
RELATED SCRIPTURES

Romans 1:4 | Joel 2:28 | Matthew 28:18-20

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 2.25.24

SUMMARY

It's difficult to imagine anything better than to be an eyewitness of Jesus' ministry. Hearing Jesus teach and seeing him do the miraculous must have been an experience second to none. However, Jesus tells his disciples there is something better than being an eyewitness, and they're about to discover it for themselves as he tells them, ". . . it is to your advantage that I go away" (v. 7). The disciples still didn't fully realize what was about to transpire—the arrest, humiliation, and crucifixion of the one whom they believed to be "the Christ." They also didn't realize what was on the other side of his suffering—his ascension and coronation; Jesus would take his seat at the right hand of the Father. At the Father's side, Jesus occupies a position of power, and his first act would be to send the Holy Spirit to minister to the disciples. Beyond the Spirit's work with the disciples, Jesus says the Helper will "convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment" (vs. 8-11). Like never before, the Holy Spirit would be "poured out" (Joel 2:28) and would equip and empower all the disciples—those in the upper room and all to follow—to carry on the ministry of Christ. This mass-scale redemptive work of the Holy Spirit is better than if Christ remained behind, going from town to town, spreading the gospel. The Holy Spirit multiplies the work of Christ through his followers. Jesus assures all his followers that he is one with the Father and the Spirit—we serve a triune God. Moreover, because of Christ's work, we are united with him, sealed by the Spirit, and pleasing in the Father's sight.

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of John 16:1-15.

Do you believe your faith would be stronger if you were an eyewitness to Christ's ministry? How does this passage convince us otherwise? What does this passage teach us about the Holy Spirit's impact on our faith?

What practical ways have you observed the Holy Spirit empowering you to carry on the work of Christ? How has the Holy Spirit most clearly displayed his power in your life?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.