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**The Spirit's Advantage**

**John 16.5-15**

**Series: Signs of Life**

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**I. Misplaced Sorrow**

- A. Sometimes we're not on the same page emotionally
- B. There's a church in the area that uses its church sign to display catchy sayings that are designed to arrest one's attention while driving by and perhaps to get someone thinking
  - 1. Now, it's not my style to use a church sign that way
    - a. But they do; and like everybody else – I read them while driving by
    - b. So far, none of the sayings has arrested my attention enough to cause an accident
    - c. But some of them are memorable
  - 2. One of them recently reminded me of how often human beings are not on the same page emotionally
    - a. "At birth, family laughed; I cried..."
    - b. "At death, I laughed; family cried..."
  - 3. Same event – two opposite emotional responses
- C. We are in the Gospel of John in the Upper Room Discourse
  - 1. And as Jesus teaches His inner circle of disciples – the eleven at this point, Judas Iscariot having left to betray Him
    - a. It becomes clear that they are not on the same page emotionally
  - 2. **John 16:5-7** (NASB95) —
    - a. 5 "But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?'"
    - b. 6 "But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.
    - c. 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.
  - 3. Jesus has told them that He's leaving them
    - a. And their natural human response to such leaving is like losing a beloved family member to death
    - b. They are grief-stricken; they are overcome by sorrow
  - 4. But Jesus, all throughout this discourse, beginning all the way back in Chapter 14
    - a. Has told them some extraordinarily good news
    - b. He has told them that when He goes He will send them an amazing gift

- c. The gift of the Holy Spirit
    - d. The very Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ Himself
    - e. Coming to dwell in them; to live in them
    - f. Strengthening them; comforting them
    - g. Motivating them; influencing them
    - h. Teaching them; sanctifying them
  - 5. He's giving them Jesus
    - a. Not just to be with them
    - b. But to live in them
  - 6. Astonishing!
    - a. Amazing good news
- D. So why are they so bummed? Why so sorrowful?
  - 1. Clearly, the disciples are not on the same page emotionally as Jesus would have them
- E. From time to time we have to correct our own emotions to bring them in line with the facts as God sees them
  - 1. Psalms
    - a. **Psalm 42:5** (NASB95) — 5 Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him For the help of His presence.
    - b. **Psalm 42:11** (**Psalm 43.5**; NASB95) — 11 Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.
  - 2. It's time we got on the same page emotionally with God
- F. To be sure, Jesus has told His disciples some hard things
  - 1. Most recently He has brought to their attention the inherent hatred of the world
    - a. Toward followers of Jesus
    - b. And toward Jesus Himself
  - 2. But very often, it is in the context of the most difficult occasions, the most challenging circumstances
    - a. That God delivers the best news; the choicest gifts
  - 3. Think of it this way
    - a. What is worse than the most perfect Being of all time, tortured and murdered unjustly by wicked human beings?
    - b. What is better than the eternal redemption provided through the death of that very God-man, the eternally begotten Son of God?
  - 4. Jewelers place their diamonds against a backdrop of black velvet
    - a. So the beauty and radiance of its glory stand out
  - 5. Jesus, over and over again, shows us the best gifts against the backdrop of clouds of darkness
- G. So after speaking to them about the hatred of the world
  - 1. He once again describes the gift of the Holy Spirit
    - a. In a passage that is the most extensive description of the person and

work of the Spirit in this portion of John

II. Text

A. **John 16:7–15** (NASB95) —

1. 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.
2. 8 “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;
3. 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;
4. 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;
5. 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.
6. 12 “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.
7. 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.
8. 14 “He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.
9. 15 “All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

III. **The Spirit’s Advantage**

A. “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.”

1. It is better for Jesus to have gone from them than if He had stayed
  - a. Why?
  - b. Because He would send them the Helper – the Holy Spirit
  - c. As we saw last week – the paraclete
  - d. Kletos – to call
  - e. Para – beside
  - f. **Paracletos – the One who is called along beside**

B. A couple of interesting observations to get us started

1. He has just finished describing the hatred of the world for Christ and for Christians
  - a. But the gift of the Holy Spirit has benefits
  - b. Both for Christians
  - c. And for the world!
2. Jesus has just exposed the world for what it is – the anti-God system of values, dispositions and behavior
  - a. And you might expect that Jesus would be ready to completely write off the world and cast the whole operation into the dust bin of history
3. But He doesn’t do that
  - a. He sends the Holy Spirit
  - b. With clear advantages for believers

- c. But also, with a ministry to the world
- C. **For the World**
1. **John 16:8** (NASB95) — 8 “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...”
    - a. You might think, based on what Jesus has just told the disciples about the world, that this means that the Holy Spirit is coming along with a great big, cosmic “I told you so” as He consigns the world to an eternity of destruction
    - b. But I don’t think that’s the case
    - c. Because God’s ultimate plan is redemption – redemption of the world
    - d. **2 Corinthians 5:19** (NASB95) — 19 ... God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.
    - e. How is God doing that?
    - f. He’s doing that by the ministry of the Holy Spirit
  2. **Sin**
    - a. **John 16:8** (NASB95) — 8 “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;”
    - b. **John 16:9** (NASB95) — 9 “concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;”
    - c. The world is filled with sin; sin comes in all shapes and sizes; all categories and kinds
    - d. **Galatians 5:19–21** (NASB95) — 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these...
    - e. Things like these – multiply lists of sins – all of which deserve the judgment of God
    - f. And certainly, every member of the human race needs to recognize whatever sins apply to him or her – to be convicted of them, and to repent of them
    - g. But even if a person repented of every known sin taken from the Bible’s lists of sins – that would not save anyone
    - h. There is one overarching sin, of which the Spirit of God seeks to convict the world
    - i. One sin which is the key to the salvation of anyone and everyone
    - j. **“Concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me”**
    - k. That primordial sin is that the world will not believe in Jesus; will not trust in the person and work of Jesus; will not submit to Jesus
    - l. The world might be convinced of the dangers of idolatry, of strifes, of anger, of drunkenness – and might try to rectify itself
    - m. But the world can’t stand the thought of submitting to Jesus Christ

- n. The world is too sophisticated to believe in Jesus
  - o. The world is too refined to believe in Jesus
  - p. The world is too intellectually cultivated to believe in Jesus
  - q. The world is too proud to believe in Jesus
  - r. And without the Holy Spirit, the world would never turn to Jesus
  - s. The world would never believe in Jesus and be saved
  - t. The story of the Philippian jailer in Acts 16 is a case in point
  - u. Remember how Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns in prison; an earthquake happened, their chains fell off; prison doors opened
  - v. Jailer was about ready to kill himself when Paul and Silas stopped him and said all the prisoners were still there
  - w. Jailer: "What must I do to be saved?"
  - x. Paul and Silas: "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved"
  - y. They didn't require the jailer to identify every last sin he could name and repent of each one
  - z. No! Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved!
  - aa. That could only happen by the Holy Spirit
  - bb. Day of Pentecost – Peter preaches a great sermon after the Holy Spirit had been given – the fulfillment of what Jesus promises right here in John 16
  - cc. **Acts 2:37** (NASB95) — 37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"
  - dd. Now the day before Pentecost, before the Holy Spirit was given, Peter could have preached that very same sermon – nothing would have happened
  - ee. But when the Holy Spirit was given, the people were pierced to the heart
  - ff. What's that?
  - gg. Conviction of the Holy Spirit of sin
  - hh. 3,000 were saved that day because the Holy Spirit convicted them of sin, and they believed in Jesus, and were baptized
3. **Righteousness**
- a. **John 16:8** (NASB95) — 8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;"
  - b. **John 16:10** (NASB95) — 10 "and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;"
  - c. Everybody in the world knows that some people are more righteous than others
  - d. Even the world has a sense of right and wrong
  - e. Often the world's understanding of right and wrong are convoluted, confused
  - f. But the world continues to know certain things are right and certain things are wrong – even when they don't see those very things in

themselves!

- g. But the world never knew true righteousness until Jesus showed up
- h. And then every pretense of worldly righteousness was shown to be a pathetic attempt at virtue
- i. And as Isaiah said, “All our righteous acts are as filthy rags”
- j. Peter, encountering the righteousness of Christ, cries out, “Depart from me for I am a sinful man”
- k. The world’s pretense at virtue dissolves in the presence of the Righteous One – Jesus Christ, the eternally begotten Son of God
- l. But now Jesus is leaving
- m. “Because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me...”
- n. How will the world know true righteousness?
- o. How will the world know where to find the righteousness it so desperately needs?
- p. Through the Holy Spirit
- q. The Holy Spirit will convict the world of righteousness
- r. The Holy Spirit will show what true righteousness is all about – and how far short the best attempts at human righteousness fall
- s. The Holy Spirit will also show where true righteousness can be found – through faith in Jesus Christ
- t. So that believing in Jesus will be credited to them as righteousness
- u. Only the Holy Spirit can do that

4. **Judgment**

- a. **John 16:8** (NASB95) — 8 “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;”
- b. **John 16:11** (NASB95) — 11 “and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”
- c. The world merrily coasts through life without any sense that there is an accounting; that God will hold anyone responsible for the world’s rebellion; that God will judge the world’s sin
- d. The world is engaged in the grandest form of procrastination imaginable
- e. It pretends that it can go along endlessly rejecting the reign and rule of Almighty God
- f. But when Jesus goes to the cross, and when He is raised from the dead – the ruler of this world is thereby judged
- g. The ruler of this world is sentenced finally to the Lake of Fire
- h. And that will be his final destiny
- i. And he will take with him everyone who has cast his or her lot with the enemy of our souls instead of the Savior Jesus Christ
- j. And who will convict the world that their time is short, that their leash is about to be yanked, that the judgment is real and inevitable?
- k. And that if they do not cast themselves on the mercy of Jesus Christ, they will join Satan in an eternity of destruction?
- l. It is the Holy Spirit who will convict the world of judgment

- m. And the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the evidence used
  - 5. **John 16:8** (NASB95) — 8 “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...”
    - a. God has not written off the anti-God civilization with its rebellious values, dispositions and behavior
    - b. No! He has sent the Holy Spirit to convict the world
    - c. Of the sin of not believing in Jesus
    - d. Of the nature of true righteousness in Jesus and where to find it
    - e. Of the inevitable judgment of all those who reject Jesus
    - f. Why?
    - g. Because God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself
  - 6. That’s the Holy Spirit’s ministry to the world
    - a. And by the way – the Holy Spirit does that convicting – of sin, righteousness and judgment – much better than we do
    - b. We Christians are poor substitutes for the Holy Spirit
    - c. We don’t do a very good job of convicting the world of sin because we’re sinners
    - d. We don’t do a very good job of convicting the world of righteousness because we’re not righteous, and we are no substitute for Jesus in His glorious righteousness
    - e. We don’t do a very good job of convicting the world of judgment because we deserve judgment ourselves
    - f. So if you have friends and acquaintances who are unbelievers, who need to be convicted – better to pray first, and speak later
    - g. Because we cannot convict the world of anything
    - h. The Holy Spirit must do the convicting!
- D. **For The Church**
- 1. But then there is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the Church
    - a. And it is a remarkable gift
    - b. Jesus may have even saved the best for last!
    - c. **John 16:13** (NASB95) — 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...”
  - 2. **Guide to the Truth**
    - a. “He will guide you into all the truth”
    - b. “The truth” – not just truth in general, but in a distinct body of doctrinal truth
    - c. The truth about who God is; about who Christ is
    - d. The truth about who we are as human beings
    - e. The truth about who we are sinful human beings
    - f. The truth about what Jesus has done in his life, death and resurrection
    - g. The truth about the salvation God has provided in Jesus Christ
    - h. The truth about how God in Christ has provided true righteousness for all those who believe in Him

- i. The truth about how faith in the means by which we have that true righteousness applied to our accounts
- j. The truth about how Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, enables us to grow in grace and holiness – how He sanctifies us
- k. The fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith
  - l. Those are what Jesus has in mind by, not just “truth” but “the truth”

3. **Guide to the Future**

- a. **John 16:13** (NASB95) — 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.”
- b. What will the future hold?
- c. The Spirit of God will reveal it to you
- d. The Spirit of God will show what will happen in the end
- e. The Spirit of God will reveal the destiny of those who are unalterably opposed to God
- f. The Spirit of God will describe the destiny of the enemy of our souls
- g. The Spirit of God will encourage the church with the knowledge of the glories of eternity in the presence of the Savior
- h. The Spirit of God will describe the nature of the eternal state with all of its love and felicity and delight in the presence of the Holy One, the One who is love

4. **Guide to Christ**

- a. **John 16:14** (NASB95) — 14 “He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.”
- b. **John 14:26** (NASB95) — 26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”
- c. The Holy Spirit will recount the life and ministry of Jesus Christ to the church, to believers
- d. The Holy Spirit will remind us of all the teaching of Jesus
- e. Of all the things that Jesus taught in this Upper Room Discourse
- f. But also of all the things that Jesus taught the crowds of people as He wandered throughout Judea and Galilee and even in Samaria
- g. All of those things will be produced by the Holy Spirit
- h. For the church!
- i. Guide to the truth
- j. Guide to the future
- k. Guide to Christ

5. **The Fulfillment – the New Testament!**

- a. But you know, the Holy Spirit has already done that
- b. This promise has already been fulfilled
- c. How so?



- d. Everything that is promised in these verses is fulfilled in the NT
  - e. Jesus here prophesies that the NT is the work of the Holy Spirit
  - f. **Ephesians 3:1–5** (NASB95) — 1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— 2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace which was given to me for you; 3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. 4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit...
  - g. The Holy Spirit has made known to Paul – and to all the apostles – the mystery of the gospel
  - h. And that knowledge has been inscripturated in the NT
  - i. Peter recognized that – he counts Paul’s writings as scripture, just as much as all the other parts of biblical revelation
  - j. Guide to Christ – the gospels are the written record of the life and ministry of Christ
  - k. Guide to “the truth” – to the body of doctrine – defining the meaning of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ – the epistles of Paul, of John, of Peter are the work ultimately of the Holy Spirit and are scripture
  - l. Guide to the future – to what is to come; described in Jesus’ teaching about the future in passages like Matthew 24 and 25; in epistles like 1 Corinthians 15 and 1 and 2 Thessalonians; and of course in the book of Revelation
6. The Holy Spirit is the incredible gift to the church in more ways than we have time to recount this morning
- a. But just know that the Bible that we have – OT and NT – are the work of the Spirit of God
  - b. NT
  - c. Guide to “the truth”
  - d. Guide to the future
  - e. Guide to Christ

#### IV. **The Spirit’s Privilege**

- A. Do you realize what a privilege this is to receive the ministry of the Holy Spirit?
- B. **John 16:15** (NASB95) — 15 “All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He [the Holy Spirit] takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.”
- C. The Triune Gift – the gift of the Trinity to the church
  - 1. In which all that the Father has, He shares with His Son
  - 2. And all that the Father has shared with His Son, the Holy Spirit takes and discloses
  - 3. Discloses to whom?
    - a. To a group of super-Christians called saints?

- b. To a specialized category of clergy?
  - 4. No!
    - a. He, the Holy Spirit, discloses all that the Father gives to the Son to the church
    - b. To you and to me!
  - 5. He does it in the scripture
    - a. He does it in the indwelling Christ
    - b. He does it by living in us
- D. What an incredible privilege!
  - 1. Why are you sorrowful?
  - 2. Psalm 42:11 (NASB95) —
    - a. 11 Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me?
    - b. Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him,
    - c. The help of my countenance and my God.
  - 3. What the Psalmist could only dream about – you and I now have!