

Summary Sheet for John 16vs5-15

...to accompany Notes 31

GOAL of this 1-2-1 study

Be assured about Jesus & his mission – his death means the Spirit provides the necessary conviction & truth

Context – how does this passage fit in?

In the last two studies we have seen 1) Jesus promise that those who listen and keep his words will be part of the true 'fruit-bearing vine' of God and 2) Jesus explain that the world will hate those who live and speak for him. This raises a couple of issues – 1) how will anyone ever respond to Jesus particularly given that almost everyone has so far rejected Jesus and his words even when he has been right there in front of them?! 2) How can the 11 Apostles be effective 'fruit-bearing' witnesses (15.26-27) when they are so clueless and don't even understand themselves what Jesus is saying to them?! Jesus now shows how his death deals with these issues because it means he will give the Spirit to work in the world to bring conviction and in the 11 Apostles so they can know and pass on the truth..

Impact on us

Trusting Jesus and trying to live and speak for him can seem very daunting in a world that hates Jesus and seems unmoved and unchanged by his message. Yet Jesus wants us to know that he has fully provided for this situation. His Spirit is here to convicting people of their need of Jesus. And he declared all truth from Jesus to the 11 so we can be fully confident that we have all Truth – all we need to know about Jesus - in the message of the original apostles in the New Testament.

How John writes to make his point

In ch13-17 John records for us how Jesus comprehensively prepares and provides for the time when he is physically absent. This part of the 'Upper Room Discourse' focuses on how Jesus provides for the fulfilment of his mission in the world to bring life by providing the Spirit who will continue Jesus' work for Jesus' glory.

Structure

16:5-7 Jesus' death and departure, though the cause of much sadness to his disciples, is actually an advantageous thing, because it will mean Jesus sending his Spirit.

(But why is the Spirit such good news? He will work in the world and in the apostles. Both essential work if anyone is to believe.)

16:8-15 He will enable the Apostles in their task of witnessing about Jesus by:

8-11 Convicting the world of the realities of sin, righteousness and judgement – in other words the Holy Spirit will continue Jesus' work ... of exposing (3.20) people's need to believe in him by showing people they are sinners (they don't believe in Jesus-5.23); showing them true righteousness as defined by Jesus' life (see 3.19,7.7); and showing them that judgement is a reality (proved by the defeat of Satan at the Cross – 12.31)

12-15 Instructing the apostles in all the truth about Jesus. This enables the 11 disciples to be valid witnesses by declaring to them the complete & sufficient truth from Jesus. (This is what enables us to have confidence in the New Testament as all the truth we need to know about God. It is also worth seeing that the Spirit accomplishes his work in the World through his work in the Apostles. He will convict the world of sin, righteousness & judgement by bringing the Word about Jesus to bear on people's hearts. (see 17.20)

Will the Spirit guide us into new truth today extra to the Bible?

Some popular teachers today suggest that the Holy Spirit will provide revelation about God that will supplement or supersede what God has revealed in the Bible and sometimes try to use these verses to support this idea. But that undervalues and misunderstands what Jesus promises here. It's important to notice that Jesus' promise of the Spirit guiding them into 'all the truth' is for the 11 men with him in the room at the time - who have been given the task of being (eye) witnesses because they were with Jesus 'from the beginning' (15.27). And the fact they are given 'all' the truth means it won't need to be topped up later. Also it is worth noticing that the Spirit takes what is Jesus' and declares it to the Apostles. His revelation is not separate from Jesus'. Jesus has fully revealed God. (See 1.18, 5.15, & Hebrews 1.1-3) and now the Spirit will do the work, after the Cross, of leading the disciples into this truth and its implications ('the things that are to come'). This means as we today read their accounts of Jesus (ie the New Testament), we can be sure that we too have access to 'all the truth' about God confident that it is sufficient, valid and complete!! Great news.

Some questions to help guide someone else through ch 16vs5-15

Opener: From what we've seen so far in John's Gospel what needs to happen for someone to enter the Kingdom of God/be a follower of Jesus?

Considering the text1: In v5 Jesus draws the disciples' attention to his imminent departure. According to v6-7 why is Jesus' leaving a good thing?

Considering the text2: In v8-11 Jesus describes the Spirit's work in the world. What will he do and why are these things so necessary? (Hint: Looking up John 3.20 (convict and exposed come from the same Greek word), 5v23, John 1.18 and John 12.31 will help.)

Considering the text3: In v12-15 Jesus describes the Spirit's work in the 11 Apostles. What will he do and why is it so necessary? (Hint: Looking back to John 15vs26-27 will help.)

Ones to keep chewing on: How does knowing about the Spirit's work in the world and in the Apostles give us confidence today as we live in a world where a) Jesus isn't physically present and b) as we read the New Testament ?

How would you sum up what we've learned in this passage about the Spirit's work in the world?