

I. John 16:1-33 – After Supper Discourse: Episode Two

A. John 16:1-6 – Jesus spoke of the hard road of discipleship

1. John 16:1 – “ *These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling .*” Jesus **warned** the disciples of sure-to-come hostility and persecution that might cause them to lose hope. Hebrews 2:18
 - a. The idea of *stumbling* SKANDILIZO is a concept that is difficult to translate precisely. Context best determines its use. Typically, this word can be understood as “made to falter, caused to stumble, or taken unawares.” It conveys the idea of being brought to a **downfall**. Matthew 11:6
 - b. Jesus did not want His disciples to turn back because of trials. **Offenses** are unavoidable. When they do come, confusion, doubt and fear make it easy to lose heart. What does it take for us to give up? Do we falter or stagger in trials? Are we shaken by doubts and fears? Isaiah 40:30-31; 2 Corinthians 4:16; Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 3:12-14, 10:32-39
 - c. Jesus knew it was important to **prepare** the disciples for future adversities. Sadly, difficulties, insults and injustice cause many uninformed believers to become skeptical of God’ word and person. These children of God unwittingly fall into the world’s trap. 2 Corinthians 4:8-11, 11:23-29; 1 Peter 4:12-13; 1 John 3:13
2. John 16:2a – “*They will make you outcasts from the synagogue...*” It is interesting that the disciples would be persecuted by being cast out of *the synagogue*! The worst persecution often comes from **religious** people who hate the gospel of grace because, like Cain, they wanted to be justified by their good works. Matthew 23:37; 1 John 3:12-13
3. John 16:2b – “ *...but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God .*” After Jesus ascended to heaven, the believers faced a lot of persecution, just as Jesus predicted. Much of this persecution came from religious Jews like **Saul**, later called Paul (Phil.3:5-6). Acts 7:58-59, 8:1-3, 9:13-14, 26:9; Galatians 1:13-14, 2:4; 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16
4. John 16:3 – “ *These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me .*” Life was going to get rough for believers because most of Israel did not believe in Christ as their personal Savior. They **hated** Jesus because they wanted a powerful Liberator not a weak Redeemer. They didn’t trust in Jesus because they didn’t know God the Father.
5. John 16:4a – “ *But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them...*” Jesus forewarned His disciples of sure-to-come persecution, so that when it occurred, they would not be **disconcerted**.
6. John 16:4b – “ *These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you .*” At first Jesus didn’t tell His disciples about **imminent** persecution. If He was with them, He could protect them. But now that He was leaving, He felt the need to prepare them for the inevitable future adversity.
7. John 16:5 – “ *But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ .*” Jesus **noted** that the disciples no longer questioned Him about where He was going. Instead they were simply saddened by His statements.
8. John 16:6 – “ *But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart .*” The disciples’ grief **eclipsed** their hope. The present overwhelming reality of Jesus’ death and His forecast of imminent persecution overshadowed His predictions of future glorification.

B. John 16:7-15 – Jesus’ predicted the Spirit’s work

1. John 16:7 – “ *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.*” As their friend, Jesus **shared** His plans with the disciples. He assured them that it was for their benefit that He was leaving, so that they could receive the Helper.
 - a. The Lord had to **depart** before God would send the Helper PARAKLETOS (the Holy Spirit) to personally comfort and minister to them. So, we must ask, “When did the Holy Spirit come to earth?”
 - 1) The Holy Spirit was present in the Old Testament; He came and went to help believers as **needed**. Genesis 1:2, 6:3; Judges 15:14; Psalm 51:11
 - 2) While Jesus was on earth, the Holy Spirit was continually with Him. He was also **sometimes** with the believers. Luke 2:26-27, 4:1; John 1:33; Acts 10:38
 - 3) However, at Pentecost the Holy Spirit was going to come to **permanently** reside in every believer. John 14:16-17; Acts 1:4-8, 2:1-4; Romans 8:9-10
 - b. There is complete **equality** in the Holy Spirit’s relationship with God the Father and God the Son. Each member of our one God equally possesses every attribute. Although there is perfect unity within the Trinity,

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there is voluntary submission. The Son submits to the Father and the Holy Spirit submits to the Son and the Father.

- 1) The Father **authorized** and sent the Son, and the Son revealed and glorified the Father by obeying Him.
 - 2) The Son authorized and sent the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit bore witness to the Son and **glorified** Him.
- c. Presently the Holy Spirit is at work in the **world** and in the lives of believers.
- 1) The Holy Spirit **convicts** the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgement. John 16:8
 - 2) The Holy Spirit's work in the lives of **believers** is wide-ranging. Following is a list of some of the ways the Holy Spirit is your helper as a believer.
 - a) He **resides** inside every believer. In Colossians 1:27, the apostle Paul referred to the indwelling Holy Spirit as "*Christ in you.*" John 14:16-17, Romans 8:9
 - b) He **seals** believers until the day their souls arrive in heaven. Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30; Colossians 1:27
 - c) He **teaches** God's children the truth. John 15:26, 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:13-14
 - d) He gives spiritual **gifts** to believers. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11
 - e) He gives **assurance** of salvation. Romans 8:15-16
 - f) The Holy Spirit mediates between us and the Father when we **pray**, so that our prayers are in accordance with God's will. Romans 8:26-27
 - g) He produces **fruit** in the lives of believers, causing us to do God's will and explain Christ to this world. Romans 8:4; Galatians 5:16, 22-23; Philippians 2:15-16
 - h) He **strengthens** believers in times of hardship. We are not promised a trouble-free life, but we are promised free help with the trouble life brings. Ephesians 3:16
- d. Sadly, the ministry the Holy Spirit provides can be **hindered**. If a child of God holds on to sin, he or she will grieve the Holy Spirit, and if he or she persists in rebellion, they will with time greatly extinguish or quench His influence in their lives Ephesians 4:30, 1 Thessalonians 5:19
2. John 16:8-11 – The Holy Spirit's gospel ministry to the unbelieving world involves **conviction** of sin, righteousness, and judgment. When we share the gospel, we should work in accord with the Holy Spirit, using God's word, His sword, to convince the lost world of these three issues; sin, righteousness, and judgment. Isaiah 55:11, John 15:26-27, Ephesians 6:17
 - a. John 16:8 – "*And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment ...*" God wants **all** people to be saved. Christ came to seek and to save the lost. He also sent the Holy Spirit into the world to convince the world of the three areas. Ezekiel 33:11; Luke 19:10; John 3:16; 1 Timothy 1:15, 2:4; 1 Peter 3:9
 - b. John 16:9 – "*...concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me ...*" The great sin of all sins, about which the Holy Spirit convinces unbelievers, is the **sin (singular)** of not believing in Jesus Christ. This is the only sin that sends people to hell. If a person dies not having believed in Jesus Christ as savior, they perish. John 3:17-18
 - c. John 16:10 – "*... and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me ...*" The righteousness that the Holy Spirit convicts the world about is the perfect **righteousness** required to reach God, a righteousness the world does not innately possess. 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 3:18
 - 1) While Jesus, *the Holy and Righteous One* (Acts 3:14), was in the world, He was the light that exposed the **sin** of the world. But now that He was going to the Father, He was going to send the Holy Spirit to convict the world of righteousness. John 1:4-5, 7:7, 9:5, 16:7
 - 2) The Holy Spirit convinces sinners that all their efforts at righteousness are just **filthy** rags to a holy God. Every person on earth is a sinner. Jesus Christ died for our sin so that we could be declared righteous and be allowed to enter God's perfect heaven where Jesus lives. Isaiah 64:6; Matthew 5:20; Romans 3:10-12, 23; Revelation 21:27
 - d. John 16:11 – "*... and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged .*" Satan has been sentenced to eternity in the Lake of Fire, and if he, the ruler of this world, will not escape God's **wrath**, those who side with him certainly have no chance of escaping God's wrath, either. Acts 17:31; 1 John 3:8; Revelation 20:10-15
 3. John 16:12 – "*I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now .*" In both the Upper Room and afterward in Gethsemane, the Lord taught the disciples various foundational **truths**. Later, when they could handle more with the assistance of the Holy Spirit, God added more details to these truths. We find this teaching in the epistles.

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4. John 16:13a – “*But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes...*” After speaking of the Holy Spirit’s ministry to the world, Jesus shifted to speak directly to the disciples about the Holy Spirit’s future **ministry** to them.
5. John 16:13b – ... *He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative...*” Jesus promised the disciples that the Holy Spirit would **guide** them into all truth. Jesus was speaking of the Spirit’s ministry in giving the special revelation we now have in the already completed New Testament. 2 Peter 1:3-4, 19-21
 - a. The Holy Spirit would refuse to present His own **ideas**, instead He would relate only what the Father and the Son said.
 - b. The Holy Spirit was not coming to do His own thing or to speak for Himself or to give His own message. He came to speak and reveal the Father and the Son’s message. That’s what the phrase “*He will not speak on His own initiative*” means.
6. John 16:13c – “... *but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come .*” Not only would the Holy Spirit help these future apostles to remember the things Jesus taught them during His days on earth, He would reveal to them the **mystery** of the coming Church Age, as well as other future events. Ephesians 3:3-11
7. John 16:14 – “ *He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you .*” The Holy Spirit never promotes Himself; He always puts the **spotlight** on Jesus. The Spirit was going to bring glory to Jesus by taking His words and message and telling it to the disciples. This was precisely how the New Testament came to be. 2 Peter 1:20-21
8. John 16:15 – “ *All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore, I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you .*” The Trinity is visible in this verse. While our triune God is not divided, a large **focus** of scripture is on Christ’s person and work. His death and resurrection are the basis for our justification, our daily sanctification and our future glorification. John 3:35, 5:39-40, 14:21, 17:10; Luke 24:25-27