

“I AM DOING THIS FOR YOUR GOOD”

John 16:1-11

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INTRODUCTION

The Lord treats us as His beloved children. He brings circumstances into our lives that seem destined to destroy and ruin us—but in reality He is fulfilling His plan to make us His perfect prized possession of highest value. He will purify us of all of the imitation and temporary beauty and value while leaving us with eternal benefits.

Jesus continues warning His disciples of the danger and persecution they will face from the world. *Circumstances in their lives will get worse before they get better.* So He often does to us.

However, the Master intends to keep us from stumbling in the midst of our problems, He has given us the special Helper who will meet our needs; and He will use us to bring conviction and salvation to the world.

YOU MUST TRUST THE MASTER TO DO WHAT IS BEST FOR YOU.

I. I WANT TO KEEP YOU FROM STUMBLING (16:1-4)

Where is God when it hurts?

If I am doing His work, why do I face so much opposition and apparent failure?

Why do so many reject the message of the Gospel?

A. The unsaved world will mistreat you (2-3)

1. They will excommunicate you from religion and society (2a)

2. They will kill some of you (2b)

3. They think they are offering service to God.

“Offering”—Used of religious sacrifices.

Service—religious

4. They do not really know God (3)

Have not “come to know”—they could have, but have refused!

Don’t know the Father or the Son—the Father can only be known truly in the Son.

They have made **their own God** in their image—not the God of the Bible!

B. I have prepared you for such abuse (4)

1. An hour comes when such troubles/persecutors will have their way with you.

2. You will be ready, for I have warned you of these events.

3. I did not need to warn you before since I was with you.

4. You will now face the brunt of opposition now that I am gone.

C. You must not stumble at trials and persecution (1)

The surprise and shock of being snared in a trap, or stumbling over an obstacle will not lead them to doubt and question the ways of God. They must not stumble into sin in their daily lives.

Not only has the Lord prepared us so that we will not stumble, He has also sent us a **Helper** who will assist us in His absence.

II. I WILL SEND YOU THE HELPER (5-7)

A. You are too concerned for yourselves (5-6)

1. I return from my *mission* to “the One Who has sent Me”.
2. Your hearts are filled with sorrow for yourselves (6)
3. You do not really inquire into My fate: “Where are you going?”

B. I go away for your advantage. (Christ’s death is for their good; compare the similar but different statement earlier by Caiaphas (11:50).

C. I Send you the “Helper”.

It is necessary for Me to finish My work and go back to Heaven so that I may send the Helper. My intercession and assistance is based on My finished work on the cross, and My resurrection from the dead.

III. I WILL USE YOU TO BRING CONVICTION TO THE WORLD (8-11).

A. Conviction is the work of the Holy Spirit

Conviction involves *authoritative examination; unquestionable proof; decisive judgment; punitive power.* (Westcott)

Objectively shown to be sinful by the Spirit.

Subjectively shown to be sinners—some then continue to reject; some are saved.

B. Conviction involves Sin, Righteousness, and Judgment.

1. The World was wrong on all three of these in respect to Christ.
 - a. They held that Christ was a *Sinner* (8:24; 18:30)
 - b. They believed themselves to be *righteous* (Luke 18:9)
 - c. They were ready to pass *judgment* upon Jesus

2. The Spirit through the church will bring conviction to the world.

a. Sin—because they do not believe on Jesus.

Unbelief is the essence of sin; man is selfish and rebellious.

Their rejection of Christ is the root of all their other sins, and the reason that none of their sins are forgiven.

b. Righteousness—Because Jesus goes to the father, and they see Him no more. *Jesus finished His work on the cross after living a perfect life, and then His Father accepted His work by raising Him from the dead and taking Him triumphantly to Heaven.*

Man can only have righteousness from God externally from Jesus Christ. He satisfied the Father's righteousness requirements, then paid the penalty for sin so that others could receive His righteousness.

- c. Judgment because Jesus has judged the Ruler of this world. (11).
All of those who follow him will likewise fall under divine wrath and judgment. Satan's doom was settled at the cross and resurrection.

How was all of this practiced in the early church? See Peter's sermon in Acts 2:

- 1) Sin—you crucified and killed Him. (23)
- 2) Righteousness—He was approved of God (22)
- 3) Judgment—The Lord's enemies made His footstool; the wicked generation will be judged (vv. 35, 40)

Note that the Gospel of John as a whole is a monument to this work of the Spirit:

Sin: 3:19-21; 5:28-29 etc.

Righteousness: (5:30; 7:18, 24; 8:28; etc.)

Judgment: (12:31; 14:30; 17:15)

CONCLUSION

Yes, the Lord will keep us from stumbling; He will come to our aid with the Holy Spirit, and He will use us to bring conviction to the unsaved world.

The world needs to be convicted of sin, righteousness, judgment.

Are you saved? Are you, believer, bringing this messages to the unsaved about you?

The Lord watches out for our best!

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