**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN**

**Are You Prepped for the Mission?, Part 2, John 14:16-16:33**

Sunday, March 19, 2023

**WE Slide 1 HAPPY BIRTHDAY GP! Also, Tiffin 3 services today!** Jesus said, “I will build My church and the gates of hell will not overpower it.” **The church is built as more people come to faith in Jesus Christ- AND HE WANTS TO PARTNER WITH US ON IT!** When that happens, we need to increase services because the people aren’t fitting in. **Slide 2 just have the slide up/I won’t reference it. We’re continuing the mission Jesus gave to the disciples-turned-apostles which is what Jesus is prepping them/us for in John 13-16.** Turn to John 14, pg. 1078 as we finish up our 2-part message on being PREPPED FOR THE MISSION.

**Slide 3 LAST WEEK we looked at 4 ESSENTIALS to experiencing success in our mission to get the gospel message out to those in our lives who need it.** These things are also EVIDENCE that a person truly has eternal life- a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus.

1. ESSENTIAL #1: Serve Humbly as we imitate Jesus’ humble service.
2. ESSENTIAL #2: Love Sacrificially as Jesus ultimately demonstrated on the cross.
3. ESSENTIAL #3: Pray Confidently as we pray we pray for what we need to accomplish His mission.
4. ESSENTIAL #4: Respond Obediently to do life as Jesus commands which draws people to Him.

**Slide 4 TODAY we’ll look at the other 2 ESSENTIALS FOR MISSION SUCCESS that Jesus gives us.**

1. ESSENTIAL #5: Understand the Holy Spirit’s Role
2. ESSENTIAL #6: Abide in Christ

**We’ve got A LOT to cover today so let’s get right to it.** Here’s a summary of what Jesus says in 14-16 about the role of God the Holy Spirit in accomplishing the MISSION of spreading the gospel. **Slide 5-6**

**GOD**

1. **ESSENTIAL #5 UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT, John 14:16-31; 15:26-16:5-15**
2. **What Jesus Says about the Holy Spirit He’s a person, not an it, referenced as He in the Bible.**
3. He is given to believers by God forever- never leaves, removed or lost, John 14:16-17
4. He is the Helper/Comforter, John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7
5. He is the Spirit of Truth, John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13 (John 4 worshipers who worship in spirit/truth)
6. He will teach, remind, and guide the disciples into all truth, John 14:26; John 16:13-15
7. He will testify about Jesus, John 15:26-27
8. He is to the disciples’ advantage, John 16:7- Jesus, though God, was in the flesh and could only be at one place at a time, but the Holy Spirit, as spirit, will be fully at all places at all times.
9. He will convict non-believers of their need for salvation, John 16:9-11

**There’s a lot of wrong teaching about the role of the Holy Spirit going around in Christianity which is causing people to not grow spiritually and get off track on our mission.** We’re going to BREAKDOWN 3 of the most commonly misunderstood roles. **Slide 7 The 1st is that He will teach, remind, and guide the disciples into all truth.** Look what John writes. **READ John 14:26; 16:13 Slide 8-11**

**Jesus is referring to the SOURCE of the disciples’ teaching/writing NT.** Here’s how Peter and Paul say it. **READ 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 Slide 11-15 This brings up a CRUCIAL POINT- Is this promise just for the disciples-turned-apostles, or is it for us today; are we getting new revelation from the Spirit as some teach? Slide 16**

1. **Breaking Down 3 of His Roles**
2. He will teach, remind, and guide the disciples into all truth, John 14:26, 16:13
3. Refers to the disciples’ teaching/writing NT, 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10
4. **CRUCIAL POINT:** IT’S A SPECIFIC PROMISE to the disciples-turned-apostles. **Why?**
5. Apostles- the 13, includes Paul, were personally called/trained by Jesus.
6. Jesus made them the foundation of the church.  **Paul says it READ Eph. 2:19-22 Slide 17-20**
7. You can only have 1 cornerstone on a building- Jesus.
8. You can only have 1 foundation of a building- apostles/prophets and their teaching.
9. Everyone else after them, including believers today are part of the building.

1. No others were given this promise in the Bible. **Specific vs. general/universal promises.**
2. **Specific-** promises given to people that aren’t repeated in other biblical passages, i.e., no other NT Bible passage mentions anyone else receiving Holy Spirit provided revelation.
3. **Universal-** promises given to people that are repeated in other biblical passages, i.e., the Great Commission- given to apostles, but also repeated in NT letters for all believers.

**So what about today? Slide 21 Today there are no NT-style apostles who are receiving a “word from the Lord” or “new/more revelation from the Holy Spirit”.** Those who teach this- NAR movement: Bethel Church many on Christian TV- are teaching contrary to Scripture. **TODAY WE rely on the Holy Spirit to teach, remind, and guide us in Jesus’ truth, the reading/studying of God’s Word, which was given to the OT writers/NT apostles by God the Holy Spirit.** **Another area of wrong teaching that’s happening in Christianity is the over-emphasis on the Holy Spirit in teaching/music.** There are those who focus on the Holy Spirit claiming He moves in mysterious ways to accomplish intense spiritual experiences and miracles, but that’s not what Jesus said the Holy Spirit’s role is. **Here’s what Jesus says.** **READ John 15:26-27; 16:13-15 Slide 22-28** The Holy Spirit doesn’t draw attention to Himself He points people to/reveals Jesus- our teaching then is to point people to Jesus just like the Holy Spirit does.

1. The Holy Spirit’s role is to testify about and glorify Jesus, John 15:26-27; 16:13-14
2. Testify- martureo; be a witness about Jesus, confirm who He is- God/Savior and what He teaches and we have that same role to play in our lives.
3. Glorify- doxazo; reveal and teach us who Jesus is, how He works, what He desires.
4. **False teaching-** the Spirit is mysterious, moves in ways we can’t understand, have to follow His leading, even if what they’re doing isn’t in the Bible, because we can’t put God in a box.
5. **To use their terminology-** God puts Himself in a box- the Holy Spirit never does something outside of what God/Jesus teach us in Scripture, He only reveals what God/Jesus told Him.

**Slide 29 Going along with the testifying/glorifying Jesus the other role He does is CONVICT non-believers about their need for salvation. READ John 16:8-11 Slide 30-32**

1. He’s the One who will convict non-believers of their need for salvation, John 16:8-11
2. Convict- elegxo; recognize sin, wrongdoing
3. Sin- they don’t believe in Jesus and they need to know about sin/His offer of forgiveness.
4. Righteousness- because Jesus isn’t around so He needs to open their eyes.
5. Judgment- Satan is judged, he doesn’t have power, they’ll be judged if they reject Jesus.

**Isn’t it good to know that God the Holy Spirit’s GOT YOUR BACK and is the One who clarifies/convicts people about salvation? We don’t need to save anyone; we just share the message and let Him go to work.** As He does this people will come to faith in Jesus which is the “fruit” Jesus talks about in John 15. **The goal of the mission is to produce as much fruit as God desires.** So how can we make sure we are successful in producing “fruit”- see people come to faith in Jesus?Jesus uses a familiar illustration to those in the 1st century- a vineyard. **READ John 15:1-11, 16 Slide 33-43 Jesus is saying that for us to be successful in the mission- seeing people come to faith in Jesus- we need to commit to ABIDE IN CHRIST.** **Slide 44** Let’s break this down.

1. **ABIDE IN CHRIST, John 15:1-27**
2. **BREAKDOWN OF THE ILLUSTRATION**
3. Vine = Jesus- He is the source of spiritual life. **Talked a lot about this in previous chapters.**
4. Vinedresser/Owner/Farmer = God the Father
5. He’s responsible for the vineyard- its health, production, prepares the ground, waters, etc.
6. The goal of any farm/vineyard is to produce as much fruit as possible. **Because of that…**
7. He TAKES AWAY non-producing branches- not drawing, not producing fruit, hurting the vine.
8. He PRUNES producing branches- things that would damage/redirect nutrients, produce more.

**Some would say this passage is talking about personal fruit/spiritual growth- resemble Jesus.** It’s true there are passages that speak about personal spiritual growth being fruit, but in context Jesus is talking about the mission of spreading the gospel to the world. **Slide 45**

1. The fruit- in context it is those who come to faith in Jesus through our words/actions.
2. The context of John 13-16 is preparing the disciples/us for our mission to spread the gospel.
3. In John 15:16 Jesus says it’s people- “I chose you to go and bear fruit”.

**You might be asking, what’s up with the non-producing branches and producing branches? Slide 46**

1. The Non-producing branch- those who profess faith in Jesus but aren’t truly saved.
2. Remember John’s writing so that people may KNOW they have eternal life.
3. Jesus is warning those who say they believe, but their lives show something else- evidence of eternal life is what we talked about last week, and abiding in Jesus and sharing your faith.
4. In context, those who aren’t bearing spiritual fruit show they are not truly saved.
5. If they remain in that condition they are gathered up at the end of time and judged to hell.

**On the other hand those who are truly saved will experience God pruning them as they abide in Jesus and see people come to Christ.**

1. The producing branch- those who are truly saved which is seen in their spiritual production.
2. God prunes/cuts off the things that keep us from spiritual effectiveness.
3. These may be sin we’re putting our energy into, or activities/lifestyles that aren’t sinful, but don’t help us produce for the sake of the gospel.
4. Jesus says it’s His Word, the Bible, as we spend time in it that God will use to identify those things.
5. When we spend time with Him in His Word, the Holy Spirit teaches, and we live like Him for the purpose He lived. **ILLUSTRATION if time? Garlic**

**What’s Jesus’ point with this illustration? I think it’s obvious after breaking it down. Slide 47**

1. **POINT OF THE ILLUSTRATION: Success in the mission requires us to ABIDE in Christ. What does it mean to abide in Christ?**
2. Abide- meno; to remain, not leave an area, to continue, stay connected
3. **ILLUSTRATION:** It’s us and our cell phones- always there, checking notifications/sounds
4. **HOW DO I ABIDE IN CHRIST? Slide 48 Afterall He’s not here.** Jesus gives us 2 things to do.
5. John 15:7 by having His word, the Bible, abide in us/
6. John 15:10 by living His word out in our lives- obeying Him which shows our love for Him.
7. It comes back to that daily connecting with Him in the Bible, asking Him to show you where your life needs to change, then asking the Holy Spirit to empower you to live it out.
8. **WHY SHOULD I ABIDE? Slide 49**
9. If you’re truly saved you’ll want to because God the Holy Spirit is in you- not perfectly.
10. If we don’t we won’t have any spiritual impact, John 15:5
11. Your non-believing people need you to be- He/His Word/obedience is the source of gospel impact.
12. Abiding is how you experience Jesus’ promised peace, John 14:27; 16:33
13. Abiding is how you experience Jesus’ joy, John 15:11; 16:24
14. We experience His power when persecuted, Jesus said in 15:18-25 that living this way will bring persecution- people in your life, family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, will not like you for it which makes it even more crucial for you to abide in Jesus.

**I love how Jesus finishes out His teaching in John 16 just before His prayer for us in John 17.** **READ John 16:33 Slide 50 Why should we abide in Christ, remain connected and allow God to use us to bring people to Christ for salvation? Because it’s our PATH TO PEACE because Jesus has overcome this world and we overcome through Him.** I think the TAKEAWAY from Jesus’ teaching is pretty obvious. **Slide 51**

**YOU TAKEAWAY**

**Commit to having success in the mission by abiding in Jesus through…**

1. **Daily time with Him in the Bible.**
2. **Living it out in your life.**
3. **And seeing your people come to Christ.**

**PODCAST: Are You Prepped for the Mission?, Part 2,** John 14:16- 16:33; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10; Ephesians 2:19-22