**He Will Convict the World Concerning Sin, Righteousness, and Judgment**

Based on [John 16:5-15](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Jn16.5-15)

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Fourth Sunday of Easter ~ Cantate

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Jesus says he is going away to the Father. He will ascend into heaven to rule all things, and His disciples are sorrowful that he will be leaving them. They had dropped their nets, left their boats, the tax booth and other vocations to follow him. And since then, they had never been without their Rabbi, their teacher, their Master, their Lord and Christ. They’ve never had to decide for themselves what the right thing to do is, because Jesus was always there with them, to tell them, to correct them and help them. Now that he’s going away, how are they to know what they are to do. How they are to go about following a Jesus who is not there? They are to continue christ’s ministry of preaching and teaching…how are they going to do that without him?

Jesus will be going away, but he will send the Helper, that is the Holy Spirit, who will help them with their ministry in the world and give them understanding of Jesus Words. Jesus says, “**When the spirit of truth comes, he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak…he will take what is mine and declare it to you.**” These disciples had heard Jesus teaching, but they did not fully understand yet. And even after he is raised from the dead, Jesus will have more to teach them before he ascends to heaven. Nevertheless, he promises that what they don’t understand now, they will in that day, because it is only when he departs and is known by faith and not sight, that the Holy Spirit will come to them, fill the void in them, and be illuminated and emboldened to preach the word to a world blinded in darkness.

This gospel is about how the disciples of Jesus will fare in the world. It is only one small section of a greater dialogue Jesus has with his disciples that spans some 6 chapters in the Gospel of John. In this dialogue, Jesus has much to say about what he calls “the world”, and he prepares them, because they are to go into the world and despite it’s hostility, proclaim his light to darkness and call his sheep out of it. He has already said to his disciples, “**If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you**” (John 15:18-19). He prays to his Father in heaven, “**I have given [my disciples], your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world**.” (John 17:14-16).

There will be and is conflict between Christians and the World. This is because the world lives in the darkness, and does not want to be exposed by the light of truth. But that’s exactly what Jesus does, that’s what he will send his apostles to do, and that’s what the Holy Spirit will accomplish in them. Jesus says, “When the Spirit comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.”

First Jesus says, The spirit will convict the world “**concerning sin, because they do not believe in me.”** In one sense, sin is simply the disobedience to God’s commands. However, sin in that sense doesn’t distinguish children of God from children of the world. Rather, this Sin is exposed in one’s reaction to Jesus Christ. Faith alone saves, unbelief alone damns. Jesus says about those who are of the world, “**If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin**” (John 15:22). Now that Jesus has come, he has done his mighty works before the world, attested to the Scriptures as God’s Word, condemned sin and offered forgiveness and righteousness to those who repent and believe. Believers in Jesus will sin. But those who believe in Jesus repent of their sins, and their sins are forgiven. Those who do not repent of their sins do not believe in Jesus. Even if they say they do, they don’t. Because Jesus has condemned sin, and they refuse to accept it. They virtue signal with jesus name, then commit all forms of open sin, blasphemy, covetousness, hatred, envy, fornication. Jesus condemns these things and when they do them, they do not believe Jesus.

The spirit will convict the world concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer. The world lacks righteousness, blessedness, justification, because it refuses to believe in glory that it cannot see. Jesus says to Thomas, “**You believe because you have seen me; blessed are those who have not seen, and have yet believed.**” We are justified, righteous before God because we believe what we have heard from God. Those who do not believe, lack righteousness and are of the world. The holy spirit will illumine this. The world will not see it, but the disciples will.

Finally, the spirit will convict the world concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. The devil’s kingdom is defeated, he’s judged, the deed is done. He has no power over those who believe. Those who still cling to his world of power and influence, of deceitful ways and selfish pursuits are exposed. As a dog returns to its vomit, so too a fool returns to his folly. Many baptized people will, after they have renounced the devil and all his works and ways, will return to him for worldly advantage. They will lie to get ahead. They will divorce to avoid suffering. They will deny God in their life, to please those who hate him. They will slander the church to justify their unfaithfulness. They will call good evil and evil good; they will glory in their shame; and be ashamed of God’s glory. So too will the son of man be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory.

**The world is everything that is known only by sight, without the guidance and illumination of the Holy Spirit, who is known and testifies to God’s Word. And t**he work that the Spirit will do in the world is exposure and illumination. The world is blind, but you see by faith and walk in the spirit. Do not be surprised when the blind who refuse the message of the Gospel do not understand you.

There is a saying that in the land of the blind the one eyed man is king. No in the land of the blind, the one eyed man is hanged on a cross for blasphemy against the established order. They would rather kill the one who sees, than acknowledge their own blindness. This is what we can expect from the world for faithfulness. B ,,….ut you are called by Jesus to hear his word, believe in him, and walk in the light. Believe in Christ and your sin will be covered. Walk by faith, and you will be righteous. Renounce the devil, and all his works, and all his ways, and you will stand in the judgment.