The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

John 15:26--16:15

Introduction:

The nation rejected Jesus and the Father. They did it in the name of God. They thought they were serving God but they were actually serving Satan. Satan is not finished yet.

After Jesus leaves, Satan will keep on fighting against the followers of Jesus. The followers are not strong enough to resist Satan on their own; they must have help. Jesus promised them that the Holy Spirit would be, not only with them as He had been for the last 3 years, but living inside them. The Holy Spirit will have a distinctive ministry among them.

I. His Reminding Ministry – 15:26-27

A. The Mystery of the Holy Spirit – 15:26a-c

1. Why He Would Come – 15:26a

“But when the ﻿﻿Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth…”

“Helper” = παράκλητος “One called alongside to help”. Even though the world rejected Jesus, "the Spirit" characterized by "truth" would bear witness that Jesus was the Son of God.

2. From Where He would Come – 15:26b-c

“who proceeds from the Father,”

This “procession from the Father” refers to His mission to the earth, rather than an “eternal procession from the Father”

B. The Motivation of the Holy Spirit – 15:26d - 27

1. To Exalt the Son of God – 15:26d﻿﻿

“He will testify of Me.”

As the work of Jesus was to promote the Father and not Himself, so the Spirit will witness to Jesus as the Messiah, “He will testify about Me”. When a ministry promotes the Holy Spirit above Jesus, they have turned their ministry upside down.

*(See John 11:42) Jesus made sure that the people knew that it was the Father Who deserved the praise.*

Even though the world rejected Jesus, "the Spirit" characterized by "truth" would bear witness that Jesus was the Son of God (cf. 14:16-17, 26). He would do this when He came on the day of Pentecost, as Jesus had promised. (John 7:39)

2. To Energize the Saints of God – 15:27

“And ﻿﻿you also will bear witness, because ﻿﻿you have been with Me from the beginning.

To them has been given the awesome responsibility of continuing Jesus’ ministry. But they won’t have to do it alone. They would "testify," empowered by the same Spirit. The basis of their testimony would be their long association with, and intimate knowledge of, Jesus (cf. [Acts 1:21-22](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%201.21-22)).

“The beginning” refers to the beginning of Jesus’ ministry.

II. His Reproving Ministry - 16:1-11

A. The Appalling Dislike by the Synagogue - 16:1-4a

1. Stumbled – 16:1-3

“These things I have spoken to you, that you ﻿﻿should not be made to stumble.”

Fore-warned is for fore-armed. He didn’t promise them a rose garden. They will put you out of the synagogues; they will put you out of [their] synagogue, God is no longer there.

“Yes, the time is coming ﻿﻿that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.”

Only one of the apostles died a natural death, John

“And ﻿﻿these things they will do ﻿﻿to you because they have not known the Father nor Me.”

They have not known the Father, the One true God, because they did not know Jesus, His one true Son.

2. Startled – 16:4a

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“But these things I have told you, that when ﻿﻿their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them.”

No man could hate like a religious Jew of the apostolic age: he was renowned for his diabolic capacity of hating. (Saul of Tarsus – by him and against him.)

“their hour” = The time when they will be in control. Their hour would seem to be the time of their greatest victory, but it would turn out to be the time of their greatest defeat.

On the other hand: Jesus hour, (His death) – seemed to be the time of His greatest defeat, but it would turn out to be the time of His greatest victory.

B. The Approaching Departure of the Savior – 16:4b - 6

1. His Past Concealing of These Things – 16:4b

“And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.”

The disciples did not need the Holy Spirit’s presence or His power. They had Jesus presence and power. So, Jesus did not tell them. But now Jesus is leaving. The disciples are no match for the Devil. Next to God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – he is the most powerful being in all of creation. Even Michael, the archangel is no match for him.

﻿“Yet Michael the archangel, in ﻿﻿contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, ﻿﻿“The Lord rebuke you!” (Jude 8) see also I Peter 5.17 and Eph. 6:10ff.

On the other hand: The Devil trembles when he sees the weakest Christian on his knees!

2. His Present Candor about These Things – 16:5-6

a. What He Told Them – 16:5

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“But now I ﻿﻿go away to Him who sent Me, Jesus has told them before about His leaving, but now the time has come.”

He will be crucified and buried tomorrow. Assuming a Friday crucifixion: (we will discuss that when we get to that section.) Spend part of Friday—then all of Saturday and part of Sunday in the grave (The day started at 6:00 PM.) “Any part of a day is the whole of it”

b. How They Reacted

“and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’

They had asked before, but not at this point. ﻿

c. Why They Reacted that Way – 15:6

“But because I have said these things to you, ﻿﻿sorrow has filled your heart.”

They were more concerned with their needs than His.

C. The Appointed Descent of the Spirit – 16:7-11

1. What was Expedient for Them – 16:7﻿ ﻿

“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 depart, I will send Him to you.”

They needed supernatural help. Why did Jesus not stay with them? He had to die on the cross for the sin of mankind. His death, burial, resurrection and ascension were necessary. If He had come back in bodily form right away, that would make the entire experience look like a fake.

One of the benefits of the coming of the Spirit would be the opening of the New Covenant and the closing of the old Mosaic covenant. Grace living instead of Law living

2. What was Expounded to Them – 16:8-11

a. The Spirit’s Reproving Ministry Declared – 16:8

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“And when He has ﻿﻿come…”

1). The Nature of Sin – 16:8a

“[He will convince the world} of sin”

2). The Need for Righteousness – 16:8b

“and [He will convince the world] of righteousness,”

3). The Nearness of Judgment – 16:8c

“and [He will convince the world] of judgment.”

b. The Spirit’s Reproving Ministry Detailed – 16:9-11

1). The Jurisdiction of Sin – 16:9 [past tense]

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“﻿﻿of sin, because they do not believe in Me;”

The world is living in the place where sin rules.

2). The justification of sin – 16:10 [present tense]

“of righteousness, ﻿﻿because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;”

The resurrection and ascension are God’s “Amen” to the life and vicarious atonement on the cross.

3). Judgment of sinners – 16:11 [future tense]

“of judgment, because ﻿﻿the ruler of this world is judged.”

The current ruler of this world is Satan. He stole the right of rulership of the world from Adam. (Psalm 2)

The writer of Hebrews in chapter 2 points out that we don’t see man now ruling. Then he points out that “we do see Jesus” Who is going to reclaim the rulership of the world through His incarnation, life, death, resurrection, ascension and coming again to conquer evil and rule His kingdom as The Man Christ Jesus.

Every knee will bow and every tongue shall confess, “Lord Jesus Christ” (Phil. 2:9-10)

At the cross, Satan is judged. The sentence will be carried out at the end of time when he is cast into the Lake of Fire. (Rev 20) For now he is still ruling while the Holy Spirit is empowering believers to call out a people for His (Jesus’) name.

Note: Since the ruler of the world stands condemned, his children can expect the same treatment unless they believe in Jesus (cf. 14:30)

III. His Revealing Ministry – 16:12-15

A. The Ecclesiastical Truth – 16:12-13b

1. The Dispositional Barrier – 16:12

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“I still have many things to say to you, ﻿﻿but you cannot bear *them* now. ﻿

The disciples are not disposed to receive these things, but the Holy Spirit will teach them as they are able to receive them. This will be true after the Resurrection and Ascension.

2. The Dispensational Barrier – 16:13a-b

a. A Revealing Process – 16:13 a

“However, when He, ﻿﻿the Spirit of truth, has come, ﻿﻿He will guide you into all truth;”

What they receive from the “Spirit of truth” can be trusted.

b. A. Revealing Principle – 16:13b

“for He will not speak on His own *authority,*”

The Holy Spirit will remind them of the things Jesus taught (Gospels), new covenant truths for the church as the Father leads Him (Epistles).

B. The Eschatological Truth – 16:13c- 15

1. Things to Come – 16:13c

“but whatever He hears [from the Father] He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”

He will reveal prophetic things, such as, the Book of Revelation, plus other prophetic portions such as the Thessalonians Epistles and 1 Corinthians 15.

2. The Things of Christ – 16:14-15﻿

a. The Person of Christ – 16:14a

“He will glorify Me,”

The Holy Spirits purpose is to glorify Jesus, just as Jesus’ purpose was to glorify the Father.

b. The Pre-eminence of Christ – 16:14b-15

“for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He ﻿﻿will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.”

There are not three person speaking three different things. What the Father has, belongs to the Son and the Holy Spirit takes it and teaches it to the eleven. The Spirit would actually be taking what the Father had given the Son to teach and do, and explain its significance to the disciples, (unpacking it). The Eleven are particularly in view. They were the individuals who were presently unable to understand further revelations, and they had been with Jesus since the beginning of His ministry

Conclusion: