

SEEING JESUS IN JOHN

WEEK THIRTY-FOUR: JESUS EXPLAINS THE HOLY SPIRIT

READING

5 “But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. 6 Instead, you grieve because of what I’ve told you. 7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment. 9 The world’s sin is that it refuses to believe in me. 10 Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. 11 Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged. 12 “There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. 14 He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, ‘The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.’ John 16 (NLT)

TEACHING

Jesus shocks his friends here. He tells them there is something better than him being with them. What could possibly be better than having Jesus with us? According to Jesus, the answer is: Having the Holy Spirit within us! Jesus knew his followers needed the very Spirit of God within each and every one of them, leading them and guiding them. Jesus says that the Holy Spirit, our Advocate, will help us understand the nature of our sin, the nature of God’s righteousness, and the nature of the coming judgement. On our own, we would misunderstand sin, righteousness and judgement. Let’s look at each of those three words.

1) **Sin.** Jesus says that sin is because we refuse to believe in him. We tend to think that sin is when we don’t behave like Jesus. And while that’s true, the problem of sin is deeper than behavior. Sin is not believing in Jesus; sin is not receiving Jesus as he is and receiving what Jesus has done for us.

2) **Righteousness.** While Jesus showed us what perfect righteousness looks like, we can’t be perfect like he was. The Holy Spirit helps us know that our only hope for righteousness is in being hidden in Christ and not hidden in our own efforts and good works.

3) **Judgment.** It is easy for us to believe that the battle we are fighting against evil hinges on what we can do. But the battle has already been won. The ruler of this world – our great enemy – has already been judged. The Spirit encourages our hearts to live in that freedom and victory and to fight from a place of faith, not fear.

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RESPONSE

OPENING QUESTION(S):

- What is something you used to believe that you now know was wrong?

TODDLERS/PRE-K:

- Who did Jesus promise to send to his friends?
- Has Jesus already won the battle against evil?

CHILDREN:

- Who did Jesus promise to send to his friends?
- Why is having the Holy Spirit within us even better than having Jesus with us?
- How does the Holy Spirit help us understand sin? (*Parents, you may need to help – the relationship (and difference) between belief and behavior is important!*)

TEENAGERS:

- Why is having the Holy Spirit within us even better than having Jesus with us?
- How does the Holy Spirit help us understand sin?
- How does the Holy Spirit help us understand righteousness?

ADULTS:

- How does the Holy Spirit change our understanding of sin, righteousness and judgment?
- How can your life more resemble the victory that is yours in Jesus?

PRAYER

God, thank you for the Holy Spirit. Thank you that the Holy Spirit was sent to live within every person who trusts in Jesus. Holy Spirit, thank you for being a faithful helper. Thank you for giving me the desires to love and serve God and others. Thank you for convicting me of my sin and not leaving me lost in my unbelief. Thank you for leading me to Jesus, my perfect righteousness. And thank you for reminding my heart that the battle has been won. Help me to be more aware of your voice and leading in my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

NEXT LEVEL (ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL TEACHING)

This text provides us with a beautiful glimpse of the Trinity and some understanding of how the three persons of the Godhead relate to one another. There is a unified heart, unified mind, and a joyful embracing of specific roles and responsibilities. No one person of the Godhead speaks apart from the others. The Spirit glorifies the Son and the Son glorifies the Father. When we give glory to God, we have the amazing privilege and joy of joining in the never ceasing work of the Trinity.