

Truth

Good morning.

Pastor announcement:

1. Mark & Margaret Brandt - (READ the script) pray for him

Today's passage is **John 16:5-15 (SLIDE Title & passage)** READ Title

If you need a bible raise hand...

While you're getting to the passage...:

2. My Teaching notes and supplemental notes are available on teaching tab of website. **(SLIDE Teaching Script)**

Pray: (Long Pause – Israel - Children)

Opening question: How many times have you thought: If I just knew the truth? PAUSE

In today's passage we come back to Jesus teaching the disciples about the coming of the Holy Spirit, who this passage refers to as "*The Spirit of Truth*".

We are in a five chapter section of John where Jesus is *preparing and equipping* the disciples for their life as His disciples which is to carry on Jesus' work after his physical departure from them. In the next 4 weeks of our study thru the end of John 17 we'll see that Jesus teaches the disciples, including John the author, a plan that *is based on the gospel* – to not *just survive* but to *thrive in the face of evil and adversity*. And when that plan is implemented it results in Jesus' disciples having: love for each other, hope, joy, peace, value, purpose, power, truth, and oneness, *and consequently, producing much fruit of Love*. That sounds like a pretty good plan.

Starting in Ch 13 we know that Jesus and the disciples were in the upper room where Jesus had washed their feet in a demonstration of love before they shared the Passover meal. Judas the traitor then left them to betray Jesus. Then Jesus told the disciples *he was leaving them* and returning to the Father. And immediately following he gave "*the commandment*" to "*Love each other*" **(13:34)**

And we know from the text what the disciples were *feeling* in response to Jesus saying he was leaving because Jesus tells us what he observed in them in his own words: Jesus tells us they felt **14:1 "troubled"**, **14:8 "abandoned"**, and **16:6** they were "**grieving.**" **(SLIDE – 3 verses, 3 words in blue)**

So far in this series that we started on Jan 7, we saw Jesus plan for the disciples to include gifts that Jesus was leaving for his disciples to have in his absence. **(SLIDE – The Plan)** These are: The gift of sacrificially “*loving each other*” 13:34 and the loving community that creates. The gift of “*hope*” that they would be together again, “*dwell together forever*” 14:3; the gift of “*access to God the Father*” 14:6 to request help in carrying out His plan: The gift of *the “Helper”* – who is the Holy Spirit. We then looked at the metaphor of Jesus being the True Vine in 15:1-17 **(SLIDE GrapeVine, then Heavy Pruning)** where Jesus explained more of the benefit of the Holy Spirit. That with Jesus living within, He can produce much fruit of sacrificial love. This happens thru the Gardener, God the Father “*pruning*” and “*cleansing*” to produce higher quantity and quality grapes, and by “*abiding or dwelling*” in the True Vine Jesus, dwelling in Jesus love which is possible because *He lives inside us*. And last week Pastor Miles taught on the gift of the disciples being warned of coming evil and adversity.

All those gifts that Jesus left for the disciples: love, hope, access to the Father, the Helper, and producing much fruit thru pruning and abiding, all happen despite the Ruler of the World sending evil and adversity against Jesus disciples. Pastor Miles taught last week what that evil would be: Jesus disciples would be treated *like Jesus their master* **(SLIDE How the “Ruler of the World” treats Jesus’ Disciples)**. They would be “*hated*” 15:18, “*persecuted*” 15:20, “*rejected*” 15:21, “*expelled*” and “*killed*” 16:2. PAUSE Imagine being a disciple and hearing that list... “*Yo, sign me up!*”

And...despite all that evil adversity, Jesus further expects his disciples to “*testify*” about him **(15:27)** and “*not abandon their faith*” in Jesus **(16:1)**. That was why Jesus *inoculated* the disciples by telling them what evil was coming, so they would still “*testify*” about him and not “*abandon Jesus*” when the heat was turned up. In the context of what evil they were facing, for the disciples to testify and not abandon Jesus seems that it would require *supernatural ability*. In just a few hours from this point in the narrative, when Jesus is arrested in the Olive grove, *all* the disciples would be *painfully aware* of the need for supernatural ability to testify about Jesus and not abandon him because we know they *all* abandoned him, including Peter. **Mk 14:50**
READ

Hence our passage today is about the supernatural ministry of the Spirit of Truth working *thru Jesus disciples* in the adverse evil world where Jesus intentionally left them and sent them.

READ 16:5-10

So after Jesus tells the disciples about all the evil that is coming, “*hated, persecuted, rejected, expelled, killed*” - he then reminds them of *more* bad news – at least in *their* ears.. He was leaving them. Now for the disciples this *could have* sounded like Jesus saying “there is an avalanche of evil coming your direction and ..you’re on your own

with this one". And from the context of today's passage that may be close to how they heard it. In the end of v5 they don't ask where He is going, *and* Jesus tells us they were "grieving" in v6 (both verses one slide). Aka.. all they could think about after hearing about the evil and that Jesus was leaving them was *their own loss*. They don't appear to hear anything else.

Ever do that? Hear about a loss and suddenly it's as if you have noise cancelling headphones and you don't hear anything else? (long pause) You lose yourself momentarily in your pain and memories (PAUSE)– *time stands still* (PAUSE) That's how I imagine the disciples – each in their own little bubble of grief.

It's a good thing John, inspired by the Spirit, was later able to record this, because it's what you and I need to hear from Jesus too.

Verse 5 starts with the word "*but*" which indicates that what Jesus is going to teach them was in response to what was stated in the previous verse. READ v4b..

This is like Jesus saying.. "I intentionally withheld information from you because you were not ready for it. But now I'm leaving you and you need to know this".

Jesus makes an interesting statement in end of v5 "*not one of you is asking where I am going*". We'll address this, because it's probably bugging a couple of you. If you recall, Peter did ask that question using the *exact same words as Jesus* in 13:36 READ, and Thomas *alludes* to the question using the *exact same words* in 14: 5. Hrm... an apparent contradiction between Jesus words and what actually happened. Well what do we do with that? PAUSE (Jeopardy tune) Write your answer on the back of Starbucks gift card and and mail it to... JK! This one *is a puzzler*... However, I just wonder if Jesus discerned they were really not asking about Where *Jesus* was going, but rather there seemingly polite question was covering the true question in their hearts... "What about *me*? What's going to happen to *me*?" Again, I just wonder...

Moving on, Jesus tells them in v7 that him returning to the Father was "*best*" for them. NIV says "*It is for your good*", NKJV says "*it is for your advantage*". Because if Jesus does "go away" he will send the "Advocate. And note, the Advocate Jesus sends is sent "*to you*" meaning, for the disciples.

It almost feels like a parent trying to convince a five year old that them leaving and going on a business trip is what is *best for the kid*. OK! Five year old's don't get that - kids just want to be with their parents! PAUSE The disciples are not getting it here either.

So why *is* the Advocate coming, *better* for the disciples than having Jesus in person? We covered this in Ch 14:15-31 – but it's good to review this, because Jesus builds on

his previous reasons.

First, the term “Advocate” means **(SLIDE Paraclete)**: Comforter, Encourager, Counselor, Assistant, Strengthened and Helper.

The two words that make up “Paraclete” are: “para” meaning beside/alongside, and the word “kalein” means “to call”. So the Paraclete comes *alongside us* and *calls us to a* life of discipleship by being our comforter, helper, counselor, assistant, and strengthener.

And Jesus In Ch 14 already taught us about the Advocate being “*best for them*”:

(SLIDE What the Holy Spirit offers)

V16 “*He will never leave you*”.

V17 “*He is the Holy Spirit*”

V17b “*who leads into all truth.*”

V17c “*and later will be in you*”

V26 “*he will teach you everything and remind you of everything I have told you.*”

V27 give “*peace of mind and heart.*”

But look what Jesus says the Advocate will do *in addition to* those in our passage today in **16:8 READ**.

Now again, the Advocate is sent “to the disciples” and we know from (**Ch 14:17** and **14:20 hi lite “in you”**) that the Advocate is “*in them*”. PAUSE Which means then, in the context of this passage, that this list of *three things* that the Holy Spirit will accomplish, he accomplishes *thru the disciples*.

So the Holy Spirit “*convicting the world of its sin*” happens *thru* the disciples. And the HS “*convicting the world of Gods Righteousness*” happens *thru* the disciples. And the HS “*convicting the world of the coming judgement*”, happens *thru* the disciples. Are you getting the picture here that regarding the work of the Holy Spirit in this world - that Jesus’ disciples are in the front seat.. not napping in back? Hey look, I like “napping in the back”, or just napping anywhere – but what Jesus was saying to his disciples – and listen up here because it’s for all Jesus disciples– what Jesus was saying to his disciples was what the world *needs* is the Holy Spirit *in* the disciples. That what God would accomplish *in* this world *by* the Holy Spirit would be the HS working *thru* Jesus’ disciples. *Discipleship* then is in part an appointment by Jesus to have *in us* what the world needs.. The Holy Spirit. We become the transformed “vehicles” by which the Holy Spirit is carried in the world, we are the vessels that the HS uses.

Now, Is the work of the Holy Spirit in the world exclusively thru Jesus’ disciples? No, I wouldn’t say that, but in the context of *this* passage *it is thru* his disciples, as Jesus in **v7b** “*...I will send him to you*”.

Let's look closer at what the Holy Spirit accomplishes *thru* the disciples in **v8**.

The HS will "*convict the world of its sin*".

The word "world" in all of John's writings means the people living in spiritual darkness in a world system under the rule of Satan. So Jesus is talking about people, individually and collectively who have not surrendered to the will of the Father.

The Greek word translated as "*convict*" here means: "*proven wrong*", as in "*convinced otherwise*".

Well that begs the question: "Proven wrong" or "convinced otherwise" about what?

Guzik says: "Sin" is the truth about man, "righteousness" is the truth about God, "judgment" is the *inevitable combination* of these two truths". PAUSE Jesus' words break it down this way in the next 3 verses.

V9 (hilite word "believe") says **READ** "*The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me.*"

This ties into a few different truths and themes of this book. We know from **John 20:31** that the purpose of John's writing is **READ. (hilite words "believe" "believing")**

So when Jesus says in **16:9** that "*the world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me*" he is specifically speaking of "*believing that Jesus is the Messiah, Son of God*", and "*that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name*".

This also fits with **John 3:16 (hilite words "world" "believes") READ**

So what the people of the world under the rule of Satan will be judged for is: "refusing to *believe* in Jesus." And the "convicting and convincing" that the Holy Spirit brings is that Jesus is who he says he is, The son of God, and Messiah and Savior. And the role of the disciples is to allow the Holy Spirit to teach and transform them, and work *thru* them in such a way that a person living in spiritual darkness under the rule of Satan would be "*convicted*" that they are wrong about Jesus and "*convinced*" that He is who He says he is. It's the HS that does the work *thru* the disciple.

The Holy Spirit also *convicts / convinces* of Jesus' righteousness. **V10 READ**

So according to this verse when Jesus returns to the Father, his return to the Father is convincing evidence that Jesus is righteous and makes his righteousness available to the world. Why is that evidence of Jesus' righteousness? Well let's start with defining "*righteousness*".

"Righteousness" is defined as "the spiritual state or condition acceptable to God" (**SLIDE righteousness**). Sometimes "righteousness" is simplified to "right-in-God's-sight".

So who is it that determines what the "acceptable spiritual state or condition is? God!

It's his measuring stick, he sets the rules.

So when God says in **Rom 3:10** "*No one is righteous, not even one*". That means that no person in the whole world has the "spiritual state that is acceptable to God". He holds up that measuring stick looks at the people of the whole world and says "nope, not one. Everyone misses the mark". Which leads to the despairing question, "How *can I* be acceptable to God?"

Now follow this thru. Jesus, who is the Son of God, was *proven* to be "righteous" when he rose from the grave and returned to the Father. At the cross Jesus as the "perfect sinless sacrificial lamb of God" shed his *life blood* and paid for the sins of all the "unrighteous people" of the world. Dead Jesus was then put in the grave where on the 3rd day God's Spirit resurrected him (**Rom 1:4**) and then a short while later Jesus *returned to the Father*. This is the *very act of returning to the Father* that Jesus has been telling the disciples would happen. And **Eph 1:19-20** supports this is what happened. **READ.**

Could Jesus have been resurrected and returned to the Father if he himself was not "righteous", meaning "acceptable to God"? No! He would have stayed in the grave just like anyone else as worm food. But because Jesus is "righteous", the Father "accepted him" and *now* as we see in these three verses (**Rom 8:34, Mark 14:62, Philp 2:9 all three on one slide**) Jesus sits at the *right hand of the Father*, the *seat of power*, with *the name that is above all names*. Meaning – Jesus is the highest ranking *authority*. Hold on to that word "authority" – we are going to need it in a minute.

So then because Jesus *is* "righteous" when someone of the world, confesses that they are a sinner, meaning they miss God's mark, and they put their trust in Jesus and his death and resurrection to pay for their sin, then God the Father puts the "*righteousness of Christ on to them*", making them "right-in-God's-sight" – i.e. "righteous".

2 Cor 5:21 says **READ** "*..For God made Christ who never sinned to be the offering....*"
Rom 3:22 says **READ** "*We are made "right with God" by placing..."*

So back in our passage today **v10** it is the Holy Spirit that convicts and convinces a person in spiritual darkness that Jesus *alone* is righteous, and that *apart from Jesus* there is *NO righteousness*. That means that every form of "self-righteousness" to please God is a lie.

V11 (hilite "has already been judged") makes this even more interesting. **READ** This verse *implies* that the person in spiritual darkness living under the rule of Satan, who is not convicted they are wrong about Jesus and not convinced that Jesus is who he says he is, and who is not convicted and convinced that they need the righteousness of Christ for themselves, that person will face "judgement". Yes, face judgement like

Satan who “*has already been judged*”. PAUSE

Is that fair? Yes – didn’t we already learn last week the principle that disciples should expect to be treated like their master? If one is not a disciple of Jesus then they are a disciple of the ruler of this world, whether they acknowledge it or not, and thus will be treated as he is treated. . And since the Ruler of the world – Satan- “*has already been judged*” for his rebellion, so will those who refuse to believe in Jesus. **Mk 16:16b. READ** “*anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned*”.

BUT, while someone still has breath, it is the HS, working with and thru the disciples of Jesus, who will convict and convince people of “*sin*”, of “*righteousness*” and of “*judgement*”.

Let me give some context again, Jesus and the disciples are *probably* walking from upper Jerusalem on Mnt. Zion, (**SLIDE Jerusalem Map**) walking over or near the Temple Mount, and then down into the Kidron valley before entering an olive grove on the mount of olives. They are walking and talking, maybe stopping here and there for discussion, or a latte, and Jesus has unloaded a lot of teaching on them that is sitting on top of their grief. The conversation started after Jesus washed the disciples feet in the upper room, and it’s *still* going on, all the while the disciples are feeling “*troubled, abandoned, and grieving.*” If I were a disciple back then and listened to all that Jesus said, I would be overwhelmed too, how about you?

And that is probably why Jesus makes the statement he does in **v12 READ**

I imagine that the disciple’s expressions and their affect are telling Jesus- “STOP I can’t absorb anymore”. And Jesus who *loves* his disciples *dearly* is thinking “but there is so much more you need to know”. Look the disciples are stuffed to the gills and can’t eat another bite even if it is “wafer thin”. Imagine a human size sponge, it will absorb a lot, you can pour a lot of water into it but at some point if you keep pouring, the water is going to oversaturate the sponge and run off. The disciples are sponges that are saturated and leaving puddles with every step.

It’s a dilemma isn’t it? They *need* to learn what more Jesus has to say - to prepare and equip them to be disciples in an evil and dark world, *but* they are struggling to *absorb it*. So what is the solution?

Well the “*Spirit of Truth*” *in them* is the solution. **V13 READ**

So much in one statement!

Jesus already told us “When” the Spirit of Truth coming” - He is coming when Jesus *goes away* and returns to the Father.

Jesus *describes* the Holy Spirit as “*the Spirit of Truth*” because it is *Jesus’ Spirit* and Jesus *is Truth*. Jesus described him as “*the Spirit of Truth*” because “*Truth*” is what is needed for the disciples to survive and thrive. Living in a world where Satan is the ruler, if

there is no Spirit of Truth, the disciples will be deceived and Jesus works will not continue.

Jesus then tells us what the Spirit of Truth *does*: “*he will guide you into all truth*”.

I love the imagery of the Holy Spirit *guiding into truth*. On my first trip to Israel I was at times really struggling to make sense of what I was seeing. But we have a superb tour *guide*, Ronny Simon who was just here Thurs night, and he gently and patiently *guided* us (**SLIDE Ronny**) all around Israel telling us what we were seeing, teaching us what would be helpful for us to know, about the history and geography of Israel, patiently answering our questions. That was so helpful. He was our “*guide*” to learning.

Well what authority does Ronny have to be a guide to learning? To be a guide in Israel requires 4 year degree and one has to pass a license test by the Ministry of Tourism. They have to renew their license every two years and have yearly required continuing education. In addition Ronny is a published and respected historian. Those things give him “*authority*” to be a “*guide*”.

Well what authority does the Spirit of Truth have to be a guide? The “*authority*” that the Spirit of Truth has to be Jesus’ disciples guide into truth, Jesus tells us in **v13b** **READ** “*he will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard.*”

We will deal with the content of *what was heard* in a minute, but first look at what the *source* of the content is. Meaning, so *who* did the Spirit of *Truth* hear what he heard *from*? **V14 READ**

The Spirit of Truth *only teaches* what he has received from Jesus. Think relationally here - In a “*master- disciple relationship*” Jesus is the Master who knows his disciples individually and knows what they need. And what is Jesus authority?

V15a READ “*All that belongs to the Father is mine*”. So the authority flows from God the Father, to the Son, to the HS to me. I’m OK with that. That is the source and pathway of truth that the Spirit of Truth guides me in.

That was “*source*” so now let’s look at the “*content*”. What is the *content* the Spirit of Truth teaches? This is what we know from the passage. A. Its Truth, B. **(14:26)** “*he will teach you everything and remind you of everything I have told you.*” And C. **(v13b)** “*...He will tell you about the future*”. This statement is not just about “*foretelling*” as in “*NT prophetic passages*” it’s also the HS preparing & equipping the disciples with *the truth* they need to face what is coming in their lives as disciples.

Let me summarize today’s passage with this statement: **(SLIDE Summary)** [“*In context, these were “grieving - oversaturated disciples”. They could not possibly absorb all Jesus wanted to *physically* tell them in the moment. *BUT*, they could be and would be taught by the Spirit of Truth *in* them. And taught at an individualized pace of learning*

with “Jesus authorized content” customized to where they were spiritually. That content would then prepare and equip them for what circumstances they will be facing as disciples. And thru them God would reach the world. Thru them the HS would “convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement”.]

That is no backseat for disciples! Let’s go into the world! Amen?

Prayer team

Pray

Supplemental Teaching Notes: John 16:5-15 020424

I find that in the context the timing of this teaching from Jesus is brilliant – given all that Jesus had told them and all they were preparing for. Particularly in helping the disciples with feeling “troubled, abandoned and grief”, as well as them hearing all the evil and adversity that they are facing. The disciples were probably thinking.. “how am I going to get thru the day?” and Jesus is thinking about using *these same disciples*, who can’t see past the day they are in, being equipped to reach the whole world with his love! What an amazing plan!

V5. He was “sent” here by the Father to provide payment for sin to create a way for sinful man to have a relationship with God the Father. And then Jesus was to *return to the Father*, “mission accomplished”. That was *always* the plan – and Jesus was obedient to the plan.

Jesus shedding his ‘life blood” is proof of death. Lev 17:11 “..For the life of the body is in the blood”. Since blood is “proof of death”, and since blood is required for payment for sin, (Heb 9:7), this is why the author of Hebrews says

in 9:22 *“without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin”*.

V8 A super fun study is to find all the times any variation of the word “righteous” occurs in the first five chapters of Romans, and read the context surrounding the word. I counted 28x in the NLT. It soo follows John 16:8-9 – almost as if Paul was a student of Jesus! ;)

V10 Here are 21 verses about Jesus seated at the right hand of the Father.
<https://scripturesavvy.com/bible-verses-about-jesus-sitting-at-the-right-hand-of-the-father/>

Hold on to this truth and use it as an anchor for your mind and heart, it may be the only thing not rocking and shaking for disciples as the “world” turns up the heat on Christians in the west.

Teach your kids and grandkids this truth.