

The Gospel of John: The Spirit's Work

John 15:26-16:15

The Testifying Spirit (15:26-16:6)

- Amid warning His disciples of the treatment they will endure from the world, Jesus reminds us that we are not alone
 - The Holy Spirit will be *within* us
- He will testify about Jesus
 - And will empower His disciples to do the same
- Some of this maltreatment will come from those who claim to be God's people
 - This may take the form of synagogue ex-communication or even death
 - Both of which happen within Acts

The Convicting Spirit (16:7-11)

- Jesus tries to give them perspective, reminding them that His departure will benefit them because of the presence of the Spirit upon His return to the Father
- The Holy Spirit convicts the world of:
 - Sin: He seeks to convince us of our *need* for salvation from our sinfulness
 - When we put our faith in Jesus, we stop being a part of the world and start being part of His kingdom
 - Righteousness: He exposes our self-righteous behavior & attitudes
 - Because Jesus returned to the Father, He gives us access to the Spirit, who empowers us to live in true righteousness, which exposes false righteousness by contrast
 - Judgment: He shows the spiritual blindness of those who reject Him (7:24; 8:42-47)
 - The prince of this world (Satan), the source of this blindness, is defeated at the Cross

The Guiding Spirit (16:12-15)

- The Cross will not be the end of Jesus' work
- The Spirit continues the ministry of Jesus:
 - Guiding us into God's truth
 - Revealing the Father to us and *in* us
 - Empowering us to live like Jesus

So What?

- Are we letting the Spirit empower, convict, and guide us to continue the work of Jesus?

Meditation Verse: John 16:13b

Next Week: John 16:16-33