Intro:

- I’ve got some good news, and I’ve got some bad news
- Jesus tells his disciples that leaving. But the amazing news is that the Holy Spirit is coming

On first hearing that it probably didn’t sound like good news, but believe me, it is. This morning I want to give you **3 Reasons Jesus Gave Holy Spirit**. My hope, this morning, is that you would walk out of here with a better understand of why the Spirit is given, but with a greater confidence that it is better to have the Spirit inside of us than to have Jesus right here alongside of us.

**1. The Holy Spirit is Given to Help the Believer**

**Read John 16:4-7**

Last week we looked at the very beginning of Jesus public ministry, and this week we get a glimpse of the very end of it. *Jesus has been ministering alongside of disciples for several years now.* The disciples have watched as Jesus performed miracles; they have been in the crowds as Jesus delivered sermons like no one else had ever done before; they’ve witnessed Jesus being questioned by religious leaders, some of the most respected and powerful people in that region; the disciples have had countless personal conversations as they’ve walked along the road or have sat around fire in the evening.

And now we find Jesus here in the upper room with his closest friends, the disciples, as He’s giving them some final instructions before he is led off to be crucified. And one of the things that Jesus has told them is that things are going to get a little rough. Who am I kidding? In the previous chapter, Jesus has actually told them that the world is going to hate them! That because the world hates Jesus, that anger and hatred will now be directed at His followers once He is no longer there.

For the past several years whenever something happened that the religious leaders didn’t like or didn’t agree with, who would they go to? They would go to Jesus. He was the root of the problem in their eyes. And this is where we really pick it up in our passage today as Jesus says there in the middle of verse 4,

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.”

In my own words Jesus is saying, “I’ve been bearing the greater load these past few years. I’ve sheltered you so far from the persecution and a lot of the attacks that have been launched our way. But we’re on the verge of a change.”

And Jesus tells them that He’s about to leave. The mission that He has set out to accomplish is drawing to a close. Jesus is fully aware that within the next few hours He will be arrested, He will then be put on trial, and from there He will be nailed to
cross to die a brutal death. Jesus knows that He is about to leave this group of men and return to His Heavenly Father who had sent Him.

Put yourself in the shoes of the disciples for a second. It’s not hard to imagine what they were feeling. Life is about to get really hard, and then on top of that the reason that it’s going to be so difficult is because my closest friend, a man that has profoundly impacted and shaped my life is about to leave me, for good.

That’s heartbreaking news. Jesus says that sorrow has filled their hearts. And what Jesus says to them in verse 7, I’ve got to believe catches this group of men by surprise.

**Read John 16:7**

It’s my advantage that Jesus is no longer here? I imagine that the confusion that the disciples felt in hearing that is the same confusion that some of us feel as well. We look at that and go, “I don’t get it.” For in my opinion, having Jesus with me while I’m trying to raise my kids, or while I’m seeking to live a life of high character, or to have Him talk me through a tough situation that I’m dealing with at work or at school seems far more beneficial. That seems like the advantage.

So Jesus says that it’s to our advantage that He’s leaving and the Holy Spirit is coming to take His place. I think it would be helpful to walk that out a little bit. What is the benefit to the Christian for Jesus to leave and for the Holy Spirit to come? I want to give you...

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**3 Benefits to the Christian for Jesus departing and sending the Holy Spirit**

Let’s begin by talking about Jesus.

**First, Jesus would go to be the High Priest for His People.**

If you know your Old Testament, you’ll remember that it mentions a lot about the work of the priests among the people of God. They offered sacrifices; they also offered prayers and praises to God on behalf the people. They did a lot to make the people acceptable before God. But what we see going on here is that Jesus is about to leave; He’s about to die, to pay the penalty for sin, to be raised again and then ascend back into heaven to sit on the right hand of God to be our great High Priest.

Jesus now leads us into the presence of God so that we no longer have need of a Jerusalem temple, or of a special priesthood to stand between God and us. We have a far greater privilege than the people who lived in the time of the Old Testament temple. They couldn’t even enter into the first room of the temple that was called the holy place that was reserved exclusively for the priests. The next room beyond that was called the holy of holies, and only the high priest could go there, and he could only enter there once a year. But when Jesus left to offer the perfect sacrifice for sin, which was Himself, the curtain of the temple that closed off the holy of holies
was torn from top to bottom, therefore indicating in a symbolic way on earth that the way of access to God in heaven was opened by Jesus’ death.

Jesus has opened for us the way of access to God so that we can continually “draw near” into God’s very presence without fear but with “confidence.” So that ability that you to draw near to God while you’re sitting in your car on the way to work, or while you’re lying in bed as your about to go to sleep, or while reading your Bible early in the morning while you’re having your coffee... That’s given to you because Jesus left. I would say that’s an advantage.

**Second, The Holy Spirit would fill ever believer**

At the moment of salvation you are sealed with the Holy Spirit. Every individual has trusts in Jesus as their Savior is given the Holy Spirit to indwell them. Every single one. Think about that, wherever a Christian goes, the Holy Spirit is going as well and is given the opportunity to have impact in whatever situation that arises.

I have no idea how many Christians are here on this planet right now, some estimates I’ve seen are a little over 2 billion people. I don't know if I trust that number, but I would say that there a lot of people who love Jesus, are filled with Holy Spirit and are spread all over this planet of ours. If Jesus had stayed, His impact would have been in one place. But with the Holy Spirit coming, He would be all over the world.

And the Spirit can be and should sought as to how we live our daily lives.

Back in the 90’s, while I was in high school it became popular to wear a WWJD bracelet. Does anyone know what that stands for? What Would Jesus Do? Now hear me on this, I don’t think it’s wrong to ask that question. I think that could be done in a rather healthy manner. I think it can be helpful to have reminders to focus us back on honoring God. But do you hear the question that’s being asked there? If Jesus were right here, in this moment, standing next to me. How would He handle this situation?

But Jesus says in John 16 that it’s a good thing that I’m leaving. You no longer need to imagine me being right next to you, because you have the Holy Spirit, the third person of the trinity, alive within you. Ask Him. Seek Him out as to how you should live on a daily basis. He longs to lead you. And you can be confident that He’s there doing just that wherever you’re at this week.

That’s the second advantage of Jesus leaving and sending us the Holy Spirit. I want to take a little bit of time and share one more.

**Third, The Spirit Enables Victory Over Sin**
This is an enormous advantage. I want to you look at something really quickly with me. Here’s a picture of my Bible and it’s open to Romans 8. Romans 8 explains extensively about battling against sin. I’m not sure if you can make out what’s circled in my Bible, but I went through and circled every reference to the Spirit. There are 22 mentions of the Spirit that are circled here. To put that in perspective, the Holy Spirit is only mentioned 10 other times in the entire book of Romans.

If we are going to have victory over sin it is because of the Holy Spirit indwells the believer and enables them to have that victory. It’s not something you accomplish on your own by just trying harder, and giving a better effort next time.

Christian, you may not be growing in leaps and bounds, but as you look at the big picture of your life, you’ll notice that the Spirit has been enabling you little by little, step by step to have victory over the sins that so easily entangle us. If that’s not an advantage, I don’t know what is.

These are just some of the advantages that Jesus was referring to as He talked to His disciples. And they may not have got it right then. They probably didn’t walk away from that conversation with eagerness for their Lord to leave and for the Spirit to come. But is there any doubt that the Holy Spirit coming was a massive advantage for the disciples as you look at the rest of their lives?

After Jesus left, and when the Spirit came, these disciples became twice the men they were before. The Holy Spirit transformed these uneducated, ordinary fishermen, and tax collectors, and political zealots and used them to turn the world upside down. There is no doubt that it was to the disciple’s advantage that Jesus left them so the Holy Spirit could come and help.

Application
So we can see it in the disciple’s lives, but do you see it in yours? Do you realize the advantage that you have as a believer in Jesus who has the Holy Spirit indwelling you? I hope that stirs a little bit of excitement in you. Let me tell you, I get it, I understand that sometimes the hardest place to live is right here, right now. We find ourselves imagining how great it would have been to be there, right next to Jesus as He walked this earth. And we can also find ourselves looking on the other end of spectrum longing for Jesus return. And we should!

But don’t overlook what we have right in this moment. For we have the Spirit of God, and He “is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.” I hope you’re able to grab ahold of the reality that The Holy Spirit is given to help you.

Jesus says that it is to your advantage that He is no longer here and then he keeps on going, giving us further insight to why the Spirit is given.
2. **The Holy Spirit is given to convict the world**

**Read John 16:8-11**

As you read this group of verses, you need to take note of who the Holy Spirit is convicting. Is it me? Is it you? Is it the Christian? Is it the unbelieving world? Who does Jesus say that the Spirit is going to convict? He is going to come and convict the world. I believe this is a reference to the unbelieving world, those who have not trust Christ as their Savior.

Now, I do believe that the Spirit has a role in convicting those who are part of the family of God, but this group of verses narrows down on the role the Spirit has in those outside the faith. What we can see from John 16 is that the Spirit is given to convict the world of three different things: sin, righteousness, and judgment.

But before I say anything about those three convictions, let me just ask you about the concept of conviction. In your own interpretation, is conviction a positive thing or a negative thing? I would imagine that not many people look very highly on conviction. *I feel convicted after I've done something wrong. And that feeling of shame and that feeling of guilt are not positive in my opinion. So I can't mark that in the good category.*

And I would agree with those opinions if guilt and sorrow is the end of the road for your convictions and you never find yourself turning to Christ for rescue. That’s a horrible direction to head down; that’s a one-way street that leads to death. But the work of the Spirit is different. His convicting work is a positive one; where He’s not convicting for the sake of convicting, or doing it to leave people in their guilt, or convicting them just so they will live a morally upright life. His work is to bring people to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

How does the Spirit go about doing that? What is He convicting them of?

**First, the Spirit convicts of Sin.** Think about this for a minute: those who don’t know Jesus, what guides their behavior? There are various things that give them direction as to how they should act, but one of those things is the morality of the culture that they live in. The social groups that they are surrounded by, the behavioral patterns that they witness, give them clues as to how they ought to live. Whatever is deemed to be right in the eyes of the culture is what the vast majority use as a compass to guide their lives.

But the Holy Spirit breaks in to individual’s life and awakens them to the reality that God has set a much higher standard. That God has a standard of perfection and all of us have fallen short of that standard. And in that moment the Spirit points them to the only one who was without sin.
Second, the Spirit convicts of Christ’s Righteousness. The Spirit does a work of convincing us what true righteousness is and shows us we don't have it. We don’t live perfectly; we don't follow the Law of God completely. The Spirit helps us to understand that we need a righteousness that is not our own.

The Spirit makes it known that you can never be good enough for God; you can never do enough to earn God’s favor. Your own self-righteousness will get you nowhere; the Holy Spirit exposes that and points us to Jesus. Jesus, He walked this earth and was tempted as we are tempted, but never for a moment did He stumble into sin. The convicting work of the Spirit drives us to redemption that is found in the righteousness of Christ.

So the Spirit convicts the world of sin, and sin separates us from God. So the moves to convict the world of Christ’s righteousness, and His righteousness is only what’s acceptable to God and now lastly...

Third, the Spirit convicts of judgment. Verse 11 tells us the ruler of the world has been judged already. The ruler of the world is Satan. There are a lot of scripture that talk about Satan being judged:

- Genesis 3:15, “His head is crushed.”
- Colossians 2 “The powers of Satan and hell are all defeated at the cross.”
- Hebrews 2 - “The one who had the power of death is destroyed by Christ.”
- Revelation 20 -Satan is bound, and then he is cast into the lake of fire with all the demons forever and ever.

The point is that Satan is judged already. The Spirit testifies to the fact that there is also judgment to coming to those who are still in their sin.

Application:
As you look at John 16, and you observe what the Spirit is up to in our world, I hope you ask the question: What is my part in all of this?

Let me say first what it is not: Your responsibility is not to convict the world. That’s the Holy Spirit’s responsibility. You cannot and should not guilt people into following after God.

What you should being doing is making the truths God of known completely and sincerely as you possibly can. You ought to be working hard to make the gospel known in whatever areas that God brings you into. You should be warning everyone, teaching everyone about your Savior; but from there, you trust the Holy Spirit is at work proving the reality of sin, the need of Christ’s righteousness, and of the judgment that lies ahead.
That I would say is also an advantage for the Spirit of God to be here among us today. I can seek to be faithful before God and proclaim the truth as accurately as I know how and I can trust that He is at work convincing and revealing what needs to be revealed. So Jesus sent His Spirit to convict the world and that is the second reason that is given in this passage. But there's one more so let me read the remainder of our passage:

**Read John 16:12-15**

3. The Holy Spirit is given to reveal Jesus.

For the sake of time I am simply going to summarize this last portion. There's some really good content in here and I do want to explain it in greater detail. So if you check the website in the next couple of days I’ll have something on there. But for now let’s just summarize it.

One of the Spirit’s main emphasizes is to point back to Jesus. I think maybe one of the reasons that we don’t talk more about the Holy Spirit is because the Spirit is often times not drawing attention to Himself but is encouraging you to look more intently at Jesus. The Spirit does guide the believer and teaches the believer, but that all comes from the initiation of Jesus. And it is Jesus that the Spirit seeks to bring glory to.

**Conclusion:**
As we draw to a close this morning let me ask what have you learned today? What are things that have been explained about the Holy Spirit that has encouraged you to depend on Him to a greater degree?

- Jesus left the world to return to His Heavenly Father
- The indwelling Holy Spirit is our advantage
  - He indwells every Christian
  - He enables the believer to be victorious over sin.
  - The Spirit is at work around us in the lives of unbelievers
  - The Spirit is constantly pointing us back to Christ

I’ve asked Annee to begin playing the music and we’re going to sing together in just a little bit, but before we do that I want to give you just a minute to spend time talking to God in prayer. Thanking Jesus for coming to rescue us from our sin, but also thanking Him for sending His Spirit to work in and around our lives.

- People are looking for power all over the place...
- Cling to the Holy Spirit who is at work in you!