



### **BAD NEWS OR GOOD NEWS?**

Is it bad news or good news to inform someone that they may not enter the kingdom of heaven? Why?

### **LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD**

As we learn about the work of the Holy Spirit of God (the third person of the Trinity), we will learn about His roles to bring people to God. As God, He is everywhere at once (i.e., omnipresent) and knows every person and situation (omniscient). And, because He is God, His essence is love; He invites people into a relationship of love with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This week's focus is on His acts of love to convict people of the truth about our status with God if we are without belief in Jesus.

Our lead passage is from Jesus' teaching when He is huddled with disciples on the night He was arrested. Read JOHN 16:5-11 and consider a few questions that help us to see the kindness of God. (I am using a translation called the "English Standard Version," one of many excellent translations. You can find this translation and others at "biblegateway.com.")

What were Jesus' disciples hearing and feeling on that night?

How might it be to their (and our) "advantage" for Jesus to "go away?" (verse 7)

What specific works of "the Helper" (the Holy Spirit) were promised? (verse 8) How are these works coming from love?

The Holy Spirit convicts people in the world (those without Christ) as follows:

- 1) He convicts people of sin because they do not believe in Him.
  - 2) He convicts the world of righteousness because He was going to the Father.
  - 3) He convicts the world of judgment because the ruler of this world (Satan) has been judged.
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- 1) According to John 3:18-19, what is the "sin" that condemns people? What did Jesus say in John 8:24 will happen to those continue in that state?
  - 2) What did Jesus say about our need for righteousness in Matthew 5:20? What is the problem with our righteousness? (See Isaiah 64:6) What provision is offered in Romans 3:21-22?
  - 3) Those who continue to follow the "ruler of this world" will end up in the same state as Satan – judged, condemned, and facing the wrath of God. Why do you think that this is an essential aspect of the conviction of the Holy Spirit?

## **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

Are the actions of conviction by the Holy Spirit actions of love? Why?

How are each and all three of these convictions needed in the lives of people without belief in Jesus?

Why do you think that people find it so hard to believe that they cannot be 'good enough' on their own merits to be acceptable to God and enter heaven? Is perfect righteousness too high of a standard?

What comes to your mind and heart as you consider the truth of 2 Corinthians 5:21?

## **APPLY IT THIS WEEK**

The act of warning someone that they have a problem of sin is an act of love. If there was no cure, it would bring only sadness. But the good news is that by believing in (turning to, trusting in) Jesus Christ and what He did for us means that we can become His children, spared from the wrath of God, and given the gift of eternal life with God in heaven. If you have not surrendered your life to Jesus Christ, you can do so now – today is your day to repent and believe, to stop running from God and run to Him. He promises to forgive and cleanse you. He offers you grace.

## **PLEASE PRAY**

Jesus taught us to pray. "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." (John 14)

- For the people in your world who are without Jesus to sense the conviction of the Holy Spirit and turn to Jesus
- For confidence in the Holy Spirit to inspire us to share the good news of Jesus with boldness, self-sacrifice, and love
- For your global partners and our teamwork with them