

The coming of the Spirit

The intriguing thing about this passage is the idea that the disciples will be better off without Jesus and with the Holy Spirit. This is not just because Jesus needs to leave in order to complete his work but because it is the Holy Spirit who will deliver a guilty verdict in God's court where the world is being tried (convicted) so that the disciples will know the truth about Jesus.

Question 1

Christians are often asked for evidence/proof that Jesus is who we claim he is. We give different sorts of arguments.

- f. Historical
- g. Philosophical
- h. Experiential
- i. Presuppositional
- j. Evidential

a. Do these arguments convince you or enforce your belief? Why do you believe?

This passage assumes that the disciples will be witnesses to the guilty verdict delivered by the Holy Spirit ie that the Holy Spirit will do the convincing of the disciples that Jesus was and is who he claimed to be. (Jn 16:8-11)

There are three points of the conviction/condemnation.

- a) Sin – not sins or sinning but sin. What is “sin”? (Jn 16:9)
- b) Righteousness – Righteous is what God is and we should be. It refers to keeping all the responsibilities of the relationship with God. It has to do with law keeping. Why is Jesus' departure to the Father evidence that he is righteous? (Jn 16:10)
- c) Judgement – Who was condemned as Jesus died on the cross? (Jn 16:11) Does it look like that?

Why are these three criteria for judgement so appropriate in helping the disciples know that they have indeed aligned themselves with God and his purposes?

Question 2

The world either thinks that the whole Jesus thing is vastly over-rated/unhelpful or that Jesus is a religious pretender. There are three events after this teaching for the disciples.

- 1) Death
- 2) Resurrection
- 3) Ascension

How can they most accurately be interpreted?

- a) prove Jesus is an insignificant rebel who died and around whom a myth has grown OR
- b) Jesus was defeated followed by God retrieving Jesus from hell followed by a retreat to heaven OR
- c) glorification followed by vindication followed by exaltation.

- A. Which of these comes closest to your belief? The early sermons showed what the disciples believed shortly after Jesus' departure.
- a. Read Acts 2:22-36
 - b. Read Acts 5:30-32

What change had come over the disciples that made them view Jesus' death etc differently?
Could the change be attributed to the Holy Spirit convicting the world of sin etc?

Question 3

The Holy Spirit not only shows the disciples that the world is wrong. He also shows them the truth.

- a) Why don't they know all the truth after three years with Jesus? (Jn 16:12)
- b) What is "all the truth"? (16:13) The disciples do not know everything. What is the truth that the Holy Spirit reveals when he comes? (cf Jn 14:6).
 - a. The Holy Spirit speaks what he hears (Jn 13:c). Is there a chain of hearing – Father to Son to Holy Spirit? (Jn 16:14,15)
 - b. Whose glory is he seeking? (Jn 16:14)
 - c. He will declare things that are to come. Does this mean that there are things that Jesus had not already told the disciples that the Holy Spirit will tell them or that he will help them to understand what Jesus has said in the light of having seen Jesus die?
 - i. Things about understanding Jesus' death.
 - ii. Things about the final judgement of the world.
 - iii. Things about what is going to happen for Jesus after his death.

What new understanding would the disciples gain in these areas?

Question 4

One of the issues that comes out of this passage is whether we hear in Jesus' words an empowering of the disciples to have the truth revealed to them in a unique way.

- a) Is the promise that they will be guided into all truth specifically for his immediate disciples or is it a promise for all disciples down through the ages.
- b) Some of the New Testament books were written by the men that Jesus was talking to but not all of them. Could more books be written with the same authority as the NT books or do they hold all the truth we need. Peter writes about Paul's (Paul wasn't one of the disciples in the upper room) letters (2 Peter 3:14-18). Where does Paul get his wisdom from?
- c) Is there "new truth" that the 11 disciples hadn't been shown already or simply a clearer understanding of what Jesus had been telling them before his death?

Question 5

What role does the Holy Spirit have in

- a) showing modern Christians the truth about Jesus?
- b) giving wisdom and guidance to us in everyday life?