

The Helper Has Come
Hope Chapel Honolulu
John 15:18 - 16:15

⁷ “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” (John 16:7-11, ESV)

Introduction

We pick up Christ’s conversation with the disciples right where we left off last week: John 15:18. No sooner does Jesus say, “**These things I command you, so that you will love one another,**” (Jn15:17) so we find ourselves faced with the unpleasant reality that not everyone loves the Father or His Son, His message, or His disciples. Persecution, a word very rarely used here in the U.S. as it is some other places around the world today, should not be thought of as something that only happens to other believers in other places. Let’s listen closely to the words of Christ to hear as the disciples heard Him.

1. Sharing in the sufferings of Christ. (John 15:18-25)

- a) The love of Father and the Son, and the hatred of the world.
- b) “**Now they have seen and hated both me and my Father.**” (v.24)

2. God’s prescription for persecution. (John 15:26-16:4a)

- a) The relational responsibility of the Holy Spirit is to bear witness of Christ. (v.26)
- b) The promise of persecution.

3. The relationship and responsibilities of the Holy Spirit. (John 16:4b-15)

- a) The Holy Spirit convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness and judgment.
- b) The “**ruler of this world**” (*kosmoskrator*--Jn12:31, 14:30, 16:11; 1Jn3:8, 4:4)
- c) The Spirit of Truth guides, speaks what He hears, declares the future and glorifies Christ.

Conclusion

The Father and Son’s provision for witness and solution for persecution is the same Holy Spirit. Two words that I find helpful to understand God’s plan for those who trust Him are *parakletos* (“one sent alongside to help”) descriptive of the Holy Spirit’s role as the One who helps us from alongside the deepest part of our human being—between soul and spirit, and *pneumatikos* or “people of the Spirit” which describes what the Holy Spirit is working to help us become, both as individuals and as a *glocal* community. Have you given place to the Holy Spirit at the deepest part of your being and are you cooperating with God to become a spiritual person who is a vital part of a spiritual community?

For your prayerful study, discovery and application:

- 1) Read John 15:18-25. Think, talk and pray about why the world hates the Father, the Son and us.
- 2) Read and compare John 15:26-27 and Acts 1:4-8. How is the Holy Spirit helpful to your witness?
- 3) Discuss and pray for the work of the Holy Spirit in your lives as found in John 15:26-27 & 16:13-15.

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