

Resistance & Empowerment

John 16:1-15

The world in the gospel of John has two meanings:
it is the cosmos, the universe, our "inhabited" earth, loved by God.

It also means the place of the absence of God, where love is not present and is even feared.

This void of absence becomes indifference to others, fear of them, a refusal to share with others. It can become blatant selfishness, hate, greed and lies, people locked up in their ideologies and illusions.

This absence is in a part of each culture and in a part of each one of our hearts. This absence can be manipulated and filled with evil forces or filled by God.

Jean Vanier

- » The world described in John 15:18-27 as opposition to Jesus
- » The opposition unit sets up John 16:1-15 in terms of persecution and resistance to faith

I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you will think that by doing so they are offering worship to God. And they will do this because they have not known

the Father or me. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

John 16:1-4a

I. Opposition to the Truth (v1-4)

Jesus forewarns his disciples that as he is resisted so will they be resisted (Jn 15:18-20; 16:1-2)

- » They will be put out of the synagogues (16:2)
- » They will be killed by others who believe they are doing God's will (16:2)

Certainly happens in our day as well:

- » Oscar Romero
- » Martin Luther King Jr.
- » Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- » Especially as it relates to issues of truth and justice

- » Not always blatant – can come in the form of daily pinpricks – subtle rejection and persecution by others in the neighbourhood or office setting

Our response can be:

1. Compromise to negate persecution
 2. React and enjoy disturbing the status quo to gain the spotlight
- » Both of these responses are unhelpful

II. Resources to Face Opposition (v4b-11)

I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" But because I have said these things to you,

sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

John 16:4b-7

Jesus repeats some of the "language of absence" (Jn 14):

- » I am going away
- » You feel sorrow
- » None of you ask where I am going (ironic because 2x the disciples have asked – 13:36; 14:5)

Jesus reintroduces the theme of the coming of the Holy Spirit as a primary resource for us to continue in our journey of faith

The Paraclete in John

- » "... I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another Advocate**, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth..." (John 14:16,17)
- » "**But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you..." (John 14:25-26)

- » "**When the Advocate comes**, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify..." (John 15:26-27)
- » "... I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, **the Advocate** will not come to you..." (John 16:7-11)

- » "**When the Spirit of truth comes**, he will guide you into all the truth... (John 16:12-15)

Jesus says, **it is to our advantage** that he goes away and the Spirit come (v7)

- » Translation – for our good; it is useful; it is expedient; it is profitable

How is it good?

- » Jesus will now live within us and not be limited to place and time
- » We are invited to go deeper and not be dependent on the physical Jesus

The Ministry of the Spirit

- » The presence of Jesus in the believer forever (Jn 14:16-17)
- » Through the Spirit, Jesus remains our constant companion (Jn 14:17)
- » The Spirit is our teacher – we are learners (Jn 16:12-15)

- » The Spirit helps us face times of persecution (Jn 16:1-4)
- » The Spirit is a convicting power in the world – acts as legal counsel – sin, righteousness, judgement (Jn 16:8-11)

- *Sin* = unbelief/rejection of Jesus in John (16:9)
- *Righteousness* – seen in Jesus by his vindication from the Father (v10)
- *Judgement* – separation from God (v11); the ruler of this world has been condemned

- » The Spirit works in partnership with believers to communicate God's loving presence to the world (Jn 15:27)

III. The Spirit Will Lead us Into Inner Transformation in God (v12-15)

I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak

whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

John 16:12-15

Jesus says, I have more to say but you cannot bear it yet. (v12)

- » Some things will not make sense until after the death and resurrection of Jesus

The Spirit will come and lead you deeper into what I have taught you. (v13)

- » The Spirit will lead us into truth, unity & love

We will experience at a deeper level all that God has done for us.

- » All that the Father has is given to Jesus (v15a)
- » Therefore, all that Jesus has will be ours (v15b)
- » To know and experience Jesus' dream for us

- » To know and experience the full capacity of spiritual/human growth
- » To have our minds/consciousness working at 100% because they are not limited by sin
- » The fullness of God within us