**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | When the Spirit Speaks |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | John 16:7-13 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2318 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Some things you will never learn in school or figure out intellectually.
      1. Some truths cannot be learned until you set aside your intellectual pride.
      2. Only God the Holy Spirit can reveal to you these truths.
   2. Truth is of the utmost importance, but not everyone wants to know the truth.
      1. Some have cowardice and are afraid of the truth.
      2. Some have laziness and will accept half-truth.
      3. Some have arrogance and think they know all truth.
   3. May you have the humility today to ask God the Holy Spirit to speak truth to you.
   4. In John 16:7, “comforter” means paraclete, advocate, lawyer; someone who comes alongside of you to take care of you.
   5. John 16:8-11 tell us the three things that we will never understand apart from the Holy Spirit.
      1. The truth about sin.
      2. The truth about righteousness.
      3. The truth about judgment.
2. THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SINNER’S BASIC PROBLEM (John 16:9-11)
   1. Man is a sinner not because he sins but because of what he is.
      1. Man is born with a sinful nature.
         1. Ephesians 2:3
      2. Man is born hopelessly lost.
      3. Man is a sinner not only for what he has done, but for what he is capable of doing.
   2. Man is a sinner because of what he has done.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Things that come out of our hearts:
         1. Exodus 20:7
         2. Lies, cursings, gossip, slander, disobedience, dishonesty, stealing, cheating, etc.
      3. Mankind thinks of some sins as small; they are not.
      4. God does not grade on the curve.
   3. Man is a sinner because of what he has not done.
      1. God created us to know, love, and serve Him.
      2. If we do not know, love and serve Him, then we are not giving Him the glory He deserves.
   4. Man’s basic sin problem is not believing in God.
      1. Only the Holy Spirit can convict man of the sin of unbelief.
         1. John 16:8-9
      2. Unbelief is the greatest sin.
         1. You will not accept that unless the Holy Spirit reveals that to you.
         2. The Holy Spirit of God will come and help you see it is the great sin.
      3. Unbelief is the proof of man’s wickedness.
      4. Unbelief is the sin that will condemn you and send you to Hell.
         1. This sin will make you pay the greatest price.
         2. The greatest sin is committed in the church house when the Gospel is preached and you don’t believe it.
      5. God is not going to let you go to Hell because you stole a loaf of bread, but because you aimed the gun of unbelief at God and pulled the trigger.
      6. Unbelief is consummate wickedness.
         1. Unbelief is the refusal to accept the redemption of Almighty God.
         2. Unbelief says, “God, You go Your way; I’ll go mine. It’s my life. I will not trust You with it. I will not give it to You. I’m my own person.”
         3. Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden because of their unbelief.
         4. A man lies because of his unbelief; he cannot trust God to get him out of the trouble he is in.
         5. Unbelief says, “God, You’re not worthy of my faith, You’re not worthy of my trust, You’re not worthy of my love. I don’t want You in my life!”
      7. Many people think that they cannot help it if they do not believe.
         1. The Holy Spirit of God will enable you to believe.
         2. Hebrews 3:12
      8. Unbelief does not come out of the head; it comes out of the heart.
         1. Unbelief is a predisposition against Almighty God.
         2. Unbelief is not trusting the God who loves you.
   5. The crowning sin, the sin that will damn you, is to refuse Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, that He suffered, bled, and died for you.
   6. John 3:18
   7. Romans 8:1
   8. With the greatest sin of unbelief comes the greatest penalty.
3. THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SAVIOR’S BOUNTIFUL PROVISION (John 16:10)
   1. The Holy Spirit has come to speak righteousness.
   2. The Savior’s bountiful provision for us is coming “*To seek and to save those who were lost*.”
   3. Jesus came primarily not to heal or teach but to save the lost.
      1. Luke 19:10
      2. Jesus came to provide righteousness for sinners.
         1. John 17:4
   4. The world’s idea of righteousness is just as warped as the world’s idea of sin.
      1. The world believes a man is a sinner because of what he does.
         1. No, he does what he does because he is a sinner.
            1. The sin is in the heart.
      2. The world thinks a man is a sinner if he does wrong and righteous if he does right.
      3. The world also believes that God weighs our works on a scale; if our good works outweigh our bad works, we get in, but if our bad works outweigh our good works we do not get in.
      4. Romans 10:3
         1. Most people are self-righteous, strutting their way to Hell, thinking they’re too good to be dammed.
      5. Our only hope of ever appearing righteous before God is in the finished work of the ascended Christ.
         1. When Jesus went to Heaven, He presented His blood, the atonement for our sin, to the Father.
      6. If we could be saved by doing good works, then why did Jesus die?
         1. Galatians 2:21
            1. When we try to earn our own salvation, we frustrate the grace of God and Jesus died in vain.
      7. Only the Holy Spirit can convict you that the great sin, the basic sin, is unbelief.
         1. We have no chance to go to Heaven apart from the shed blood of Jesus Christ.
      8. Isaiah 64:6
         1. Even our good deeds, in the sight of God, are as filthy rags.
            1. The word used in this passage for “filthy rags” is the word used to describe the rags that wrapped the leper’s oozing sores.
   5. What does Jesus do when we believe on Him?
      1. Jesus changes what we are.
         1. Christians are not just nice people; they are new creatures.
            1. 2 Corinthians 5:17
         2. God gives us a new nature.
      2. Jesus forgives what we have done.
         1. Every sin is washed whiter than snow and buried in the grave of God’s forgetfulness.
      3. Jesus gives what we need.
         1. We need righteousness.
         2. Romans 4:5-6
            1. God puts righteousness on our account.
   6. The worst form of badness is human goodness when human goodness becomes a substitute for the new birth.
4. THE TRUTH ABOUT SATAN’S BROKEN POWER (John 16:11)
   1. Verse 11 does not say that Satan is going to be judged; Satan has already been judged.
      1. John 12:31
         1. Satan was judged when Christ died on the cross.
      2. When Jesus died on the cross, God gained His greatest victory.
      3. When Jesus died on the cross, Satan’s fate was sealed.
         1. The prince of this world is already judged.
      4. Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels.
         1. Hell was not prepared for man.
   2. Everyone today is either believing in Christ or not believing in Christ.
      1. For those who believe, God’s plan is to make us more like Jesus.
      2. If we fail to receive the Lord Jesus Christ, if we do not believe in Him but we trust our own self-righteousness, one day we will be the perfect image of Satan himself.
         1. These will go to a Hell prepared for the devil and his angels.
   3. When you get to where you are headed, where will you be?
      1. Everybody is headed somewhere.
         1. Those who have trusted Jesus will one day be like Him.
         2. But those who have not, judgment awaits them.
      2. This is not a contest to see who wins: Jesus or the devil.
         1. The devil has already lost.
         2. Truth is mightier than error.
         3. Love is stronger than hate.
         4. Holiness is higher than sin.
   4. Sometimes it looks like Satan is winning the battle
      1. Do not be deceived; the prince of this world is judged.
   5. The Holy Spirit of God has come to convict the world of:
      1. Man’s basic problem (sin)
      2. The Savior’s bountiful provision (righteousness)
      3. Satan’s broken power (judgment)
      4. In a human court, there is the crime (sin) and then the punishment (judgment).
      5. In God’s court the order is different.
         1. Sin then righteousness then judgment.
         2. God has put righteousness between sin and judgment.
         3. God interposed the precious blood of His Son, Jesus.
         4. If you refuse to believe, then there is no righteousness between your sin and your judgment.
         5. You die and go to Hell.
      6. For the believer, Jesus’ righteousness stands between him and judgment.
      7. Between the believer and Hell is a bloody cross, and Jesus is on it.
5. CONCLUSION
   1. Your basic problem is, you’ve not trusted Him.
   2. Trust Him, and God will give you:
      1. Bountiful provision.
      2. The righteousness of Jesus Christ.
      3. No condemnation.
   3. You will be Heaven-born and Heaven-bound.
   4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16