

Help: My Judge

Series: The Holy Spirit: Helper. Comforter. Intercessor. Judge

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Scripture: John 16: 5 - 12 **Focus:** John 16:8 (New American Standard Bible)

"But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' "But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. "But 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. **"And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;** concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

Group Session

Opening Questions

What comes to mind when you think about the words: Conviction, Sin, Righteousness, & Judgment

Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. Last week we spoke of the Holy Spirit as our Comforter. This week we see that he is also the one who convicts. How do we solve this dichotomy? Can He be both?

There is present comfort, even in the midst of these convictions: the soul secretly rejoices in the sight of its own misery, blesses God for bringing it out of darkness into light, and looks forward with a comfortable prospect of future deliverances, knowing, that, "though sorrow may endure for a night, joy will come in the morning. – George Whitefield

Share an example of how you were comforted as a result of first being convicted.

2. Read John 16:6. Give some real life, modern day examples of "these things".

What is the "main thing" thing that we should be focusing on?

3. Read Colossians 3:1-4. What does this verse tell us about where our focus should be?
4. Let's clarify the difference between what an accusation and a conviction. What is the difference?
5. Why is part of the Spirit's ministry to convict and show us our sin? What is the goal?

In 2 Samuel 12, we have the story of Nathan confronting David about his sin with Bathsheba. How did David respond to this conviction of sin? 2 Samuel 12:13

6. Give some examples of how sin can become commonplace in our lives?

How can we avoid becoming acclimated to sin in our life?

7. Discuss how sin can be attributed to unbelief?

8. When human depravity is measured against the righteousness of God's character, the gap is infinite. On our best day, we can't measure-up. Why would the Holy Spirit have a role in convicting us concerning our righteousness?

Judgment!

Les said, "When human sin is confronted by the righteousness of Christ, something has to give".

1 Peter 4:5 says, "But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

The truth is; we're not good enough - we all fall short. The Holy Spirit is the one who shows us our sin, convicts us of our need for a savior. He is our Judge, and we are guilty.

Thank God that He has the position of judge, jury, & the one who has paid the price for our guilt. Before He sent us the Holy Spirit, he sent Jesus, He bridged the gap.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 6:23

"[God] made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."
2 Cor. 5:21

The Holy Spirit is here to point us to the savior!

Closing Challenge

Think about your life and what it is you are focusing on. Are you focusing on the "main thing" or on "these things"?

What will you do when faced with a "crisis of faith"? Will you have the faith? Our daily living and reliance on the Holy Spirit is a good gage of our belief and trust in Jesus.

Find someone this week that you trust. Ask them to keep you accountable about your thought life. Specifically, about your belief that Jesus is who he says he is and your willingness to submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit in the small things as well as the big things in your life.