

July 6/25 Small Group Questions

John 16:4b-15 "It is to your advantage that I leave"

Read John 16:4b-15

1. The disciples are grieving Jesus' impending departure. Where does Jesus shift their focus and what impact does he envision that shifted impact will have on them?

This section of John is all about the person and work of the Spirit. For the Spirit is a Holy Spirit, come to make us holy, come to make us whole. The Spirit comes to restore us to our created purpose, to reflect Jesus and so bring life and flourishing to the world around us. The Spirit does this primarily by the work of conviction. This was a word used in the ancient courtroom for the cross examination of a witness. It was all about asking a lot of tough questions to show the holes in the story, to undo the fabric of a person's view of things. The Spirit comes to convict, to undo our sense of reality so that we might enter more into God's reality, the reality of the Kingdom.

2. The Spirit convicts the world (kosmos). Kosmos is defined as human society ordered without reference to God – his kingship, beauty, justice, love etc. What are some examples of Kosmos that are most apparent today?

The Spirit convicts the kosmos, so that it is no longer Kosmos, no longer ordered without reference to God. This conviction happens in three areas:

3. (vs. 9) The Spirit convicts of sin, the areas of our lives and world that are not ordered in reference to God. Jesus says that the heart of sin is unbelief, a lack of right reference to him. In the sermon Tim reflected that underneath every act of sin is unbelief – a lack of trust in who Jesus is and what he has done for us. When you reflect on the areas in our world, and in our own lives that are ordered without reference to God – can you identify the lack of trust – the unbelief that sits under it?
4. (vs. 10) The Spirit convicts of righteousness, because Jesus is going to the Father. Jesus has told them that he is going to the father to prepare a place for us. He is preparing the final consummation of the kingdom of God, a glorious future where our world would be shot through with the love, justice, beauty and peace of the living God. How will coming to see what the kingdom of God will look like enable us to no longer be kosmos?
5. (vs. 11) The Spirit will convict of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. How is the coming of judgement good news?
6. The Spirit brings about this conviction by guiding us to and glorifying Jesus. Making Jesus, his love, his grace, his words the most weighty, important, significant reality in our lives. Can you describe a time in your life where the Spirit brought about change and transformation by pressing the words, the character, the work of Jesus home to your heart?