

Readings

Scripture

⁴ But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

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. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

- John 16:4-15 (*English Standard Version*)

Reflection

There is a close relationship between the promise of John 16:8-11 and the events described in Acts 2:22-24. There, in Peter's first sermon, he bore witness to the exaltation of Christ, the truth of which, by the Spirit's work in the hearers' hearts, convicts them of their sin ('you...put him to death'); and of Christ's righteousness ('But God raised him from the dead': cf. Acts 3:13-16); and of judgment, since resurrection from the dead, seen as the condemnation of the Prince of Darkness and death and the harbinger of the Day of the Lord and final judgment, had taken place in him ('it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him')...The result of the Spirit-empowered proclamation of the exalted Lord illustrates the pattern outlined in John 16:8-11: 'the people...were cut to the heart and said..."Brothers, what shall we do?"' (Acts 2:37). The work of the Spirit in conviction led to conversion and the baptism of repentance, faith and forgiveness ('Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.' Acts 2:41)."

- Sinclair Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit* (p. 69-70)

Sermon Outline

The Holy Spirit's Work in Our Lives *Table Talk in an Upper Room*
John 16:4-15 Matt Esswein

How Does the Holy Spirit Work in Our Lives?

The Holy Spirit Works to Our Advantage (John 16:4-7)

The Holy Spirit Convicts the World (John 16:8-11)

- He Convicts of Sin
- He Convicts of Righteousness
- He Convicts of Judgment

The Holy Spirit Guides Us into All Truth (John 16:12-15)

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- How are you at saying "goodbye"? Is it harder for you to be the one leaving home, or the one left behind? What do you do to ease the pain of saying "goodbye"?
- Think of a time you had someone doing work for you or ahead of you to your advantage. Share that experience and how it felt to have someone helping you.
- How do you think the disciples felt when they heard it would be better for Jesus to leave them and for the Holy Spirit to come? Do you ever wish that Jesus was standing right beside you rather than having the Holy Spirit inside you?
- What does it feel like to experience conviction? Why do we need to be convicted of the three things mentioned in verses 8-11?
- Why do we need to have a guide helping us to find truth in our world today?
- Of the various roles or functions of the Holy Spirit described in this text, which one have you come to appreciate recently? How?
- If a friend asked you how they could know more about the Holy Spirit in a personal way, what would you share from your own experience?