

SERMON OUTLINE John 16:4b-15

The Advantages of Gradual Revelation and the Holy Spirit

GRADUAL REVELATION (4-6)

Gradual for Jesus

Gradual for God

IT IS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE THAT I GO AWAY (7-11)

The Helper Helps when Jesus Leaves (7)

The Helper Helps with Conviction of Sin (8-11)

1. *Convicts concerning sin*
2. *Convicts concerning righteousness*
3. *Convicts concerning judgment*

The Helper Helps with Truth (12-15)

1. *Helps bear it*
2. *Helps guide in it*
3. *Helps reveal it*

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of his passage is that following Jesus is hard, but Jesus has left us with everything we need to persevere through the hardships; namely, His Word and His Spirit. And the main takeaways for us are to glorify God, by reading Jesus' Word and doing what it says, in the power of the Spirit, no matter the resistance.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What comes to mind when you think of an advantage? What does it mean when something is to your advantage? Have you ever felt like you had a significant advantage in life?
3. If you could pick any advantage that God would give you to persevere through persecution, what would you pick?
4. Have you ever noticed or wondered about the fact that God only gradually revealed His nature and will to His people? Why do you think God did it gradually instead of all at once? If it were your choice, what would you choose (gradual or all at once)?
5. How often do you find yourself frustrated because you wish God would reveal something to you that He hasn't yet? How often does it seem to you like some hard situation would be far more bearable if God would reveal some further aspect of it to you?
6. What's the worst example you've seen of someone being so focused on themselves that they missed the suffering of another?
7. Does God's gradual revelation seem like an advantage to you as you seek to follow Jesus? Why/not?
8. Have you ever thought that you would be stronger in your faith if you could see, hear, or touch Jesus? Does it seem to you like you have it better than those who walked with Jesus on earth?
9. Have you seen a non-Christian experience the Holy Spirit's conviction concerning sin, righteousness, or judgment?
10. When it comes to truth, do you need more help bearing it, being guided in it, or having it revealed to you?
11. Which of the advantages promised by Jesus (gradual revelation or the Holy Spirit) has been more of an advantage to you?
12. In what ways did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

13. Visit someone who is suffering this week.
14. Determine to listen more than you speak this week.
15. Restart your Bible reading plan this week. Make a list of three specific ways the OT is explained in the NT.
16. Pray carefully through this passage in John.
17. Let Pastor Dave know about a secret trout stream with hungry fish.
18. Find one specific way that you are not bearing truth and ask for the Spirit's help to bear it.
19. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
20. Ask God to show you one specific thing you ought to do differently as a result of this text or sermon? Share that and pray about it with someone in your DG. Continue praying for and checking in with each other until you've both done it.

PRAYER POINTS

21. Adoration. Praise God for being the Alpha and the Omega, Triune, true, gracious and glorious.
22. Confess. Confess a lack of love for the Word of God, trust in the timing of God, selfishness, and a sense of self-reliance.
23. Thanksgiving. Thank God for the countless advantages that are yours in Jesus, for Jesus dying on the cross, for sending the Spirit, for convicting the world, guiding us into all truth, and for revealing His glory for all to praise.
24. Supplication. Ask the Spirit to convict a non-Christian of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Ask God to help us walk in truth.