

Sunday Morning Message

January 22, 2022

Title – *Preparing the Disciples – Continued Cautions and Comfort*

Text – John 16:1 - 15

Congregational Reading – John 16:7 - 11

Introduction

We are still in the same geographical and chronological context here in chapter sixteen as we were in the previous chapter. Jesus is either in the Upper Room still with all His disciples except Judas who had already left to betray the Lord, or He is somewhere with His disciples outside of the Upper Room after the Supper. This is after the Last Supper and before His entrance into the Garden of Gethsemane. Sometimes, this is called the “Upper Room Discourse. Others call it the Farewell Discourse.

In chapter sixteen, Jesus is continuing to prepare the disciples for what is coming for them as they serve God in a world without His physical presence. Jesus is just a day away from the crucifixion, and even though He would rise from the dead a short time later, He would still only be with them on the earth for a few weeks, and then He would ascend into Heaven. So far, the focus of the world’s wrath had been of Jesus, but when He leaves their attention would be placed upon His disciples. John’s gospel is unique from the other three in that it provides us with these long discussions, or discourses, that Jesus had with His disciples just prior to His crucifixion.

Preaching Point – People need to be prepared for the negative and uncomfortable aspects of the Christian life. Sometimes when we witness to people about the Lord, we paint an incorrect picture where everything in our lives is just “hunky dory” after we trust Christ as Saviour and become Christians. That is simply not the truth. Christians still have many of the same problems that the lost world experiences, but they also have the added problem of being hated by the devil as well as well as the world around them because of their association with Christ.

"12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." (2 Timothy 3:12)

Transition

In the first half of chapter sixteen, Jesus will give the twelve, and through their testimony, give us, both cautions and comforts regarding living for Him in this world.

- I. **The Caution - The World Will Hate You (vs. 1 – 6; see also 15:18 - 25)**

"1 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended." (John 16:1)

The word, "offended" is σκανδαλισθήτε from σκανδαλίζω – *skandalizō*, which is where we get the word, "scandalize." We use the word scandalize today about someone who has done something very wrong. It causes a scandal.

Illustrate - In the news we hear of scandals all the time. If someone embezzles money or cheats on their spouse, it becomes a scandal.

The Bible is using this word, "scandalize," here as a passive verb. Jesus is saying that he didn't want these disciples to be scandalized because of their discouragement from the attacks that the world was going to launch against them. He did not want them to be taken by surprise. He was forewarning them so that they would not fall away into sin.

2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service." (John 16:2)

They would be kicked out of the synagogues, removed from the very center of their social and religious culture. In the early days of Christianity, these Jewish believers were still connected with Judaism. They would go to synagogue of Saturday and then worship the Lord Jesus together on the first day of the week. The Jews would eventually force them to either give up their Jesus, or give up the synagogue, Judaism, and in many cases, their family and friends.

"3 And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me." (John 16:3)

The lost world will hate them because they cannot understand them. They did not ever truly know God, though they were religious. True believers in Judaism could easily see that Christ is God. God Himself would give them the inner peace and assurance that Christ was indeed the Messiah that they had been waiting for.

"14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Corinthians 2:14)

"3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)

People today are the same way. If they really want to know the truth about God, He will reveal it to them. But most people do not want to know the truth:

"19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." (John 3:19)

"4 But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you. 5 But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou? 6 But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart." (John 16:4-6)

Jesus is not trying to discourage these young disciples, He is trying to keep them from becoming overcome with discouragement because of all the bad stuff that is coming their way in the future.

Up until now it has been the Lord that has taken all the heat. The world has aimed all their venom directly at Him; but, when the Lord departs, the world will turn their hatred toward the followers of Christ.

Even, when the Lord is crucified, the disciples are not immediately persecuted or arrested. Eventually, however the true disciple of Christ will experience the hatred of the world. If the world loves you, it is probably because you have compromised in your love and stand for the Truth and have assimilated or blended in well with this world. In short, you are not living as dedicated and surrendered as you should be to the cause of Christ.

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12).

"Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets." - (Luke 6:26)

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." - (1 John 2:15-17)

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." - (James 4:4)

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." - (Romans 12:1-2)

Now, if you and I are standing for the Truth, and we are bearing fruit, the world is going to hate us. And because the world outside is going to hate us, we are going to need some friends inside of the church. That is why Jesus spent so much time in this “Upper Room Discourse” emphasizing the love that we need to have for each other within the Body of Christ.

Jesus commands them to love one another (15:12; 17). It is a shame that He must command us to love each other.

"12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. ... 17 These things I command you, that ye love one another." (John 15:12, 17)

Jesus is saying, “I won’t be here much longer fellas – you are going to have to work together as a team – you need each other”

"Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you. A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." - (John 13:33-35)

"Be kindly affectioned one to another" (Romans 12:10).

"Forbearing one another in love. Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace". (Ephesians 4:2 - 3)

"Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another" (Ephesians 4:32).

"If any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye" (Colossians 3:13).

"See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently" (1 Peter 1:22).

"Love the brotherhood" (1 Peter 2:17).

"And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves" (1 Peter 4:8).

"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous" (1 Peter 3:8).

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." - (Ephesians 4:29)

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" - (Psalm 133:1)

Notice that Jesus is telling them all of this so they would not be offended. In other words, He didn't want them to be taken by surprise. He didn't want them to get tripped up. He didn't want any of them to leave what they knew to be true because of the discouragement that was going to come through the world.

It is hard to live for God in this world – the devil hates you – the world is against you – and your flesh is warring from within – let's cut each other a break. Let's work hard at loving each other. Let's give each other the benefit of the doubt.

Preaching Point – As you draw nearer to Christ and as the world pulls away from God, there is going to be a widening rift, a “great gulf fixed,” between you and it. Tensions will increase between the world and us. It is going to be less and less enjoyable to be out in the world. That is why we are going to have to draw closer to each other within our own families and within the church. We are going to need each other's love and support.

II. The Comfort - The Spirit Will Help You (vs. 7 – 15)

"7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

Jesus has been hammering away at this throughout this discourse. He has been telling them that He will be leaving them but that He will also be sending to them the Comforter – the Holy Spirit of God to help them to get through the difficult days that were in their future.

See also John 14:15 – 18; 25 – 26; 15:26 – 27

8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

Notice here that the Holy Spirit convinces the world or convicts the world because of their unbelief. That is the sin that sends people to Hell. It is not all the individual bad things that we do. It is our rejection of Christ and His payment for our sins.

10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. 12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. 15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you." (John 16:7-15)

There is a lot that we can learn about the Holy Spirit from John, chapters 14 – 16:

1. He lives with us and in us.
2. He will teach us all things and will help us to remember what we have learned. He will guide us into all truth.

This is why the world does not and cannot understand spiritual things, like Bible doctrine, because they have not the Spirit.

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." - (1 Corinthians 2:14)

3. He will testify of Christ – in fact, He will point people to Christ and not to Himself. He will glorify Christ.
4. He will reprove (convict or convince) the world of sin, of righteousness, and judgment.
5. He will teach us about the future.

We know also from other passages in the New Testament that He also:

6. He can be grieved

"30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."
(Ephesians 4:30)

7. He can be quenched - *"19 Quench not the Spirit."* (1 Thessalonians 5:19)
8. He can be resisted

"51b ... ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye." (Acts 7:51)

9. He is restraining the evil in the world. (2 Thessalonians 2:7)

Conclusion

Does the Holy Spirit live within you? Are you a believer? If you are here today and you are not yet a believer, is the Holy Spirit of God speaking to you today, is He drawing you to be saved, to become a follower of Christ. Don't resist the Spirit and what He is trying to do in your life.

Maybe you are already a believer, but you are quenching Him by not allowing Him to use you to reach others. Maybe you are grieving Him because you are not allowing Him to control your life. Why not heed the Spirit's call today and surrender to Him.