

The Final Days of Jesus
HOLY SPIRIT 401
Saturday, March 21
Reading: John 16:12-22

John 16:13 *But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify Me because it is from Me that He will receive what He will make known to you.*

Jesus knew that His disciples were too overwhelmed with grief at His leaving to remember all the important things He was teaching. But He promised that the coming Holy Spirit would GUIDE THEM INTO ALL TRUTH (16:13). We often think the things “yet to come” are predictions of the future. But for these men everything was still future – the cross, the resurrection and ascension, the coming of the Spirit and the birth of the church. All these were yet future and the Spirit would help them understand what it all meant.

The Spirit would also GLORIFY CHRIST (16:14-15). Just as Christ revealed and glorified the Father, so the Spirit would reveal and glorify the Son. As Jesus pointed people to the Father, the Spirit points people to Christ. Jesus’ words that “all that belongs to the Father is mine” and “the Spirit will receive from Me what He will make known to you” are an expression of the unity of the Trinity. They work in perfect unison to reveal the Word of God to believers.

The disciples, however, seem to miss the importance of Jesus’ words. Their minds are stuck on the fact that Jesus is going away (16:16-19). Jesus informs them that their grief will be turned to joy; just as a mother forgets the pain of childbirth for joy over the birth of her child. After the resurrection, the disciples would see Christ and be filled with joy. This joy would come from the Spirit’s presence in their lives (Acts 13:52; Romans 14:17).

LESSON ONE: “He will Guide You into All the Truth.” For the apostles, this was a promise that the Holy Spirit would inspire them as they wrote the New Testament and planted the church. For us today, the Spirit guides us as we study God’s Word and helps us understand and apply it to our lives. How have you applied God’s Word to your life recently? In what ways is the Spirit using the Word to shape and direct your life?

LESSON TWO: “He Will Glorify Me.” The Holy Spirit does not draw attention to Himself. He always points people to Christ. That is an issue in some churches today. They put a heavy emphasis on the Holy Spirit when the primary emphasis should be on Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is not “showy” or “entertaining.” Just as He points people to Christ, so we should always give Christ the glory. We should never be the focus of attention. Jesus must be “front and center” in everything we do. Do people see Jesus when they look at you?