

# ***Bible Study***

## ***Gods Word in Focus***



**Week Twenty Four**

**Gospel of John**

***John 16: 1-33***

# **“He will convict the world concerning sin and of righteousness and of judgment”**

**John 16:1-11**

Who hasn't experienced sorrow and grief over the loss of a loved one? Sorrow filled the hearts of Jesus' disciples when they heard him speak about his imminent departure. Jesus explained that it was for their sake that he must leave them and return to his Father. He promised, however, that they would never be left alone. He will send in his place the best of friends, the Holy Spirit.

Jesus tells his disciples three very important things about the work of the Holy Spirit -- *to convince the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment*. The original word for convince also means convict. The Holy Spirit is our Sanctifier.

He makes us holy as God is holy. He does this first by convicting us of our sin and by bringing us humbly to the foot of the Cross. The Spirit convinces us of God's love and forgiveness and of our utter dependence on God for his mercy and grace.

We need the power of the Holy Spirit to lead us from the error of our sinful ways and to show us the way of love and truth.

# "the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth"

John 16:12-15

What would you give to know all truth! Truth, however, is not something we create nor is it our discovery. It is the gift of God who is the possessor and the giver of all truth. Jesus tells his disciples that it is the role of the Holy Spirit to reveal what is true.

How can this be? Skeptics of truth don't want to believe in an absolute Truth. If truth is objective then it must be submitted to as authoritative. Some fear the truth because they think it will inhibit their freedom.

Jesus told his disciples that *the truth will set you free* (John 8:32). The truth liberates us from doubts, illusions, and fears. Since God is the source of all truth, then the closer we draw to him and listen to his word, the more we grow in the knowledge of him and of his great love and wisdom for us.

Jesus told his disciples that he would send them the Spirit of truth who will announce to you the things to come.

# **“A little while and you will not see Me”**

**John 16:16-22**

Jesus Promises That After a Little While the Disciples' Grief Will Turn to Joy Earlier Jesus told the disciples he would be with them only a little longer and encouraged them not to mourn.

Now he points to the time in the future when their grief will be turned to joy. Earlier Jesus' statements had triggered questions by the disciples. His teaching on the Holy Spirit also raises questions, but instead of asking Jesus what he means, the disciples question one another. They want to ask him but hold back. Perhaps they despair of getting an answer that makes any sense.

Throughout the Gospel Jesus has spoken cryptically, as he is about to admit. And here in the farewell discourse he has piled on more lessons that are beyond their understanding at this point, as he is well aware The disciples are seeking insight in the wrong place, for they have no answers to offer one another.

# “Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full“

John 16:23-28

Do you pray with confidence to your heavenly Father? Jesus often taught his disciples by way of illustration or parable. Here he speaks not in *“figures”* (the same word used for *parables*), but in plain speech.

Jesus revealed to them the hidden treasure of the heavenly kingdom and he taught them how to pray to the Father in his name.

Now Jesus opens his heart and speaks in the plainest of language: *“The Father himself loves you!”* How can the disciples be certain of this?

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, Jesus makes it possible for his disciples to have a new relationship with God as their Father. No one would have dared to call God his Father before this!

Because of what Jesus has done for us in offering his life for our redemption we now have a new relationship as the adopted children of God.

# **"Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world"**

**John 16:29-33**

How did Jesus convince his disciples that he was the Son of God? Jesus could read their hearts like an open book. He answered their questions before they could even speak them out. And he showed them the glory of God.

For a Christian, believing in God cannot be separated from believing in the One he sent, his "beloved Son", in whom the Father is "well pleased". We can believe in Jesus because he is himself God, the Word made flesh. Because he "has seen the Father", Jesus is the only one who knows him and can reveal him.

Our faith is "certain" because it is founded on the very word of God who cannot lie. Faith is already the beginning of eternal life.

Basil the Great says: "When we contemplate the blessings of faith even now, as if gazing at a reflection in a mirror, it is as if we already possessed the wonderful things which our faith assures us we shall enjoy one day."

Do you nourish and strengthen your faith with the word of God?