

Lord,
teach us
to Pray

John 16:1-15, Lesson #45

Lesson arranged and organized by Gerald Cumby

Several commentaries used as teaching tools/resources

John 16:1-4, “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.”

- **They will put you out of the synagogues:**
 - ✓ Jesus warned His disciples of coming opposition because He did not want them to be surprised and stumbled by it.
 - ✓ They would be forced out of the synagogues for Jesus’ sake.
 - ✓ The word “stumble” here is used of the spring of a trap which might ‘go off’ when you were least expecting it.” This is why Jesus forewarned the disciples of those who seemed like friends would become “enemies of their cause” when they start to preach truth in their synagogues.
- **The time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service** (other translations...Offering service to God; doing God a favor).
 - ✓ Saul of Tarsus, before his conversion, really thought he was doing God a favor by persecuting the “Jesus followers” (best known as, the Way)...([Acts 8:1-3](#), [22:3-5](#), [26:9-11](#)).
 - ✓ Since then there have been many who persecute and kill the true followers of Jesus because they think God is pleased.
 - ✓ Through most of history, most Christian martyrs were targets of those from other religions or even sects within the “Christian community.”
 - ✓ Jesus did well to forewarn, because it comes as a great shock that a gospel so glorious is hated so passionately.

John 16:5-7, “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.”

- **None of you asks Me, “Where are You going”:**
 - ✓ Peter *had* asked this question earlier ([John 13:36](#)) and Thomas asked a similar question ([John 14:5](#)).

- ✓ Jesus must mean not only the *words* of the question, but the heart of it.
Note: Their previous asking was in the sense, “*what will happen to us when you leave?*” The earlier question had not really indicated a serious inquiry as to Jesus’ destination. Peter and Thomas had in mind only the consequences for themselves and their fellow travelers.
- **But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart:**
 - ✓ The disciples could only see the sorrow of Jesus leaving; but Jesus’ departure was an essential step in their growth as disciples.
- **It is to your advantage that I go away:**
 - ✓ This had to be difficult for the disciples to believe. “What do you mean, Jesus? We have been with you for 5 years...and you are dropping this on us.” (You have some explaining to do!!)..
 - ✓ “Advantage for us...You have got to be kidding!”
 - ✓ If the disciples really understood what was about to happen, it would be even more difficult for them to believe.
- **Nevertheless:**
 - ✓ “**Nevertheless**” is one of the great words of the Bible. It means *despite all of that*.
 - ✓ *Despite all of that*, Jesus wanted them to know that it was **to** their **advantage**.
- **If I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you:**
 - ✓ Jesus (actually, the Trinity) had a plan.
 - ✓ Jesus would go away and send the Spirit of God.
 - ✓ With the Holy Spirit’s HELP, a broader and more effective ministry would be available then and in the future for the entire world.
- **I will send Him to you:**
 - ✓ Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to His disciples when He departed.
 - ✓ This is what would make it to their **advantage** that He departed from them.
 - ✓ The presence and work of the Holy Spirit would actually be better for believers than the physical, bodily presence of Jesus.

John 6:8-15 “*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.*”

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, 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.”

The work of the Holy Spirit in the world s

- **He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:**
 - ✓ **Sin** is the truth about man, **righteousness** is the truth about God, **judgment** is the inevitable combination of these two truths.
 - ✓ **He will convict:** The ancient Greek word translated **convict** has a broader range of meaning than something of a legal sense.
 - ✓ It also carries the ideas to *expose*, to *refute*, and to *convince* (Bruce).
 - ✓ This is the work of the Holy Spirit in the world and in individual hearts; to convince and convict THEM AND US of these truths.
 - ✓ The Spirit is the 'advocate' or helper of those who believe in Jesus... their counsel for the defense. But in relation to unbelievers, to the godless world, he acts as counsel for the prosecution.
 - ✓ It's important to have the Spirit of God to defend rather than to convict.
- **I still have many things to say to you:**
 - ✓ Jesus specifically stated that His own teaching was incomplete.
 - ✓ He anticipated the further instruction of the church by the Holy Spirit. This statement of Jesus leads us to anticipate the formation of the New Testament.
 - ✓ Paul and the other New Testament writers (by the power of the Spirit and the divinely inspired Word) taught us the **many things** that Jesus spoke of.
 - For example...the disciples didn't know that God would bring Gentiles into the New Covenant community as equal partners, without having to first become Jews.
 - ✓ The Holy Spirit continues today to personally lead us into truth, but *never* in opposition to the Scripture.
- **He will not speak on His own authority... He will glorify Me... He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you:**
 - ✓ The Holy Spirit's ministry is revealing Jesus to us, to bear testimony of Jesus (the Son of God) (John 15:26).
 - ✓ The Holy Spirit uses many different ways and many different gifts to accomplish this, but the purpose is always the same: to reveal Jesus.

In the gifts given to us, are we effectively revealing Jesus?

- Are we helping the Helper (the Holy Spirit) in His quest to win others to Christ?
- We can't convict! We can't pray others into the Kingdom of God without someone first telling them about Jesus!
- Tell them your salvation story and leave the rest to the Holy Spirit.



How Great Thou Art!

Oh Lord, my God...When I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
How great Thou art, how great Thou art



Songwriters: Stuart Keene Hine.