Himself, and with obeying that revelation…” – D. A. Carson, *John (PNTC),* 540.**
        + Divine revelation—the Word of God—is truth we can depend on and build our life upon

Who wrote the Bible? (\*explain)

* + - The divine Author is pleased to help us understand His book (\*John 17:17)
      * But *knowing* the truth is not sufficient of itself…
* **B. Through Christ, He enables us to live out that truth**
  + Man vs Wild with Bear Grills is one of my favorite shows
    - If you don’t know the premise, Bear imbeds himself in the wildest places on earth with a goal of surviving and getting to his pickup location
      * But he never goes into a location unstudied
        + He always consults locals and experts on the terrain—sometimes even relying on literal guides to lead him to his destination
    - No one knows this world better than its Creator, and no one is able to Guide us more effectively to our ultimate destination than Him
      * Do you rely on His truth as your guide, or are you seeking to navigate this hostile world through your own inexperience
        + What’s the test of this?

Is God’s Word—authored by His Spirit—the truth you live by?

* + - Let’s keep it to our nature guide illustration: would you follow someone for a weeklong trek into a dangerous wilderness, knowing full-well they had absolutely no survival experience or knowledge of the terrain?
      * Well: if someone followed you for a week, would they reasonably conclude you’re guided by the Spirit through the truth of His Word?
        + While no one will perfectly walk according to God’s Word (hence, our desperate need for a Savior), the Spirit enables us to live out His truth
    - So follow His divinely inspired Word, through the power of His indwelling presence! (\*explain III. further?)
  + And lastly, we see that…

**IV. The Spirit Makes Much of Christ**

* In His final teaching on the Holy Spirit, Jesus claims that…
  + **John 16:13b-15 – He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.**
    - \*\*Through the Spirit’s help, you’ll love your Savior more, become more like your Savior, and desire to tell more and more people about your Savior

Communion

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