

“Jesus Departure, an Advantage not a Loss?”

I. **INTRO:**

- A. Prayer - We must be **emptied** before we can be **filled**. *Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.*
- B. During Jesus’ farewell address to His disciples, He was drawing for them a **dark picture** of what was to come. He doesn’t **lighten** in any way the **dark picture** He had drawn, but rather **shades it in more deeply**.¹

II. **How Is Jesus’ Departure An Advantage And Not A Loss?**

- A. **WATCH YOUR BACK AT CHURCH!** (1-4)
- B. **Producing Diamonds!** “The exact mechanism of the production of diamonds is still a matter of debate among geologists, but it is certain that **both tremendous heat and tremendous pressure** are required for the crystallization of carbon into this form.”
1. Imagine for a moment communicating w/a diamond in the rough, this hunk of carbon. It’s about to be placed into the most intense **pressure** & put under the most tremendous amount of **heat** that it will ever experience.
 2. It doesn’t understand the **beauty** that we understand when we think Diamond. *As much as you try to **convince** that hunk of Carbon, or try to **warn** it of its coming persecution, it will never fully understand till its right in the midst of it. But you send the warning out, so when its in the midst of it can remember back, “*there is an end to this torment & it is supposed to be Glorious!*”*
 3. **Read vs.1**
- C. (2) Do not be surprised when you are persecuted by **religious people**.
1. This has been going on since **Cain & Abel** (Cain was religious!)
 2. **True then, true today!** – Islam, **a religious people**, think they are killing in the name of Allah! And so continue to slaughter Christians by the 1000’s, in their Holy Jihad.
 3. Christians give it a different title but do the same (eg. Serbian Christians vs. Kosovo Albanian/ Muslims in 1998,99 Kosovo War; Turning point massacre of 45 Albanians by Serbian Troops; mutilated bodies)
 4. **Example:** 2 weeks ago Sept.28th - *Mark had it up on the Persecuted Church Update.*
 - a) Islamic militants shot & killed an underground church leader, **Mariam Muhina Hussein** (46), in Marerey village, Lower Juba, **Somalia** after discovering 6 Bibles in her possession, according to an Oct 1 **report from Compass Direct.**

¹ Stibbs; Search The Scripture; pg.273.

The day before the shooting, **Sheikh Arbow** sent his **wife** to visit Hussein's home and pretend she was interested in learning about Christianity. During the visit, Hussein read passages of the Bible with Arbow's wife and told her that she could visit regularly to discuss God's Word. Arbow's wife then confirmed to her husband the presence of Bibles in the home. The next day, Arbow visited Hussein along with some other Muslims. He requested a Bible from her. Hussein gave one to him and he revealed that he was looking for "Christians who have defiled the Islamic religion." Arbow then ordered her to show him the other Bibles that she owned. When she handed them over, **he shot her 3 times, killing her instantly.**

5. What does Jesus reveal here, as the persecuted believers "**main line of defense**"? The power of the Spirit in their lives. (That's how **we** can specifically pray)
 6. VOM Conference, Nov.14th - Register: Calvarymurrieta.com - Upcoming Events
 7. I guess I expect "*persecution*" from "*other religions*", but it's always shocking when *ill-treatment* comes from your own denomination, own church, own friends.
- D. Every **cut** made on a **diamond** is for a purpose & chosen with much care, to give it even more *color, fire, & brilliance!*
1. A diamond is considered the most beautiful stone "because of its cuts" (in raw form it's pretty ugly!)
 2. One diamond cutter took 2 months before he picked up his chisel & rapped it w/one blow. (It was on the "*Liberator Diamond*" largest ever found in Venezuela)
 - a) That same type of care goes into every blow that is allowed to come your way! Left uncut they are **not brilliant & will never sparkle!**
 - b) "Intense Pressure, tremendous Heat, special cuts, & much polishing, is what is needed for it to show its fire, luster, color, & beauty!"
 - c) Would you rather stay a hunk of carbon?
 3. The world doesn't realize that the worse they could do to us is make us **shine brighter!**
- E. **GAINING BY OUR LOSSES!** (5-15)
- F. (5) No one is asking Him *NOW!* (*Thomas* did in 14:5 & *Peter* did in 13:36,37)
- G. (7) **The Helper**, the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, our Guide, our Counselor, the Spirit of grace, the Spirit of glory, the Eternal Spirit, the Holy Spirit.
1. He is represented as "Water, Oil, Wind, Fire, Dove, & a Seal" (i.e. a wax seal; *not the fish-eating aquatic mammal*).

- H. **Illust:** The great Norwegian explorer **Roald Amundsen**, the first to discover the magnetic meridian of the North Pole and to discover the South Pole. On one of his trips, Amundsen took a **homing pigeon** with him. When he had finally reached the top of the world, he opened the bird's cage and set it free. **Imagine the delight** of Amundsen's wife, back in Norway, when she looked up from the doorway of her home and saw the pigeon circling in the sky above. No doubt she exclaimed, *"He's alive! My husband is still alive!"*
So it was when Jesus ascended. He was gone, but the disciples clung to his promise to send them the Holy Spirit. What joy, then, when the dovelike Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost. The disciples had with them **the continual reminder** that **Jesus was alive and victorious at the right hand of the Father. This continues to be the Spirit's message!**²
- I. (8) **Convict the world of sin** - Convict means *"to present or expose facts, to convince of the truth"*. Normally this process includes human aid.
- J. (9) **Of sin because they do not believe in Me** - **Sin** is *rebellion against God* and this rebellion reached its climax in the crucifixion of Jesus.
1. The world cares about **crime**(wrong between **man & man**) **but not sin** (wrong between **man & God**)
 2. **Sin is no longer merely transgression of a law**(willful disobedience) **but refusal of a Savior.**
 - a) **Today, the greatest sin is the failure to believe in Jesus.**
 - b) Most people do not readily admit to being guilty of **sin**. **They will admit to failures or vices** or even **crimes**. **However, sin** is against God.
 - c) Man can come up with an **excuse** for committing some **crime**, **but** has **no excuse** for rejecting a **Savior**.
 - d) *To reject that dear Savior is the **sin of all sins** which damns the soul!*
- K. (10) **Of righteousness** because I go to My Father & you see Me no more -
1. Where Jesus leaves **off**, the Spirit taken **on**.
 2. **He comes to authenticate the personal righteousness of Jesus.**
 3. **See**, in crucifying Jesus, the Jewish people showed that they thought He was **unrighteous**. *Only a wicked person would be hanged on a tree and thus be under God's curse. But* the Resurrection and the Ascension vindicated Jesus as God's **righteous** Servant.³

² Gordon Brownville; Symbols Of The Holy Spirit.

³ Bible Knowledge Commentary; Jn.16:10.

L. (11) Of **judgment** because the ruler of this world is judged -

1. Not just *going to be* judged, *but already is* judged.
2. The world's condemnation of God's holy Son to that awful Cross, boomerangs back as the most awful condemnation of the world which did it.
 - a) Sentence is already passed on **this world & its prince**.
 - b) **For the church**(the blood-washed & spirit-born) there awaits victory & freedom!
For the world, the flesh, & the devil...hopeless defeat, the bottomless pit & the lake of fire.
3. God puts **Christ** on the throne of heaven & sends **the Holy Spirit** to call out a people, to be a special treasure to His dear **Son** - even the Church.⁴

M. (13) He will **guide** you into all truth - The **task** ahead of us is never greater than the **power** behind us!

1. For someone to guide you he must "**see**" the way, & **lead** you there.
2. **A seeing eye dog** is carefully trained to lead his master through the busiest traffic. And the dogs always seem so **calm** as they **guide**. They're not easily excited. He does not wait for a chance to dash across between the cars. His eyes & ears always attentive. When all is clear, he safely guides the man across the busy street. The man is safe for he walks by faith in his guide. He trusts the "**seeing eye**".

3. On the *reverse* of our **1\$ bill** we have on top of the almost completed pyramid, is "The All Seeing Eye" or actually "**The Eye of Providence**". With the words *Anglicized Latin* words, **Annuit Coeptis**(septis) which is interpreted by the US State Dept as *He(God) has favored our undertakings* (brackets in orig)



- a) *Many conspiracy theories*: **but** Masons didn't use their eye till 14 years later; the Mason's version didn't have the triangle; & among the 3 that designed it *Benjamin Franklin* was the only mason, & his design wasn't adopted.
- b) **The eye** was used widely during the *Medieval & Renaissance* European iconography to symbolize the Christian Trinity.
4. Solomon, **The hearing ear and the seeing eye, The Lord has made them both**⁵
5. **Prayer**: O God, help me to **calmly trust** the H.S., the **faithful Guide** & my **seeing eye**, as calmly, yes more calmly, than that blind man on the street. For his dog may fail, but the Holy Spirit, **Never!** O teach me to trust & to walk by faith through the traffic of this life. Thank you for the promise: **I will guide you with my eye**. Ps.32:8

⁴ J. Sidlow Baxter; Awake My Heart; pg. 169

⁵ Proverbs 20:12

- N. (14) **He will glorify Me** - The **Son** came & glorified the **Father**; **now** the **Spirit** comes & glorifies the **Son**.
1. Some glorify “church buildings, sacraments, ministers, human leaders, cardinals, popes, pastors”; **but the Holy Spirit** comes to glorify **Jesus only!**
 - a) **Science** glorifies *knowledge*; **Philosophy** glorifies *reason*; **History** glorifies *great men*; **Society** glorifies *its dollar kings, movie stars, rock stars, & athlete stars*; **but the Holy Spirit** comes to glorify **Jesus only!**
 2. **How does the H.S. Glorify Jesus?** The H.S.’s purpose is to come & focus attention upon Jesus, in the perfections of His character & redeeming work, & to exalt Him in human esteem.
- O. **Illustration:** When **floodlighting** is well done, the floodlights are placed so that **you do not see them**; **in fact**, you are not supposed to see where the light is coming from; what you are meant to see is just the building on which the floodlights are pointed. The intended effect is to **make it visible** when otherwise it would not be seen for the darkness.⁶
1. This perfectly illustrated the Spirit’s new role. **He is the hidden floodlight shining on the Savior.** *[Or think of it this way]*
 2. It is **as if the Spirit** stands behind us, throwing light over our shoulder on to **Jesus** who stands facing us. The Spirit’s message to us is **never**, “**Look at me; listen to me; come to me; get to know me**”, **but always**, “**Look at him, and see his glory; listen to him and hear his word; go to him and have life; get to know him and taste his gift of joy and peace.**”
 - a) The **Spirit**, we might say, is the **matchmaker**, the **celestial marriage broker**, whose role it is to bring **us & Christ** together and ensure that we **stay together!**
- P. (14b) **He(H.S.) will take of what is mine(Jesus) & declare it to you** - The Good Samaritan did not say, *Here is some bandages, oil & wine for you*; he actually poured in the oil & wine.
1. **So Jesus** does not only give you the sweet wine of promise, **but holds the cup to your lips, & pours the life-blood into your mouth.**⁷
- Q. **End:** **Moody** was to have a campaign in England. An elderly pastor protested, “**Why do we need this ‘Mr. Moody’?** He’s uneducated, inexperienced, etc. **Who does he think he is anyway? Does he think he has a monopoly on the Holy Spirit?**” A younger, wiser pastor rose and responded, “**No, but the Holy Spirit has a monopoly on Mr. Moody.**”
1. **Does He have a monopoly on you?** [monopoly = the exclusive possession, control, or exercise of something] *Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.*

⁶ Your Father Loves You by James Packer, Harold Shaw Publishers, 1986, page for February 1

⁷ Charles Spurgeon; Morning & Evening; John 16:15.