

## 62. Jesus Explained the Ministry of the Holy Spirit to Unbelievers

In our last topic, we saw that Jesus warned that the world may hate us. We also saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to share the Word of God and not their own opinions as they are obedient to Jesus and witness about Him to the world. In our topic today, we will see that Jesus explained more fully the ministry of the Holy Spirit as our Helper when we bear witness about Jesus to those who are not Christians.

Jesus did not want the disciples to stumble when they were rejected by the world. John 16:1-4 says, “These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.” The word translated “stumble” means *to put a stumbling block in the way, to fall away or to offend*.

Jesus knew that the disciples would stumble that night but He wanted to prepare them for the future so that they would not stumble as they witnessed about Jesus in future days and years. In fact, Jesus told them in Mark 14:27, “Then Jesus said to them, ‘All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: “I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.”’” We see how Peter answered. Mark 14:29 says, “Peter said to Him, ‘Even if all are made to stumble, yet I *will not be*.’” Jesus then told Peter that he would deny Jesus three times before the rooster crowed twice.

Jesus went on to describe some of the things that would happen to the disciples in the future. Jesus said that they would be put out of the synagogues. Earlier, Jesus had healed a man that was born blind and he was put out of the synagogue. The parents of the man refused to tell the Jews how their son had been healed. John 9:22 says, “His parents said these *things* because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed *that He was Christ*, he would be put out of the synagogue.” The man that had been born blind was then questioned by some of the same religious leaders that later condemned Jesus to death. He said in John 9:32-34, “‘Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.’ They answered and said to him, ‘You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?’ And they cast him out.” Here, we see that to be put out of the synagogue made a Jew a social outcast.

Jesus also told the disciples that people would later think they were serving God by killing the disciples. Jesus said that the real reason they would do these things was due to the fact that they did not know either the Father or Jesus. Then, Jesus explained why He had told the disciples in advance. Jesus said that they would remember when the time came that they were treated in this way. Jesus understood that it was very important to prepare His followers for coming tribulation. Paul did the same thing to help those who became followers of Jesus. Acts 14:22 says, “Strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’” Here, we see that in addition to

Growing Godly Family Series – Helping Our Children Present Jesus as the Son of God 62. “Jesus Explained the Ministry of the Holy Spirit to Unbelievers”

Updated July 2023

Copyright © 2009, Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022, DLA, Serve and Equip

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip <https://sveq.org>

ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

strengthening the souls of the disciples and encouraging them to continue in the faith, Paul also prepared them for much tribulation. We also need to prepare new Christians for opposition from others. Jesus had not told the disciples earlier because of the fact that He was with them.

Then, Jesus went on to explain to the disciples that it was to their advantage for Him to return to the Father. John 16:5-7 says, “But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, “Where are You going?” But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 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 depart, I will send Him to you.” Jesus said that He was returning to the One who had sent Him. Instead of asking any questions at this time, the disciples were immediately filled with sorrow. Jesus quickly responded to encourage the disciples in their sorrow.

Jesus chose to encourage the disciples by explaining why it was to the advantage of the disciples for Him to return to the Father. Jesus said that it was to their advantage because He would send the Helper to be with them. Earlier that evening Jesus had explained a very key lesson about the Holy Spirit. John 14:16-18 says, “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” Here, we see that Jesus had explained that the Holy Spirit would abide in the life of each disciple. While Jesus was on the earth, the disciples could only experience the presence of Jesus when they were together.

In contrast, Jesus had promised that the Holy Spirit would be in the disciples at all times. Romans 8:16 says, “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” Here, we see that the Holy Spirit came into our human spirit at the moment of salvation and bears witness to the fact that we are the children of God. As a result, we are never alone but our Helper is always within us. As we yield to Him, we are able to act in the power of the Holy Spirit. Acts 4:31 says, “And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” In this verse, we see that the evidence of the Holy Spirit living within us is that He gives us power to speak the Word of God with boldness at every moment that we are yielding to the Spirit.

The fact that Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to live within our lives and give us boldness to witness was very important for each of the disciples as well as for all future Christians. Jesus then went on to tell the disciples how the Holy Spirit that would live within each of their lives would convict the world. John 16:8-11 tells us what the Holy Spirit does for those who are not yet Christians, “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit will convict and convince the people of the world of three things.

First, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit will convince the world of sin. There are many sins. However, this verse makes it clear that there is only one sin that will cause a person to face eternal

Growing Godly Family Series – Helping Our Children Present Jesus as the Son of God 62. “Jesus Explained the Ministry of the Holy Spirit to Unbelievers”  
Updated July 2023

Copyright © 2009, Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022, DLA, Serve and Equip  
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip <https://sveq.org>  
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

judgment. That is the sin of unbelief. That was the sin that Adam and Eve committed. In Genesis 2:16-17, we read, “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’” Then, in Genesis 3:4, Satan said, “Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die.’ Adam and Eve had to either believe the LORD God or believe Satan. John 8:24 says, “‘Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.’” Jesus had said earlier in John 8:12, “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’” All people have to believe in the LORD Jesus Christ or they will die in their sins.

Second, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit will convince the world of righteousness (or the fact that Jesus is the Righteous One). Hebrews 9:13-14 says, “For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” In these verses, we are reminded that Jesus was without spot. Then, Romans 3:25-26 adds, “Whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.” The word “righteous” means *innocent, faultless or guiltless*. Jesus is the Righteous One who is able to justify each person who comes to Him in repentance and faith.

Third, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit will convince the world of judgment. Jesus gave a cry of victory in John 19:30. That verse says, “So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.” That cry of victory meant that the payment for sin was complete and no more payment would ever be necessary. However, that cry also meant that Satan had been judged and that he would one day receive the penalty for his sin. Hebrews 2:14-15 says, “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” Revelation 20:10 adds, “The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

The Holy Spirit convinces those who continue to follow Satan that they will also share in that eternal judgment. We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn how to work with the Holy Spirit as they share the Gospel with those who are not Christians by sharing the Word of God in love. May the Lord richly bless you as you show your children how to share the message of salvation from sin in love.