John 16:4b-15 The Holy Spirit’s Help

While Kathy and I were away, one of the things we did to relax with our girls was to rewatch the Chosen series, specifically season 5 which ties together the events of Jesus’s final week of ministry from his triumphal entry into Jerusalem through his arrest. Yet at the beginning of each episode to tie it all together, the show uses the upper room discourse, the passages that we have been studying together this summer in our series

**Untroubled: Relying on the Comfort of Christ**

As the show walks through the events revealed in Scripture, we are given a possible view into how the Jesus and the disciples reacted to these events.

We can see and understand that they are surrounded with trouble.

* And we can see how Jesus is troubled in his humanity knowing the suffering that is to come in the hours ahead and that he is the only one who understands.
* The disciples are troubled, not as much by the revelation of what will happen to Jesus, but more so by what it means for them.
  + They cannot imagine that one of them would betray Jesus
  + Peter cannot accept what Jesus says about his denials coming that night
  + But mostly, they are troubled because what they want most
    - To continue to be with Jesus
    - Is being taken away from them.
  + They ask – Jesus, why can’t you just stay, because this thing we have right now…we get to be with you and learn from you. For the disciples, they could imagine nothing better…
* But what they a troubled to accept, is that Jesus’s plan is even better…
* That is because trouble is not the central theme or purpose
  + No, the purpose is redemption
  + And Jesus is telling them what that will take
    - That He would have to willingly go to the cross, to suffer and to die
    - And they needed to trust in Him that God would redeem and restore all things…but better
* Thus while telling them that trouble was coming,
  + Jesus wanted his disciples to know that they would not be stuck in trouble
  + He wants us to know that today as well, that we do not have to remain stuck in troubles
  + There is a different possibility
    - We can live with peaceful hearts because Jesus gives us peace
    - We can serve amid challenges because Jesus washed the disciples feet pointing to our ultimate cleansing
    - We can produce spiritual fruit because we abide in Jesus and he will enable the work of growth.
    - We can confidently face opposition knowing our Savior did…
    - And today we will add to that confidence, knowing that we can live faithfully to Christ because the Spirit works in our lives
* When we rely on the comforts of Christ, our hearts are like this picture
  + Peaceful, restful, and ready for what the Lord has for us in the days ahead

Please turn with me to John 16…

* My prayer for today is that we would rejoice in the revelation of the work of the Holy Spirit promised to all followers of Christ
  + And that we would find comfort as Jesus promised in His promised presence.

Please follow along as I read…This is the Word of the Lord.

READ John 16:4-15

The Title for our message – **The Holy Spirit’s Help**

* 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?)
    - And we want to speak of God with fear and adulation
    - But there are several ways to speak wrong of the Spirit
      * You might 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”
        + Jesus says I will send Him…
    - We could also ascribe to the Spirit wild things that have nothing to do with His ministry – in how others experience the spirit, but these are not consistent with the Word…\
    - But others, still, talk about Him in ways we wouldn’t think of describing the other two members of the Trinity
  + While He’s often the most misunderstood and least discussed member of the Godhead
    - 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 Him in this way, why would we do differently…
    - Not only here do we see the sending of the Helper, the Sprit,
    - But also in John 14 where Jesus said, “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…”
      * And today, we see how God will keep that promise
      * It is the Spirit who is commissioned to indwell the believer,
      * and since He’s God, we have GOD in us, God making His abode with us
      * Just as Romans 8…if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you
* Praise God for how he chooses to work in us
  + Indwelt by one Spirit, redeemed by one Savior, adopted by one Father
* Part of the comfort we can receive from this passage is a greater understanding of God Himself, who He is and His place, dwelling with us, even in the midst of trouble…
* 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…

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

* I would like you to consider a time when you gave someone a gift…
  + You poured yourself into choosing the perfect gift that met a need and what you thought would be a desire…
  + And they open the wrap – see what it is – then just set it aside with a thank you that was just the transition to going back to what they were doing…
  + As the giver of the gift, what were we expecting?
* When We speak of the gift of the Spirit in our lives, one of the ways that we fall short is in our lack of a overwhelming gratitude for his indwelling presence
* I would like us to consider today, why we can rejoice…
  + First think about the situation he came into…

1. **He comes amid sorrow**

* As we mentioned – Jesus’s words are in the context of Him telling them that He would be going away…

**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.**

* If you are thinking back to the passage earlier this summer
  + You might be asking…Wait a minute – didn’t someone ask where earlier during the last supper?
    - The answer is yes, bit Peter and Thomas ask where Jesus is going…
    - But the context of their questions showed that they were asking with wrong intent…
      * Peter was from a heart of pride saying – No Jesus – you can’t tell me I can’t come with you…I would die for you…
      * And Thomas, you might imagine, asked out of doubt and in pushing back on Jesus…
        + 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
  + Thus Jesus is saying again to say, you do not understand where and for what purpose that He must go.
    - None of them have asked the question with the humility that shows an understanding of the Messiah’s true mission, which was not simply to be their Rabbi, or even to establish his kingdom on earth that day….
* And if I cannot rejoice in the Messiah’s mission to redeem us at the cross
* It would be difficult to rejoice in the gift of the Spirit.
* So when we see the mission Jesus was on and that it would trake Him back to the Father, that can help us to Rejoice in the Spirit as

1. **He comes as a Helper**

* But how does that carry forward to us today…
  + Let’s be honest, we don’t feel the same sorrow as the disciples, because we have not experienced that joy of living with Christ and walking with Him during His earthly ministry
  + But Jesus’s statement shows that significance of the Holy Spirit and His role for them, and for you and me 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.**

* That is a hard concept to wrap my head around…even today, but moreso for the disciples…
  + How could it be better for Jesus to go and the Spirit come
    - Given the choice, I think I would have chosen like the disciples…
      * Jesus – You are the best thing that has ever happened to me…I want what I have right now…I don’t want better…
      * That is the struggle of the disciples in the upper room
        + Wouldn’t it be easier to love Jesus if He is right here with us?
        + Wouldn’t is be easier to follow Him if He was walking along with us?
      * But here’s where our logic breaks down…
        + We say we love Jesus, we say we want to know and follow Jesus.
        + Jesus has said that it is better…
      * Now Jesus is not saying the Holy Spirit is better than Jesus in some self- deprecating form of pride, like I might do…
      * He is telling us that it is better for us, that it would be to our advantage
        + That God’s plan be fulfilled
        + That Jesus return to the Father’s right hand
        + And that the Spirit would be sent as our helper
    - Are we ready to believe?
    - Are we ready to rejoice in the Gift of the Spirit?
* Now to apply that truth to our lives…
  + To live by rejoicing in the gift of the Holy Spirit,
  + As your pastor, I think I need to do more than just tell you to rejoice…
  + what will trigger that response of praise?
    - When you see and recognize the work of the Holy Spirit in your lives…
    - Which Jesus has revealed to us in our passage today.
* The first ministry of the Holy Spirit that we can rejoice in is that:

1. **The Spirit Convicts the World –**

* As I said earlier – it can be easy sometimes to minimize the role and work of the Holy Spirit – as just a comforter and helper to make us feel better
  + But here Jesus reveals the importance of the Spirit and His mission…
  + He says that the first order of business for the Spirit is to convict…
    - When you hear that word, what comes to mind?
      * I think of a courtroom and the justice system
      * Where the word convict is related to the judge handing down and verdict and a sentence
    - Jesus has called upon that imagery to describe the role of the Sprirt saying…

**John 16:8 – And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment**

* John takes us into a courtroom.
  + The rules of a court are different than in other locations.
    - Instead of speaking freely, you wait until you have permission to speak.
    - The topics under consideration are restricted.
    - You feel the intensity of the weight of your words differently than other contexts.
  + When the Spirit walks in the proverbial courtroom everyone knows the ultimate outcome. His convicting power comes in three areas:

1. **Concerning Sin**

* Have you ever tried to convince someone who is not a Christian that they are a sinner and that their sin is really a big deal?
  + It can feel impossible
  + The person simply does not believe you…
    - They likely now look at you differently – maybe even seeing you as just a self-righteous windbag.
    - If that is the case - It may completely change the relatiopship you had with them before…
  + But the real issue is not that they do not believe you…
  + In truth, at the heart of their sin is not the actions that you see…
  + It is all tied to what they do believe or more importantly what they do not believe…

**John 16:9 – concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me…**

* But sometimes that person does respond…not because of your convincing speech or impassioned plea
* But rather the convicting work of the Holy Spirt.
  + Even though there are many ways in which we sin, the most important one and the one mentioned here is a lack of belief in Jesus, His words and His work.
    - We might be responding to a person because of how they treated you at work, or cut you off in traffic, maybe because we observed drunkenness, drug use, immorality or just selfish prideful acts
      * And these things may make it harder for us to have a relationship with them…
    - But what stand first before the Lord, is their acceptance or rejection of Jesus…
  + This is why in evangelism, we do not promise that life wil be easy and all of the temptations and struggles with disappear.
    - Our hope is that the work of the spirit will bring conviction in his time and in his way that leads to repentance and faith in Jesus
      * This is why I do not believe that everyone who comes to a Faith in Jesus must be able to spell out in detail every sin from their past…
      * I don’t even believe that a person must prove that are giving up every sin when they are saved.
      * The initial prayer of salvation is not primarily about al the bad things we have done, but rather about our lack of faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord.
    - That is why Rom 10:9 says it so simply –

**Rom 10:9 “if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved”**

* It really is just that simple
* Then in a new belief in Jesus…
  + As we learn how to love the Lord with all of our heart, mind and strength,
  + We will begin to see the additional work of the Holy Spirit bringing growth and change, the fruits of the spirit
* But it all must begin with the conbvicting of our sin of unbelief…
* If you are with us today…
  + And you are feeling the conviction for your unbelief in Jesus,
    - Not - do you know who He is?
    - Not do you understand that He died on the cross…
  + But are you convicted that the choices in your life are driven by a belief that you are enough
    - And you want to believe in Jesus, all of His words and works that prove that He is the Way the Truth and the Life. No one will come to the Father except through Him.
  + If you have questions or convictions – please don’t keep them to yourself
  + We want to walk along with you, to allow the work of the Holy Spirit to be to your advantage too
    - Only by the work of the Holy Spirit can you be convicted of your sin
* And the Spirit is not done there
* As the spirit also convicts the world

1. **Concerning Righteousness**

* This “righteousness” is not divine righteousness, but *worldly* righteousness
  + Which is to say, these are all the “good deeds” that men and women of the world are trying to use to prove their worthiness to be with God…
  + It can be a barrier to our conviction of our sin of unbelief…
* Thus the Spirit convicts…

**John 16:10 – concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me…**

* Righteousness in the Bible is not always talking about something good.
  + The Spirit convicts the world that their righteousness is nothing. It is of no value.
* I suspect that many of you have tried to evangelize a person who did not believe they needed rescued.
  + Their good deeds, their righteousness was sufficient for them to conclude that they were just fine.
  + John Bunyan, the writer of Pilgrim’s Progress, first attempted to get right with God through his own righteousness.
    - He attended church, served, and conformed his behavior to that of other believers.
    - In his own writing about his salvation he says,
      * “But poor wretch as I was! I was all this while ignorant of Jesus Christ; and going about to establish my own righteousness; and had perished therein, had not God in mercy showed me more of my state.”
  + People perish in their own righteousness. Thankfully, the Spirit delivers from this.
    - You and I will not convince people that their version of righteousness is of no value and they are in desperate need of the righteousness of Jesus imputed to their account.
  + And it seems that it would be enough to just say that…
    - But I want us also to see the reason Jesus thought to say more… “because I go to the father and you no longer see me.”
      * Jesus would no longer be there to live the example of righteousness and to share the truth…
      * What would then convict the world?
    - The Holy Spirit’s work using the lives of the disciples as they grew in Christlikness.
      * Jesus came as a light in the darkness…Now He has called us to be the light.
    - We cannot bring the conviction on our own, but we can and must participate in the ministry of the Holy Spirit by living as Jesus did in His righteousness, not our own
  + Yet the court is not yet adjourned.
  + The Spirit convicts of sin and righteousness…and He also convicts

1. **Concerning Judgment**

**John 16:11 – concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.**

* We can rejoice in that judgement
  + As you read the gospel, we see Jesus, but we can also see Satan’s involvement – his work since the garden
  + Here we see as he enters Judas and took hold of his heart that he would betray Jesus…
    - He would join Satan, along with the religious leaders and the Romans to bring about their own judgement based on a false witness against Christ’s righteousness.
    - They did not believe Jesus and declared him blasphemous
  + The Holy Spirit’s conviction concerning judgement is still needed today
    - Because all how reject Jesus today, are unknowingly aligning themselves with Satan at least in their view regarding Jesus’s claims
  + But when Jesus went to the cross, died the death we deserve and rose again, Satan was defeated. Satan’s last attempt to thwart God’s plan failed and the ruler of this world has been judged
    - The carrying out of the sentence still awaits – but the judgement is complete
  + That means for anyone who would align their thinking and beliefs with Satan, even unknowingly, they need to know…
  + And it takes the Holy Spirit to convict us…
    - In seminary, we were assigned to listen to a 1985 debate between Gordon Stein and Greg Bahnsen regarding the existence of God.
      * Bahnsen’s statements destroyed Stein because Stein could not defend how a materialistic worldview could still include universal laws of logic, morality and even the order existing in science.
      * Bit despite the clear and undisputable facts presented over a 2 hour period, few if any of the unbelievers who witnessed the debate placed their faith in Jesus.
    - Yet at the same time, Billy Graham would speak 35-40 minutes not using complex logic or quoting philosophers…yet thousands trusted in Christ…
  + How would we explain that? The active convicting power of the Holy Spirit.
* So how should we respond…
* What would cause me to rejoice?
  + Be encouraged that the world’s attitude and righteousness are not left unchecked.
    - There will be hostility towards you as you share Christ,
      * But there is also the active work of the Spirit to convict of sin, righteousness and judgment.
    - We can rejoice as we allow the Spirit to work in your life as you shin the light of the gospel in your part of the world…
    - Our rejoicing should include speaking about the sin that must be addressed…unbelief.
      * That means joyfully being involved in the gospel sharing opportunities of the church in our coming Fall kick-off services, FCI classes, Hartford Hub ministries, Taste of Christmas…
        + This fall we are hoping to add Lifewise to that list as it is a chance to teach the Bible to public School kids during the school day…
    - As we rejoice – it should cause us to drop to our knees…I hope you will join me in praying for the lost.
      * We need the Spirit to do the convicting. He is calling us to join Him. Let’s pray for the opportunities.
* Then let’s rejoice because He is not done there…
* We can rejoice that

1. **The Spirit Guides in the Truth**

* Knowing the disciples are feeling lost and that they still do not understand…
* Jesus pauses and loves them by not further overwhelming them.

**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…**

* We must be thoughtful in what we are thinking here about guidance…
  + This is not divine guidance to make decisions
  + Rather

1. **He enables a believer to know what is true**
   * For the disciples – the meaning here is that the Spirit would guide them to remind them of the same truth that Jesus had shared so that they could teach and write what would become the New Testament
   * And for us today, that would be the nature that the Spirit is required to help people accept what Scripture says in the Word of God and has autholrity in our lives
     + Until the Spirit guides us to see the Word as sufficient and authoritative, we will simply see the Bible as a complex story and an interesting book
   * But the Spirit will guide us that we might understand what He has written for us…
     + You may be saying, yeah, well, I understand some of it…We need to trust in the Spirit that as we continue to desire God’s Word, in its living and active nature, we will continue to grow in understanding in ways that change our lives…
     + But like the disciples – we cannot bear all of it right now
     + And in the Spirit, we grow
2. **Through Christ, He enables us to live out that Truth**

* Again, we are not talking about the Voice from Heaven, visions or even that feeling that God told me to buy that new car…
  + This is not about special revelation or direct revelation
  + We are talking about the Spirit bringing the revealed Word of God to our minds, placing it upon our hearts to motivate us to live faithfully and obediently to our Lord.
  + We do not want to minimize the Spirit’s role on the life of a Christian, but neither do we want o disconnect that role from the Scriptures which the Spirit inspired.
* As an application of the Word today,
  + I want you to be active enough in God’s Word that you can recognize His guidance in the Truth through the Word.
  + As a measure of that application – my payer would be that you could quickly and confidently answer the question…
    - What are you studying and how is it impacting your life?
    - I am working through a devotional called the Everyday Gospel to read about 3-4 chapters a day and consider one application from those chapters. Recently it walked me through the book of Proverbs to see not just the do’s and don’ts, but rather the blessing of living under God’s authority and wisdom and helped me to love God more by living under authority.
  + We all need truth – some of us can handle more
    - If that is you – How abut joining a Faith Group to find the conviction of the truth in community with your church. If you want tyo know more, please see Pastor David
* So we rejoice in the gift of the Spirit
  + Because the Spirt convicts of sin, righteousness and judgement
  + Because the Spirit guides us in Truth
  + And because

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

* And though the work of Jesus on the cross is complete, the final fulfillment of His mission is yet to come…which is why Jesus said…

**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*.**

* We have seen that Jesus came to glorify the Father by doing exactly what the Father wanted.
  + Jesus tells us that he did not speak of his own initiative, but only as directed by the Father.
  + This is how Jesus could say that his words matched the Father’s and knowing Jesus was equivalent to knowing the Father.
  + Thus the Father is glorified in the Son
* The Spirit does something similar.
  + He takes from Jesus and works in such a way that Jesus receives glory.
  + The Spirit makes much of Christ
    - so that the unbeliever places his or her faith in Jesus,
    - and the believer becomes more in the image of Christ.
  + As you properly respond to the Spirit’s work in your life
    - He enables you to grow to be more like Christ
  + That would be the focus of our final application…
    - God could have decided to save us and take us
      * The result would be been a world where we say…
        + Hey, where did David go?
        + I heard He was convicted by the Spirit to believe in Jesus – you won’t see him anymore…
      * But he didn’t do it that way did he?
    - Instead, he decided to save us, give us His Spirit, and make us His representative designed to take His message to those around us
      * That is a significant task…
        + And one we would not consider ourselves qualified to do…
      * But we do that, we need not fear being called hypocritical…
        + It is true that the world will also convict us of our sin that remains because that is what they see
        + But as The Spirit convicts them of their sin, He is also guiding us to live according to the Truth and when they see that, it bring glory to our Savior.
      * We need not run and hide, but rather allow the Holy Spirit to make us more like Christ so that we might reflect His love and grace and in doing so – rejoice in bringing Him glory.

Please pray with me…

* That we would rejoice in the gift of the Spirit
* That we would be convicted by the Spirt and to pray from all in our community who still need to hear and respond to the gospel.
* That we would faithfully choose to go to God’s Word in devotion and for the wisdom of daily life
* So that we might more brightly reflect the light of Christ in this world

COMMUNION

* Are you thankful for the Spirit? I am.
* I would like us to conclude today by rejoicing and celebrating the things that had to happen so that the Spirit could come…
  + The Spirit could not come until Jesus ascended and returned to the right hand of the Father
  + Jesus could not ascend until he had completed the Father’s will.
  + That involved the cross.
* Therefore today, as the body of believers, we want to celebrate his death, burial and resurrection at the Lord’s table.
* There are a few things we do as a church that may seem like simple tradition – I want to echo what Pastor Green shared with Faith East to give you something to consider…
  + For quite some time now our practice has been silence during the passing of the bread and singing when we pass the cup. Let me explain how we think about that.
    - During the bread each of us have a chance to examine ourselves, to pray, and to confess what is needed. It can also be a time of commitment … commitment to live more faithfully.
    - During the cup we sing praising the Lord for his forgiveness, righteousness applied to our account, and thanking the Lord that we can worship him until he comes.
  + Each month, whether here at FN or at a CFN, I hope that this will help you to rejoice even more in celebrating the Lord’s table…
* I am going to ask that the worship team and some of the men of our church to assist me in serving our church family…
  + As they come forward…
    - We practice open communion.
      * That means you do not have to be a member of our church and you are invited to join us as long as two conditions are true.
        + You have a saving relationship with Jesus, that there is a definite time in your life when you came to believe that Jesus is Lord and
        + You have properly examined yourselves. Meaning that there is no unrepentant sin that remains to be addressed with the Lord or with others.
      * If these two things are true – you are welcome join us today
      * If this is not true, we invite you to simply allow the plates to pass and to pray and consider the work of the Spirit in your life.
  + To celebrate the Lord’s table – I take my direction from Paul’s teaching in the first letter to the Corinthians
  + READ 1 Cor 11:23-24a
    - Pray for Bread
  + READ 1 Cor 11:24b
    - Bread
  + READ 1 Cor 11 25a
    - Pray for Cup
  + READ 1 Cor 11:25b-26
    - Cup
* Pray and Dismiss.