

20:20 Vision Ministries -- Devotions by Roger Browning
Week 46 (November 10-16, 2013)

This week, we will continue to study the lessons taught by our Lord on the last night of His life on this earth.

Sunday -- November 10 (John 16:1-4)

Although, Jesus was talking to His disciples and warning them of the trials to come, I believe **we** are approaching a time when verse 2 is about to come to pass in our country as well. As our nation moves more and more into political correctness, the message of evangelical preachers will become less and less popular. Under the banner of "hate speech," certain parts of the Bible are already scorned. I don't want any of you to be surprised by the persecutions that are ahead, and I certainly don't want any of you to go astray (v. 1)! Jesus has promised that the Holy Spirit will give us words to say when we are brought to trial for our faith (see Matthew 10:19-20). We must remember that the people who fight against the Christian message do not know Jesus or the Father (v. 3). The Lord is preparing His disciples for His departure (v. 4). Since I won't always be with you in the flesh either, like Peter (2 Peter 1:12-15) and Paul (Acts 20:25-31) before me, I am striving to leave, through these devotions, the wonderful truths shown to me so that you can stand strong against the persecutions that are coming from unbelievers.

Monday -- November 11 (John 16:5-11)

The Third Person in the Trinity is about to be introduced to the disciples. These men are not yet capable of understanding the entire mission of the Lord (see 16:12). They cannot fully grasp that He came from the Father and is now returning to the Father. They don't even know enough to ask Him a question about His trip (v. 5); therefore, they are very sad about His coming death and what it will mean to them (v. 6). Jesus is **glorified** by His death and resurrection (see John 12:23-24), because He paid the price for our sins on Calvary and established His Kingdom on earth as well as in Heaven. John 7:39 teaches that the Spirit cannot be given until Jesus is glorified; therefore, it is for **our good** that the Lord willingly laid down His life for us so that we can be filled with His Spirit (v. 7). We will look at some of the works of the Spirit in tomorrow's study.

Tuesday -- November 12 (John 16:5-11)

The Holy Spirit came to expose the guilt of the world (see NIV footnote for verse 8) "He came to "convict (or convince) the world in regard to **sin** and **righteousness** and **judgment**." The only unpardonable **sin** is the rejection of Jesus and His perfect plan of salvation. The Spirit convinces us that we are sinners (Romans 3:23) and that "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23a) so that we are led to accept the "gift of God" offered in Romans 6:23b. Once we accept Him, the Spirit convinces us that the only way to live a **righteous** life (v. 10) is to allow the Holy Spirit to control our lives since Jesus is our **righteousness** (see 1 Corinthians 1:30). All of our personal righteous acts, apart from Him, are "as filthy rags" in His sight (see Isaiah 64:6). Next, the Spirit convinces us that the Satan-controlled worldview is incorrect. He allows us to make **judgments** from a Biblical perspective (v. 11). His sacrificial death on Calvary defeated Satan once and for all so that we will not face the **judgments** of this world. We will see more of the workings of the Holy Spirit in tomorrow's devotions.

Wednesday -- November 13 (John 16:12-15)

The Holy Spirit's job is to lead us into **all truth**, but He will never tell us more than we are able to understand at that time (v. 12-13). Some people say, "There are parts of the Bible that are not meant to be understood." In this, they are not correct! The only parts that are not understandable are those beyond your **present** ability to comprehend. The Spirit works only in unison with the Father and the Son; He never says anything on His own (v. 13). Our Lord receives glory when we grow in our faith and bear fruit (v. 14; see also 15:8). Verses 14-15 mean something different to me than you may find in a commentary. In my personal life, the Spirit has started with those things I have already believed and accepted, and He has used them as a foundation for more truth and knowledge. When I walk in obedience to the truth already shown to me, the Spirit is able to teach me new and exciting truths that I never saw before. What have you given to God? Are you willing for the Spirit to take you much further in your knowledge of Him?

Thursday -- November 14 (John 16:16-18)

Jesus has already said that the Holy Spirit will teach us about "what is yet to come" (v. 13). Now He prophesies specifically about His death, resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit to fill the believers (see Acts 2:1-13). He also has in mind the Second Coming when He will return to earth to set up His Kingdom. The disciples have no idea what He is talking about so they begin to talk among themselves (v. 17-18). They can't even comprehend what He means when He declares that He is "going to the Father." In verse 16, Jesus tells His disciples that they actually will see Him in His new resurrected body on several occasions, but, more importantly, He is preparing them for the time when the invisible Spirit will live with them forever to complete His work on earth. Maybe you, like the disciples, wonder what Jesus means by "a little while." Perhaps you think the Master "is staying away a long time" (see Matthew 24:48-49). Do not lose patience; He is waiting for the full number of Gentiles to come to salvation (see Romans 11:25; see also 2 Peter 3:8-9). Perhaps one of your loved ones will complete the body of Christ and open the door for the rapture. Keep on praying!

Friday -- November 15 (John 16:19-24)

Jesus tells the disciples that the grief of the next few days will turn to joy when He appears to them after His resurrection. The lost world, on the other hand, will rejoice at His death (v. 19-20), and panic when He comes back from the grave (see Matthew 28:11-15). He illustrates this truth by using the pains of an expecting mother just prior to the birth of her baby. The joy she feels for the new child far outweighs the pains of childbirth (v. 21-22). The everlasting joy of the resurrection will overshadow the pain of watching Him die for their sins (v. 22). As a result of His death and resurrection, the Holy Spirit will be sent to live in the hearts of all believers. The wonderful benefit is this: now we can go directly to the Father through the Son, because the Holy Spirit delivers our prayers to the Father and gives us everything we need to serve God (23-24; see also Romans 8:26-27). Hallelujah, what a Mighty God we serve!

Saturday -- November 16 (John 16:25-33)

Jesus reiterates the plan the Trinity has arranged to empower the believers. He is going back to the Father where He, along with the Holy Spirit, will intercede for us (see Romans 8:26-27, 34). That is why we can now ask for anything **in His name** because He knows we will not, through the Spirit, ask for anything that will not be for His glory (v. 25-28). That's because by praying "**in His Name**," we can only ask for the things that He would ask for in the same circumstance (WWJD). The disciples finally understand His figurative language (v. 29-30), but He warns them that they will run away in fear before the night is over and leave Him all alone with His Father (v. 31-32). He concludes his Upper Room teaching with a verse that the "positive only" TV evangelist will never tell you (v. 33). The world will persecute you and the worldview will be horribly wrong, but our Lord has won the victory over sin and death to save those who live according to the Biblical worldview. Rejoice!