

Help for Hatred, part 3

(John 16:1-15)

(preached 7/28/19; Pine Grove BC Sun AM)

Introduction

Read the text.

1 “These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. 2 [a]They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. 3 These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me. 4 But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you [b]may remember that I told you of them. These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.

5 “But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the [c]Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning

judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

12 “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

Let us pray.

Some years ago, I began helping a friend who had an overhead door business.

He was very skilled with what he did.

He was very handy in terms of anything mechanical.

He could literally fix anything.

I, on the other hand, can literally break anything.

It is quite possible my spiritual gift to the world.

Often when I call this friend up, he answers with..

“Ok, what do you need me to fix now.”

One time, we went to a job and I literally did nothing but watch him work.

I remember leaving and even apologizing for not being any help.

His reply was, “Look, I understand you aren’t much help. I let you hang around to have someone to talk to.”

“One day, we may find something that you can actually help me with.”

That day never came..

Sadly, many believers have the same view of the Holy Spirit.

WE know we have Him.

The Bible tells us so, but sadly, we have no idea how He helps us.

In fact, I would say that the Holy Spirit is the most misunderstood member of the Trinity.

Some wrongly see the Spirit as a “feeling” that gives us chill bumps or makes us cry or feels us with a sense of euphoria

Some wrongly mistake the Spirit as a “force” that can overtake our body and make us move or speak in strange ways.

Some wrongly identify the Spirit as a “voice” that we can hear that tells us what to do..

Yet the Spirit of God is not described in any of those ways in Scripture.

So, who is the Spirit and how does He help us in this age?

Well, we have already identified the Spirit as a member of the Trinity.

The Spirit is God.

The Spirit is a He not a what.

And He is not a force, not a feeling, not a voice.

He is a person that is invisible to us but very active in our lives.

Jesus called Him the Helper, and that is how we should think of the Spirit.

He helps, but what does He help with?

Well, the Spirit is the One who leads people to salvation.

If you are saved today, it is because the Spirit drew you to God.

He put the truth in your heart.

He gave you understanding of the gospel.

He revealed your need to repent and believe, and then He granted the ability to repent and believe.

Once you are saved, He reveals the sinful areas in our life that need to go.

He encourages, he teaches, he strengthens, and on and on His helping ministry goes in our lives.

Last week, we also saw that he helps us speak the truth to others.

Look back at verse 7...

7 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the [c]Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

As we said last week, the Spirit does not hang in the air over the earth and preach to the world.

Instead, the Spirit declares to the truth of sin, righteousness, and judgment to the world through the mouths of believers.

We are able to tell the world that their sin is an offense to God.

We are able to tell the world that their righteousness falls way short of God's standard.

WE are able to tell the world that judgment is what awaits all who reject the gospel.

In other words, we are able to offer truth to the world because the Spirit equips us to speak that truth in love.

Now this is important in John 16 because Jesus is going away.

He is going to leave the disciples as he is sentenced to the cross.

And that departure has upset them greatly.

Jesus has done everything for them for the past 3 years.

He has fed them, taught them, protected them, and he has also been their spokesman.

They have gone out to preach a trial run, but 99% of the preaching has come from Christ.

He has been the preacher for this group.

He has told the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment..

He had confronted unbelief.

He has spoken the truth to the world, but now he is leaving and these men are wondering who will now be the one who declares these truths to the world..

On top of that, Jesus is leaving and he has told them that the world will reject their message.

Not only will they reject the message, they will reject the messenger.

In fact, Jesus said in John 15 that the world will hate them because it hated Him.

The world will persecute them because it persecuted Him.

And this only adds to the disciples despair.

So now these men are losing their provider, their protector, and their spokesman.

Yet, there is hope and help coming.

And the hope and help is the arrival of the Holy Spirit.

Not only will the Holy Spirit come to comfort these men, he will come and equip these men to carry on what Jesus had begun.

These men will become the world's prosecutors.

All of them will lovingly take the truth of the gospel to the world.

And that will only be possible through the help of the Holy Spirit.

Now look, if you are a believer in here, you don't have to be a preacher to be a speaker of truth.

All of you have probably spoken to unbelievers about their sin, about God's standard of righteousness, and the coming judgment..

You may not have been behind a pulpit or even holding a Bible, but the work of the Spirit in your lives has made you someone who speaks the truth in love.

That is simply a result of the Spirit's helping you to do it.

And that is exactly what happened in the lives of these disciples..

Jesus left, the Spirit came, and these men rose up by the power of the Spirit and spoke truth to the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment.

And this brings us to our text for this morning in verses 12-15..

I simply call this..

III. The Persecution of Christianity is Limited by the Spirit's Ministry to Believers (12-15)

Though hatred and persecution are a way of life for God's people in the world, the Holy Spirit limits that hatred.

Not only does He equip us to speak truth, he also ministers to believer's hearts.

You have two purposes if you are a believer.

- 1) take the gospel to the world, and..
- 2) grow in your walk with the Lord.

And the reality is that the Spirit helps us do both..

He helps us take the truth to the world, but he he also grows us in our love of God.

But how does that happen?

How will the Spirit's arrival help these men grow in their understanding of truth?

Well, let's go back to verse 12 of John 16..

Jesus is speaking to these disciples about the help that is coming with the arrival of the Holy Spirit..

12 “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth;

Not only will the arrival of the Spirit make these men declarers of truth, the arrival of the Spirit will bring more truth into their lives..

You see, Jesus did not tell them everything that they needed to know in the 3 years that he spent with them.

He didn't even tell them everything they needed to know in the days that he spent with them after the resurrection..

He even says in verse 12 that he had much more to say to them, but that truth wouldn't come until the arrival of the Holy Spirit..

Now if you have been here on Wednesday nights, we have just started the book of Acts, and this week we will get to Acts 2..

And in Acts 2, we see the arrival of the Spirit...

50 days after Jesus was resurrected, the Holy Spirit came, and his arrival also meant the arrival of more truth..

Now how did the Spirit bring more truth?

Well, the primary way is through His giving of the New Testament..

In other words, the Holy Spirit's inspiration of the NT will complete the Bible and provide the period on all the truth that the world needs to be saved and live a life pleasing to God.

As these men go forward in their mission to declare the truth, they will have the help of the Holy Spirit to give them courage.

But they will also have the help of the Holy Spirit in a written record.

In fact, some of the men that Jesus is speaking to here will be inspired by the Spirit to write a history of Jesus' life.

Matthew is here and he will write a gospel.

John is here and he will write a gospel and 4 others books in the NT.

Peter is here and he will write two letters to the church.

Then along will come Paul and Luke and Mark and Jude and James and the Holy Spirit will give them truth to write and complete the NT.

I think we underestimate the gift of the Bible in our lives.

To have a record of what God wants us to know is absolutely amazing to consider.

The God of the Bible is not a god who keeps silents and makes his follower wonder what he is like.

The God of the Bible has revealed himself in 66 books that are joined into one large book.

And the Holy Spirit, who is God had inspired every one of those 66 books.

Now as Jesus speaks to these men, there are only 39 books of the OT.

27 more have to be written, so when Jesus says that he has more to say to them, he meant it.

Yes, He had told the much in 3+ years of being with them, but there was more to know.

So why didn't He just tell them?

Well, the disciples weren't spiritually ready for it.

At this point, they are still trying to process losing Jesus.

They are still trying to figure out what will happen to them.

They still don't have any idea about the church.

If Jesus sits them down and starts explaining the qualifications of a pastor and elders, they will have no idea what He is talking about.

If he sits them down and talks about how to deal with sin in the church, they won't be able to make sense of it.

But once the Spirit comes and the church is established, truth about pastors and deacons and elders and roles in the church will be necessary.

And when that day arrives, Christ will give more truth to them by the Spirit's inspiration of the NT.

One day, instruction about spiritual gifts will be needed..

One day, instruction about the false teachers in the church will be helpful..

But at this point, it wouldn't have made much sense to these men..

In fact, Jesus says that the disciples couldn't bear it and this point..

The word for bear carries the idea of something being too heavy.

And truths about the church and for the church are too heavy for men who have no idea what the church even is.

However, verse 13 makes it clear that the Spirit will come and at the proper time, He will guide these disciples and all believers to truth.

In fact, the Spirit will guide believers to all truth.

This is such an important verse.

The NT along with OT contains ALL the truth that God desired to reveal to the world.

You don't need anything beyond what is contained in the Bible.

You don't need God to speak to you personally.

He has told you all you needed to know in Scripture.

You don't teachers today who claim that they have a fresh word from the Lord.

God doesn't need to give His people more than He has already given in the Bible.

There are men today who call themselves apostles and prophets and claim to speak fresh words from God, but they are liars.

God does not need to speak fresh words today, he has revealed all that He wished to reveal through the Spirit to the church.

The Spirit even affirms that by how the Bible ends..

Revelation 22 is the final chapter of the Bible and this is what the Spirit says in verses 18-19..

18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and [i]from the holy city, which are written in this book.

To add or take away from all the truth that God has revealed through the work of the Spirit is to invite trouble into your life.

Whatever truth God has revealed, He has revealed completely and fully through the Spirit's inspiration of the Bible.

So, the Spirit will give the disciples MORE truth.

The Spirit will give the disciples ALL truth.

And last, the Spirit will give the disciples GOD's truth.

What I mean by that is that the Spirit gives the truth that comes from the triune God.

In other, the Father, the Son, and the Spirit all speak as One in the Bible.

Look back at the second half of verse 13..

for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

What you see in these verses are all 3 members of the Trinity..

Jesus says that Spirit will give truth, but it won't be just His truth.

The Spirit will give the truth of Son, and even the truth of the Father.

This is also of Jesus.

When Jesus spoke, he didn't speak on his initiative, He spoke what the Father told Him to speak.

In other words, there is unity in the inspiration of Scripture.

All the words of God given to us in the Bible come to us from the triune God.

This is why the inerrancy of the Bible is so important to affirm.

By inerrancy, I mean that the Bible is 100% true.

There is no error in it.

And in case you didn't know, there are plenty of people who call themselves Christians but think otherwise.

There are pastors in pulpits today who don't affirm inerrancy.

Who say that the Bible is just a collection of stories and poetry and moral principles..

But let tell you this.

If you see the Bible as containing error, you believe in an imperfect God.

Because God inspired every word of it.

The Father, the Son, and the Spirit were in perfect harmony as the Bible was given to men to write and record.

To reject any part of what the Spirit has inspired is to reject the Son and the Father.

You can't have an imperfect word but claim a perfect God.

And you can't claim a perfect God but say that he was imperfect in giving us His truth.

The Bible is perfect because the God who inspired every word of it is perfect.

Therefore, all the truth of Scripture points to God who gave it..

Conclusion

So what does all this mean?

#1 - Believers are equipped.

Not only will the Spirit enable you to speak truth, the Spirit will give you the truth to speak.

As I stand up this morning, I have nothing to say to you apart from Scripture.

What I think about any topic matters very little.

My opinions are no more valuable than your opinions.

But what God has said is of utmost importance.

What God has revealed is of ultimate value.

Look, speak the truth to people.

Do it in love with much patience.

And what truth do you speak to them?

Not your truth, but the truth of God given in Scripture.

#2 - The Bible is sufficient.

I cannot stress this enough, but the Bible is all the truth that you need.

So many people today look so many directions today for help.

But the Bible is enough.

A lot of people would look at our church very strangely because we study the Bible.

A lot of people probably consider us odd because we look at every word and phrase and verse of Scripture.

A lot of people probably consider is strange that we gather 3 times a week to read and study and understand the same book.

But that is precisely what a church should be doing.

We don't need outside advice or counsel or expertise.

The Bible is our standard, our textbook, our guide, our foundation as the people of God.

Without it, we would be lost and have no idea what to do.

Have no idea how to have our sins forgiven.

Have no idea who God was and what he has done to provide forgiveness for guilty sinners.

But we do have it, so let us get busy reading and studying and obeying it with all our heart.

#3 - The Holy Spirit is our Helper.

One final note that needs to be said is that the Holy Spirit is a great gift to the church.

It is sad to see so many people who lack appreciation for the Spirit's work in their lives.

Some of that is because many people have abused the Spirit over years.

Saying that the Spirit causes them speak in tongues.

Saying that Spirit makes them lose control and run around church buildings.

Saying the Spirit is some special feeling they get or some state of euphorias they feel..

All those inaccuracies tend to make people more afraid of the Spirit than appreciative of Him.

Let me assure that the Spirit of God is not creating chaos but peace.

The Spirit is not a lack of control but leading to more self-control..

The Spirit of God is not some mystical hard to understand goosebumps and hocus pocus.

God's spirit is real.

He is truly God.

And He leads people to God and the truth of his word.

The Spirit of God is not honored when we make Him into something that He is not.

He is honored when we understand Him, praise Him, and appreciate His work in our lives.

Don't see the Spirit as some mysterious force.

See the Spirit as your Helper in bringing you to Christ and transforming your life into His image.

#4 - The Spirit is effective.

So how did the story end for these men?

Well, Jesus departed and the Spirit came.

And these disciples were forever.

The Spirit caused them to stand up and preach sin, righteousness, and judgment to the world.

And then Spirit also led some of them to sit down and write God's truth to put a period on the Bible.

Ultimately, the Spirit accomplishes what he sets out to do.

And I would ask you now?

What is the Spirit asking you to do today?

Do you need to get serious about taking truth to the world?

Do you need to get serious about your Bible study?

Or do you simply need to get the Spirit by repenting of your sins and putting your faith in Christ alone?

May the Spirit of God be at work in you, and may you be obedience to what He is moving you to do.

Let us pray.

