

Don't Miss the Forest for the Trees

John 16:7-14

- If you are a believer, then surely by now you know how much the Lord values the journey in each and every one of our lives.
- The journey is what is supposed to prune us for our destination which I hope for everyone in this room means to spend eternity with our Savior Jesus Christ.
- Most of us are familiar with some sort of weight loss journey and whether you succeeded in that or not you felt the difficulty of that process.
- And if you were the one to succeed and met your goal then there are habits and safeguards that you have permanently made a part of your life so that the journey would not be wasted.
- Speaking of journeys, there are several of us that fasted in January. (Tell story of my first ever fast...) That's gotta be a world record for worst attempt at a fast.
- But for tonight, I wanted to talk with you a little bit of what I fasted for this past January and why I did it.

John 16:7-14 (ESV)

⁷ Nevertheless, 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. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will

glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

- So what Jesus is speaking here is the foundational basis of the Holy Spirit that is to serve as a launching pad into the deeper things of the Spirit and into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.
- We also see how precious and fragile the handling of the Holy Spirit is and the responsibility to do so.
- I never was really taught this growing up. My mom did an exceptional job raising me and pointing me to Christ but really was never exposed to the nature of the Holy Spirit.
- And honestly, I was thankful because every time I saw the "Holy Spirit" on someone it was weird.
- I remember going to a friend's church when I was in high school just so I could see people run around like a track meet, fall out everywhere, throw jackets on people, and in the middle of all that they wanted to welcome all of the first time guests to their service.
- **But then I came here** where the Holy Spirit is focused on as not just some prop but in a way that makes sense inside of the normal Christian life if it is used and executed properly.
- So, my fast in this past month was to be more sensitive to the Holy Spirit and I felt like the Lord brought me to this passage and kept me here and wanted to me to fully grasp and understand how Jesus described the helper.
- The first thing that the Lord taught me from this passage that is applicable to every believer is that.....
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1. Christians must be AWAKENED to the Holy Spirit

- When we give our life to Jesus the Bible says that we are given the Holy Spirit. You have it and I have it.

Romans 8:16 (ESV)

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...

- This was a normal teaching for me growing but this is as far as it went.
- For the majority of my life I have not realized how incredible of a blessing this is simply being awakened to the Holy Spirit.

John 16:7 (ESV)

Nevertheless, 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.

- Jesus says from his own mouth that the Holy Spirit in us is better than if Jesus was here right beside us.
- We see clearly that Christians must be awakened to the Holy Spirit and to the importance of. Now there comes a time when that awakening must turn to a sensitivity.

2. Christians must be SENSITIVE to the Holy Spirit**John 16:8-11 (ESV)**

⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

- This is the fundamental action set apart for the Holy Spirit and if this is missing in your life then you have built no foundation for the Holy Spirit to be in your life.
- I promise you I am going somewhere with this.

- This section of verses says that we must be in areas of....

- Sin** - specifically unbelief. It is the Holy Spirit that exposes unbelief and drives people to know God rather than just simply living a good moral life. There are people right now that are stopping bad habits that are still lost and headed for an eternity separated from God because they do not know him.
- Righteousness** - not ours but Christ's righteousness. The Holy Spirit reveals Christ in the life of a Christian. Now we cannot see the Spirit of God but we can see what the Spirit does because the Spirit is pushing the Jesus in us out of us on to others so that they can see the righteousness of Christ.
- Judgment** - Jesus here is referring to the judgment of not just ourselves but of Satan. This was enacted when Christ defeated death and was resurrected.

John 12:31-32 (ESV)

³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.

- Now most importantly.....

3. Christians must SURRENDER to the Holy Spirit

- He must be the chief ruler in your life because every single day and moment, we choose to yield to the Spirit or not.
- I have said all of this to get this story.... **SHARE GAS STATION STORY**
- There very thing that I was fasting for was right up under my nose and almost missed it were it not for God's

mercy. He literally had to have three guys push that car right up by me so that He could get my attention.

Challenge:

In our PURSUIT of the Holy Spirit, DON'T MISS the Holy Spirit.

- Don't miss the forest for the trees like I almost did.
- Don't be so involved with all of the details that comes with Holy Spirit that you are not paying attention to the most important parts of it.
- Christ in that moment wanted to pour out His righteousness on one of His children and I almost got in the way and stopped it from happening because I was being rebellious.
- Here is the challenge.... If you and I are pursuing the higher things of the Holy Spirit but not asking the Spirit to continually convict us in areas of sin and righteousness, and judgment, then I do not think we are pursuing the Spirit.
- The Bible gives clear warning on a heart like this.

Matthew 7:21-23 (ESV)

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

- Or how about Simon the Magician in Acts. He was a man that wanted the power to display the Holy Spirit but never surrendered to Jesus and thought it was something that could be bought with money.

- Before you and I pursue the higher things of the Spirit we must have written on our hearts the Foundation laid in John 16:7

Closing

- I am tremendously thankful for the higher gifts of the Holy Spirit. And I am thankful that God has asked me to walk in those gifts as well.
- But I am more thankful that I have a Heavenly Father that continually convicts me of my sin, who showers me with His righteousness, and reminds me that Satan has been defeated and has been judged accordingly.

**Don't Miss the Forest for the Trees
John 16:7-14**

1. Christians must be _____ to the Holy Spirit

2. Christians must be _____ to the Holy Spirit

3. Christians must _____ to the Holy Spirit

Challenge:

**In our _____ of the Holy Spirit, _____
the Holy Spirit.**