

The Gospel of John Pt. 25

John 16:5-33

Big Idea

God is a promise keeping God. Jesus promises here promises the Holy Spirit, the resurrection, and to respond to our prayers.

Exposition – John 16:5-33

As Jesus and the disciples continue to the Mount of Olives, Jesus continues to teach. Three vital doctrines are outlined: the Holy Spirit, the Resurrection, and prayer.

1. The Promise of the Holy Spirit (V5-15)

A. (V5-6) – Jesus had mentioned His departure and His destination earlier (13:36;14:5). But, upon the mention of Jesus’ death, the disciples were consumed with grief and failed to actually pursue His destination.

B. (V7-11) – Jesus again tells of the coming of the “Helper”. In an attempt to assuage their grief, Jesus tells them that this transaction is actually better for the disciples than if He remained. The pouring forth of the Holy Spirit was approximately 42 days away at this point.

Jesus tells that the Spirit would convict the world on three topics. The word convict here should be understood as synonymous with “Convince”. The Holy Spirit’s role is not condemnation, but rather conviction of the need for Jesus.

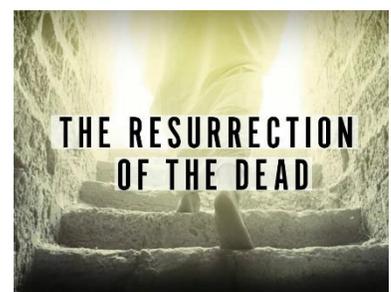
1. Sin – In the original language the word “*sin*” is understood to be singular. There is only one sin that ultimately condemns a person to eternal punishment – the refusal to believe on Jesus and His works.
2. Righteousness – During Jesus’ earthly ministry He revealed the proclaimed self-righteousness of the Pharisees and others. Upon His ascension, the Holy Spirit will resume that work.
3. Judgment – Of the three topics that the Spirit will convict people of, this one is the more difficult to interpret. What exactly does Jesus refer to here? MacArthur says, “The judgment here in context is that of the world under Satan’s control. Its judgments are blind, faulty, and evil as evidenced in their verdict on Christ. The world cannot make righteous judgments (7:24), but the Spirit of Christ does (8:16)”

C. (V12-15) – V12 tells us that the disciples cannot bear to hear all that Jesus has to say to them at this time so the Holy Spirit will accomplish this when He comes. This does beg the question of why the disciples could not bear what Jesus had to say. Was it an issue of too little time? Was it that they were not emotionally prepared to listen with understanding? Maybe a combination of several reasons. Several key doctrines are outlined in the following verses:

1. V13 – Supernatural revelation of truth (including the writing of the New Testament)
2. V14-15 – The unity of the Trinity. Additionally, the centrality & preeminence of Jesus Christ.

2. The Promise of the Resurrection (V16-22)

A. (V16-19) – Jesus’ word play in V16 causes the disciples to converse about His intentions. Jesus refers to His ascension to the Father – “you will no longer see Me” and then He refers to the arrival of the Holy Spirit – “and you will see me”. It is by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that the disciples see Jesus the second time.



- B. (V20-22) – Jesus uses the metaphor of a mother giving birth to a baby to describe the anguish that precedes joy. We are seeing the anguish of His death at this point in the narrative and will later see the joy of the arrival of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:4-47; 13:52)

3. Future Warning (V23-33)

- A. (V23) – “in that day” is a reference to Pentecost when the Spirit is given in its fullness. This begins the “last days” era (2 Tim 3:1; Heb 1:2; James 5:3; 2 Pet 3:3; 1 Jn 2:18).
- B. (V24) – Answered prayers bring joy.
- C. (V25) – Jesus tells that He has been using figurative language that was sometimes hard to understand. But, these things would become more clear after His resurrection. We know this is true for the disciples by the way they become impassioned and emboldened after the resurrection and especially at Pentecost.
- D. (V26-28) – These verses can be difficult to understand. The phrase “I do not say” is meant to begin a clarification of the previous verses. Jesus explains what He meant by praying in His name to the Father changed the way the Father felt about them. God is not indifferent to Jesus’ followers and Jesus makes that clear. The Father loves Jesus’ disciples because they love Jesus and have believed that He came from the Father.
- E. (V29-30) – The disciples note the transition from figures of speech to literal language on Jesus’ part. This helped the disciples to see that Jesus was who He said He was.
- F. (V31-33) – Jesus tells of the scattering of the disciples to come, but He points out that even when they do scatter He will have the presence of the Father to comfort and strengthen Him. All of the promises that Jesus has spoken to them are intended to give them peace. We often see these exchanges as informational, but when God communicates with us, He always has more in mind than just the transfer of information.

