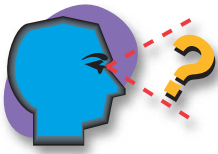


John



Responses to the Questions

NOTE: BE SURE TO ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS YOURSELF BEFORE READING THE ANSWERS IN ORDER TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS STUDY.

Read John 16:1-33

1. Jesus answers this question in the very next sentence. He says that they will do this because they have not known God or Jesus. Just as Jesus had predicted, his followers were being hunted down, arrested and killed. St. Stephen was the first martyr for the faith (Acts 7:54-60). Those who carried out these persecutions thought they were in good standing with God because they kept the Laws of Moses but Jesus tried to make it clear to them that while it was good to keep the Law, they needed to do it for the right reasons – because of their love of God and their desire to please him. The religious leaders were being legalistic, however, and were more concerned about how they appeared to others, not God.
2. The "ruler of this world" is Satan. Some translations refer to him as the "prince" of this world. This ruler/prince is now condemned. The Holy Spirit will show that Jesus, through his passion, death and resurrection has already judged and condemned Satan. Although the devil is still active in the world and continues to wage many battles with us, ultimately he loses the war.
3. Jesus was referring to his Passion, death and resurrection. This would be too overwhelming for his Apostles to know at this point. Although the Holy Spirit does act in each Christian individually, he primarily guides us to all truth through the Church. Jesus was speaking to his Apostles and he told them that the Spirit would bring to their remembrance all that he had said to them. As the *Points To Ponder* section in this lesson states: "All that he has said" refers to the apostolic deposit of faith: all that he has said to the apostles and all that the apostles have, in turn entrusted to the Church.
4. Jesus was warning and preparing them for the events that were about to unfold concerning his crucifixion and resurrection. He was also predicting what would happen to them. He told them these things so that not only would they be better prepared but also so that they would realize when it did happen that he had foretold it and was correct in his prophecy. He didn't tell them earlier because they were not able to hear it and now he was about to leave them. He promises them, however, that he is not leaving them alone. He is sending them "the Comforter", the Holy Spirit who would be with them.
5. In Chapter 7 (verse 39) we were told that the Spirit would not be given to the world until Christ was glorified. After his ascension, Jesus would send the Spirit and through the Holy Spirit, Christ could live in every believer, in the Eucharist in every Tabernacle in the world and the Holy Spirit would carry on the work he began.



Responses to the Questions (cont.)

6. (1) Sin and repentance, (2) God's righteousness – to make it clear what God's standards of righteousness are for Christians, (3) Christ's judgment over Satan, (4) the truth – to continue to direct believers and the Church into all truth, (5) revelation – not new revelations but rather to reveal a better understanding and knowledge of Christ.
7. The greatest sin in the world is not believing in Jesus. For those who have knowledge of Christ and refuse to come to him and reject him, this is the greatest sin they could commit. Those who continue to reject Jesus are in peril of eternal separation of God. There are, of course, mitigating factors involved in each individual case, which would be dependent on the extent of knowledge each one has had and also dependent on God's mercy. Nothing is more offensive to God than the rejection of his greatest gift to us: his Son. So the Holy Spirit's work is to convince us of our sin in rejection of Jesus; to break down the barriers and confront us with our sin of rejection and the hardness of our hearts.
8. The Spirit penetrates the blindness of pride, self-conceit and self-delusion. He breaks and melts our hearts and thereby brings us to repentance.
9. Jesus is referring to the fact that his Apostles are going to be crushed with sorrow over his crucifixion and death. They will mourn him. At the same time the world, meaning those who rejected Jesus and do not believe in him, will rejoice that he has been put to death. Jesus tries to reassure his Apostles by likening their pain and sorrow to a woman going through the pains of labor before the miraculous and glorious birth of her child. Just as the woman's suffering ends in joy, so will theirs when they see their risen Lord.
10. The Holy Spirit reveals that Jesus is the righteousness of God. Jesus is the source of all righteousness. The Jews believed a righteous person was one who kept the Mosaic Law. So they viewed righteousness as their own ability to keep the Law. Jesus called for righteousness that exceeded that of the Pharisees and teachers of the Law (Matthew 5:20). Once a person is convicted of his sinfulness, repents and puts his faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit indwells the soul of the believer. It is through the power of the Holy Spirit that we are then able to be righteous or perform righteous acts. As stated in Lesson 19; without him, we can do nothing, but with God all things are possible. We have to abide in him.
11. The Spirit will convince the world of judgment– both the judgment on those for their sin of disbelief and also regarding the judgment of Christ that the "world" passed on him. The juridical system of the world failed miserably when it judged the Creator of the world.
12. The Catechism, in paragraph 729, states that when Jesus' hour – his hour of glorification came, that he and the Father sent the Holy Spirit. We're told that the Holy Spirit will be given by the Father in answer to Jesus' prayer, sent by the Father in Jesus' name and that Jesus will send him forth from the Father's side.