

The Greatest Advocate of All Time

John 15:26-16:15

vs. 26-27, Counselor, the Spirit of truth.
He will testify about me.
You will testify about me.

The imagery that starts to rise to the surface is judicial.

- The Spirit and the disciples are Jesus' witness.
- The world consistently accuses the followers of Jesus.
- Jesus himself experienced this scrutiny.

Remember: 9:13-34,
Giving the reader insight into the Jewish concept of court.

vs. 1, Stumbling
Does this offend you?
Does this scandalize you?
Will this teaching cause you to fall away?

Remember: 6:53-61, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves...Does this offend you?

To gnaw -> John is emphasizing the realism of the Lord's supper (eucharist). Our hunger is satisfied and our thirst is quenched by Jesus' death.

vs. 2-3, Expulsion and Martyrdom
• They will ban you from the synagogues (Chap. 9).

John 9:33-34 If this man were not from God, he wouldn't be able to do anything." **34** "You were born entirely in sin," they replied, "and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out.

- Twisted justification

vs. 4, I want you to be prepared. I do not want you to lose hope.
vs. 5-6, From confusion to sorrow.

Remember: 14:5, How can we know the way? (Thomas)

vs. 7-11, The Spirit as Counselor (described in legal terminology)
Convict, righteousness, and judgement

As Counselor (Helper) the Spirit is the one who speaks up for the defense before the accusers.

- The Spirit is an advocate for Jesus followers toward the world (vs. 7-11).
- The Spirit is an advocate for Jesus followers toward the community (vs. 12-15).

Remember: 7:9, 8:59, The religious leaders have repeatedly been making false judgments concerning Jesus.

- Only Jesus has the ability to send the Holy Spirit.
- The presence of the Holy Spirit in the people of God will testify to the truth of Jesus and the necessity of remaining in him.
- The Holy Spirit will expose the deceit of the world.

The darkness will be exposed to the light in three ways.

1. The world is wrong concerning sin. The world's obsession with self is far greater than its willingness to listen to Jesus.
2. The world is wrong concerning justice. Justice takes place through Jesus. All who remain in Jesus are filled with hope!
 - **Daniel 7:27** The kingdom, dominion, and greatness of the kingdoms under all of heaven will be given to the people, the holy ones of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will serve and obey him.'
 - **Romans 5:1-5** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **2** We have also obtained access through him by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we boast in the hope of the glory of God. **3** And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, **4** endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. **5** This hope will not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
3. The world is wrong at who to blame. The evil that keeps humanity enslaved has been condemned. The power of sin and death has been broken.

Side Note: Johannine irony

The world is arrogant and under the impression that it is the judge, putting Jesus followers on trial.

In reality -> It is the world that is on trial. It is the accusers who will be prosecuted by the Advocate.

Satan was convinced he had won. Ignoring the declaration of justice that God spoke to him in the garden (Genesis 3:15).

Your head will be crushed!

Original audience: The justice of the judges' sentences reflected on themselves no less than on the accused.

vs. 12-15, The Spirit as guide to all truth.

The Spirit -> "teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you" (14:26).

The Spirit -> will continue to unveil the truth and declare to you the things that are to come (16:13).

This doesn't mean the Spirit is bringing new revelation but rather the fullness of the revelation of Jesus.

vs. 14-15, He will take what is mine and declare it to you.

You have a bold and secure witness!!

Joshua 1:9 Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

John 16:33 I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world."

All of God's promises are yes in Jesus.

- **Jeremiah 50:34** Their Redeemer is strong; the Lord of Armies is his name. He will fervently champion their cause so that he might bring rest to the earth but turmoil to those who live in Babylon.
- **Jeremiah 51:36** Therefore, this is what the Lord says: I am about to champion your cause and take vengeance on your behalf; I will dry up her sea and make her fountain run dry.

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Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, **2** keeping our eyes on Jesus,^[a] the pioneer and perfecter^[b] of our faith. For the joy that lay before him,^[c] he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

We must not allow the world to convince us that we can pick and choose. All are essential to a vibrant life in Christ!