

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE STUDY

“The Gospel of John”

Pastor Jim Otte

2019-2020

Lesson 61: John 16:7– 15

“How the Helper Helps!”

⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for ^(K)if I do not go away, ^(L)the Helper will not come to you. But ^(M)if ^(N)I go, ^(O)I will send him to you. ⁸ ^(P)And when he comes, he will ^(Q)convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, ^(R)because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ ^(S)concerning righteousness, ^(T)because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ ^(U)concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world ^(V)is judged.

a. “if I do not go away, the Helper will not come” – the work of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is sequential. Our catechism’s teaching reflects this reality:

a. **Father:** Creator

b. **Son:** Redeemer (Savior)

c. **Holy Spirit:** Teacher & Sanctifier by working faith in the heart

b. “He will convict the world” – the Holy Spirit uses God’s Word (a means of grace) to face the truth of their brokenness & bring people to repentance, to move their hearts to receive the Gospel.

i. **Hebrews 4:12.** *For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

c. “concerning sin, because they do not believe” – with respect to the “sin” of idolatry and the rejection of God’s grace in Jesus, the Holy Spirit’s message (through the Word) is that “sin” separates people from God, and that this “sin” dooms the sinner to damnation. Two human reactions are common:

i. Proud hearts are crushed and fear of damnation takes over.

1. **Acts 2:37-41.** ⁷ *When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”* ³⁸ *Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.* ³⁹ *The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”* ⁴⁰ *With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”* ⁴¹ *Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*

- ii. Proud hearts resist and are hardened in their resolve to reject grace.

1. **John 8:23-24.** 23 But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins."

d. **"concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father" –**

righteousness is the state of the sinner whom God acquits, coming only when the sinner is covered with the forgiveness that Jesus earned on the cross/resurrection.

iii. Jesus died for all sinners; forgiveness is available to all sinner.

iv. Trusting in Jesus, as Savior and Lord, receives the gift He has earned!

v. **Acts 4:12.** Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

e. **"concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged." –**

the eternal destiny of Satan is secured. He is "judged." The sinner, who clings to his own delusion of "righteousness" by works, refuses God's gift of forgiveness through Christ. He (perhaps out of ignorance) is choosing the destiny God only intended for Satan.

vi. **Matthew 25:41.** 41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'

¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When ^(W)the Spirit of truth comes, ^(X)he will ^(Y)guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but ^(Z)whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will ^(AA)glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ ^(AB)All that the Father has is mine; ^(AC)therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

a. **"but you cannot bear them now."** – Jesus knows their limits of understanding. Because they are still in "sorrow," they aren't ready to hear or see through the lens of His resurrection (joy).

b. **"When the Spirit of truth comes"** – at Pentecost... the Spirit will fill them with courage to overcome their spiritual fear to bear public witness of Jesus' resurrection, in the face of persecution.

a. **"guide you into all the truth"** – the foundation for bearing witness, in the Spirit, is with "all the truth." This is an increasingly difficult challenge, as we live in a "post-truth" era. The world is promoting a dismissive attitude toward "truth."

i. There is no absolute truth; truth is relative to your experience. Truth is subservient to your feelings.

ii. If you feel something is truth, and you experience it, it must be truth.

iii. To "live your truth" is the ultimate goal and source of joy.

- iv. Because there is no one, trustworthy, spiritual truth, wise people should glean positive “truths” from diverse sources: Christianity, New Ageism, Eastern Religions, internet opinion, personal experience, etc. to create own spiritual traditions.
 - 1. Worth noting is this practice in Generation Z (born after 1996) (*Pew Research Center*)
 - a. 33% report no religious affiliation
 - b. Church attendance is unimportant (Barna).
 - c. Secular appreciation for rituals: celebrate holidays as cultural events, but don't attend services.
 - d. Mostly not raised in a home, which practiced church attendance, Bible Study, and living a consistent faith.
 - e. Christianity is part of the oppressive system against marginalized peoples.
 - f. See 'organized religion' as intolerant and abusive, because of the Bible's injunctions against sin.
 - g. Strive in life to fight for a culture of choice, freedom of expression, and the celebration of fluidity, i.e. gender, racial justice, diversity, LGBTQ+ rights, and saving the planet..
 - h. Most attracted to faiths, which teach faith as a community of caring adults. “Caring” is defined as non-judgmental embracing, tolerance, setting no behavioral boundaries, encouraging people to “live their own truth.”
- v. Compassionate feelings for others is the litmus test for the validity of truth (How one “feels” about the truth is what determines the validity of it and the willingness to believe it).

- b. **“will not speak on His own authority”** – the Helper speaks through the Word, the origins of which comes from God the Father.
- c. **“declare to you things that are to come”** – future events, both in plain literal language, as well as figurative imagery.
- d. **“glorify Me”** – the ultimate purpose, of what the Spirit says, is to make it all about Jesus – as the Christian's life is to be!
- e. **“declare it to you.”** – so that, in declaring it to you, you can share it with the world!