

Sermon 講道信息  
October 十月 29, 2023  
John 約翰福音 15:26-16:15  
“The Case is Won”  
這場官司打贏了

Many years ago, when I pastored in England, a church member had to go to court – it was a small claims court; the church member was accused of defrauding someone.

許多年前，當我在英國牧會時，有一位教會成員被告上法庭—這是一個小額索賠法庭；教會成員被指控欺騙了某人。

I was asked to give testimony as a character witness, to declare from my experience that the church member was a person of integrity and honesty.

我被要求為教會成員的品格作見證人，根據我的經驗宣稱他是一個正直和誠實的人。

I remember entering the witness box, facing the judge, courtroom staff, and lawyers, and promising to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

我記得我進入證人席，面對法官、法庭工作人員和律師，並承諾說出真相，全部真相，只有真相。

I confirmed my name, my occupation (pastor), how I knew the accused, and how long I known the accused.

我確認了我的名字，我的職業（牧師），我如何認識被告，以及我認識被告多長時間。

Then, I was asked questions about my impressions, observations, and experience of the church member's character.

緊接著，我被問及關於我對教會成員性格的印象、觀察和經驗等問題。

The church member was innocent.

教會成員是無辜的。

I don't know if you've ever been to a court: maybe sitting in the public gallery to watch proceedings or maybe as a witness or maybe as part of a legal team representing someone.

我不知道你是否去過法庭：也許坐在公共旁聽席上觀看訴訟，或者作為證人，或者作為代表某人的法律團隊的一員。

I hope it's not as someone accused of a crime.

我希望不是像被指控犯罪的人那樣。

But have you ever thought that as followers of Jesus, we are in court – each day, every day?

但是你有沒有想過，作為耶穌的跟隨者，我們每天都在法庭上？

How we behave, what we say, where we stand on our convictions about Jesus and the Gospel, are all on display.

我們的行為方式，我們口中的言語，我們對耶穌以及福音信念的立場，都被一一展示出來。

I'm reminded of this each week.

我每周都會想起這一點。

As staff we discuss what phrase to post on the church signboard: is the phrase informative, challenging, relevant, honest, true, Biblical?

我們教會同工們會討論在教堂告示牌上張貼什麼短語：這個短語是不是信息豐富，具有挑戰性和針對性，誠實、真實並符合聖經？

Will the phrase offend? Is it too political? Are the words wisely chosen?

這句話會冒犯人嗎？是不是太政治化了？這些詞的選擇是否明智？

And what does it say about our Christian faith?

又在怎樣向別人講述我們的基督教信仰呢？

Each week, many people drive by or walk past the signboard. What do they see?

每周，許多人開車經過或走過都會看到告示牌，他們看到了什麼？

It's the same with our lives.

說起來我們的日常生活也是這樣。

Whether it's a signboard or how we live, people watch, draw conclusions, pass their sentence upon us.

無論是告示牌還是我們的生活方式，人們都在觀察，會給出結論，並向我們宣判。

Someone once said, "If you were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"

有人曾說：「如果你身為基督徒而受到審判，是否有足夠的證據證明你有罪呢？」

Would our lives display enough "proof" that we are followers of Jesus?

我們的生命是否充分地「證明」我們是耶穌的跟隨者？

As Christians we should stand out – stand out because we are known for our love but also because we say there is such a thing as sin;

作為基督徒，我們應該表達出來的是一因著我們的愛，同時也因為我們對罪的深刻認識而凸顯出來；

stand out because we announce that the only name under heaven by which anyone can be saved is the name of Jesus;

因著我們宣告，天下唯一可以得救的名字是耶穌的名字而被凸顯出來；

stand out because we believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus, because we believe in the power of the Gospel to change broken lives,

因著我們相信耶穌的死亡和復活，因為我們相信福音的力量可以改變破碎的生命而被凸顯出來，

because our lives have been transformed and we love others because Christ first loved us,

因著我們的生命已經改變，我們愛人，是因為基督先愛了我們，

because we believe truth and justice are found in Jesus,

因為我們相信真理和公義是在耶穌裡找到的，

because we declare Jesus is Lord, the incarnate Word of God, the one who is triumphant over the grave, the one who is above all authority, the one who will return, the one before whom every knee must bow.

因著我們宣告耶穌是主，是道成肉身的神，是戰勝死亡的，是高於一切權威的，是將要再來的，是萬膝都必須跪拜的那一位。

We are in court each day and every day.

我們沒有一天不在法庭上。

Three weeks ago, we learned how in ancient courts there were no lawyers to represent plaintiffs or accused.

三周前，我們瞭解到在古代法院中，沒有律師可以代表原告或被告。

You represented yourself and called witnesses in your support.

你代表自己，並傳喚證人來支援你。

Remember, I said that in an ancient court, if you were accused and you left the courtroom before the end of the case, you risked losing the case.

還記得我說過，在古代法庭上，如果你被指控並在案件結束前離開法庭，你就可能輸掉官司。

This metaphor of the courtroom is used in John's Gospel.

這個關於法庭的比喻在約翰福音中出現過。

Jesus presents his case and brings his testimony and the testimony of Scripture, of the miracles he performs, of the lives he changes, of God, his Father, to prove he is the Lord.

耶穌陳述了自己的案情，並帶來了祂的見證和聖經的見證，祂所行的神蹟，祂改變的生命，神的見證，就是祂的父，以此來證明祂自己就是主。

But Jesus will be crucified, buried, resurrected, and ascend – he will leave.

儘管如此，耶穌仍將要被釘上十字架、埋葬、復活並且升天—祂將離開。

Who will continue his case?

誰來繼續祂的案子？

The Holy Spirit is sent as “another Advocate” – one like Jesus.

聖靈被差遣為「另一位保惠師」—一位像耶穌一樣的中保。

As Advocate, the Spirit witnesses for Jesus and teaches us what to say as witnesses for Jesus (John 14:26).

作為保惠師，聖靈為耶穌作見證，並教導我們作為耶穌的見證人該說什麼（約翰福音 14:26）。

What I didn't explain is who the judge is in this court?

我沒有解釋的是這個法庭的法官是誰？

The judge is God the Father.

審判官是父神。

Now, the Father is not judging his Son, Jesus.

現在，天父不是在審判祂的兒子耶穌。

Instead, the Father will bring his verdict on the world: he sent his Son Jesus, so how will the world respond?

相反，天父將把祂的判決帶給世人：祂差遣了祂的兒子耶穌，那麼世人將如何回應耶穌呢？

Look at John 3:16-18: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”

請看約翰福音 3: 16-18：「神愛世人，甚至將他獨一的兒子賜給他們，叫一切信他的人不致滅亡，反得永生。因為神差他的兒子到世上來，不是要定世人的罪，而是要使世人因他得救。信他的人不被定罪；不信的人已經被定罪了，因為他不信神獨一兒子的名。」

There’s the language of the courtroom.

這是法庭的語言。

Now, listen to John 3:19: “This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.”

現在，請聽約翰福音 3: 19：「光來到世上，世人因自己的行為是惡的，不愛光，倒愛黑暗，這就定了他們的罪。」

To bring this judgement, Jesus sends the Holy Spirit – the Advocate.

為了帶來這個審判，耶穌差遣聖靈－保惠師。

The Spirit is sent to prove the world wrong, to confirm Jesus is Lord, and to pass judgement.

聖靈被差遣來證明世界是錯的，確認耶穌是主，並作出審判。

This is what Jesus says in our passage today.

這就是耶穌在我們今天的經文中所說的。

Let’s look carefully at verses 8-11.

讓我們仔細看看第 8-11 節。

In verse 8, Jesus says, “When he [the Spirit] comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgement...”

在第 8 節中，耶穌說：「他（聖靈）來的時候，要為罪、為義，為審判，指證世人。」

I became a Christian in 1981.

我在 1981 年成為基督徒。

I attended a charismatic Baptist Church – lots of focus on the power of the Spirit, speaking in tongues, raised hands in worship, and prayer for the fresh filling of the Holy Spirit.

我參加了一個靈恩的浸信會－關注聖靈的力量，說方言，舉手敬拜，併為聖靈的更新和充滿而禱告。

In many ways I am incredibly thankful for those days.

在許多方面，我非常感謝那些日子。

But what was sometimes forgotten was this: the Spirit is given not for us to have nice experiences in our worship, but to present us as living testimonies of the person of Jesus Christ.

但時常被遺忘的是：聖靈不是為了讓我們在敬拜中有美好的經歷，而是讓我們成為耶穌基督的活生生的見證。

Some people may respond to this testimony by rejecting Jesus, others may receive Jesus, but the purpose of the Spirit is to convict the world.

有些人可能會以拒絕耶穌來回應這個見證，有些人可能會接受耶穌，但聖靈的目的是指證世界的罪。

What does this mean?

這是什麼意思？

When it rains, our dog Mikey does not like going outside.

下雨時，我們的狗米奇不喜歡出門。

We hope he will rush under a bush to relieve himself.

我們希望牠能快快衝到灌木叢下小解。

Sometimes, he refuses.

有時，牠會拒絕。

We go to bed and take the risk!

我們上床睡覺，就要冒險了！

Usually, he is very good.

通常，牠沒問題。

But there have been a couple of times when, in the middle of the night, I've turned on the hall light and found a small "Mikey deposit" on the floor.

但有幾次，在半夜，我打開大廳的燈，發現地板上有一個小的「米奇的排泄物」。

Mikey's midnight activities have been exposed, brought into the light.

米奇的午夜活動已經曝光，被帶到了光亮中。

The word "convict" means expose, bring into the light.

「指證」這個詞的意思是暴露，帶到光明裡。

The Spirit turns the light on; he exposes the world so that the world knows it needs Jesus.

聖靈打開燈；祂揭露世界，使世界知道它需要耶穌。

How does he do this?

祂是怎麼做到的？

He will convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement.

祂要為罪、為義，為審判，指證世人。

These three – sin, righteousness, and judgement – each have something to do with Jesus.

這三者—罪、義和審判—都與耶穌有關。

Verse 9 says, "about sin, because people do not believe in me."

第 9 節說，「為罪，是因他們不信我。」

It's popular to define sin as "falling short of the glory of God".

人們普遍將罪定義為「虧缺神的榮耀」。

The image sometimes used is of a target with 100% moral behaviour as the bullseye.

有時使用的圖像是具有百分百道德行為的目標作為靶心。

We aim for the bullseye, but we miss or fall short.

我們的目標是靶心，但我們錯過或達不到要求。

This is sin, we say.

我們說，這是罪。

At its core, however, sin is not falling short of a moral standard; instead, sin, as this verse teaches, is not believing in Jesus.

然而，罪的核心不是達不到道德標準；相反，正如這節經文所教導的，罪是不相信耶穌。

The fundamental issue with humanity is not just that we fail to follow God's law;

人類的根本問題不僅在於我們不遵守神的律法；

the fundamental issue with humanity is that we do not believe Jesus is the Son of God, sent by the Father.

人類的根本問題是我們不相信耶穌是父神差來的神的兒子。

Sin is the rejection of Jesus.

罪是對耶穌的拒絕。

The Spirit's role in this great courtroom is to challenge the world – everyone – with the most important question anyone can be asked: "Who is Jesus?"

聖靈在這個偉大的法庭上的角色是挑戰世界 - 挑戰每個人 - 每個人都被問到最重要的問題：「耶穌是誰？」

It's why John writes his Gospel: "These are written," he says in John 20:31, "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."

這就是為什麼約翰寫他的福音書，他在約翰福音 20: 31 中說：「但記載這些事是要使你們信耶穌是基督，是 神的兒子。」

John's Gospel, inspired by the Spirit, is a direct challenge to human sin.

約翰福音，受聖靈的啟示，是對人類罪的直接挑戰。

What does this mean for you and me?

這對你我意味著什麼？

For all our mission efforts, all our moral behaviour, all our ministry goals, the Spirit's purpose in you, through you, and by you is to convict people so they ask, "Who is Jesus?"

對於我們所有的宣教努力，我們所有的道德行為，我們所有的事工目標，聖靈的目的是，在你裡面，通過你，藉著你，指證人們好叫他們問自己：「耶穌是誰？」

Doesn't this change how we step into each moment, each day, each week?

這難道不會改變我們如何度過每時每刻、每一天、每一周的方式嗎？

Do people see Jesus?

人們看到耶穌了嗎？

This is why in these chapters, Jesus over and over says to us, “Love one another, obey my commands, remain in me, believe in me, receive from me.”

這就是為什麼在這些章節中，耶穌一遍又一遍地對我們說：「彼此相愛，遵守我的命令，住在我裡面，相信我，從我這裡領受。」

As we live like this, the Spirit is saying to the world, “Look – look at these Christians – and see who Jesus is!”

當我們這樣生活時，聖靈正在對世界說：「看一看這些基督徒—就看到耶穌是誰！」

The fundamental problem with humanity is the rejection of Jesus Christ – this is sin.

人類的根本問題是拒絕耶穌基督—這就是罪。

And the Spirit is given to convict the world of this sin.

聖靈被賜給世人，使世人知罪。

And you and I are part of how he does this.

而你和我就是祂如此這般做成的樣子。

Let’s look at the next verse.

讓我們看下一節經文。

Verse 10 says, “about righteousness, because I am going to the Father where you can see me no longer.”

第 10 節說，「為義，是因我到父那裏去，你們將不再見到我。」

What does Jesus mean?

耶穌是什麼意思？

It’s the resurrection and the ascension.

這是復活和升天。

Jesus will be raised from the dead and he will return to his eternal position of glory and final authority, at his Father’s right hand.

耶穌將從死裡復活，祂將在天父的右邊回到祂永恆的榮耀和最終權威的位置。

Now remember, if Jesus leaves the courtroom early, he risks losing the case.

現在請記住，如果耶穌提前離開法庭，祂就有輸掉官司的風險。

Here, the Spirit’s purpose is to prove that Jesus’ departure from the world was in fact the vindication of Jesus’ case.

在這裡，聖靈的目的是要證明耶穌離開世界實際上是在為自己的案子辯護。

When he ascended to his Father’s side, Jesus did not put his case at risk, instead he proved that he is the exalted Lord – the case is won!

當耶穌升到天父的身邊時，祂並沒有把祂的案子置於危險之中，恰恰相反，祂以此證明自己是至高的主—官司打贏了！

Listen to Ephesians 1:20-21: the Father raised Christ “from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.”

請聽以弗所書 1: 20-21: 父使基督「從死人中復活，又使他在天上坐在自己的右邊，遠超越一切執政的、掌權的、有權能的、統治的和一切有名號的；不但是今世的，連來世的也都超越了。」

You cannot get higher than this.

你不能得到比這更高的了。

Justice (or righteousness – for in the New Testament justice is just another word for righteousness) is done – Jesus is vindicated.

公義（或義—因為在新約中，公義只是義的另一個詞）成就了一耶穌被證明是正確的。

And the Spirit's role is to apply the truth of Christ's vindication. How?

聖靈的角色是帶出基督已勝利的真理。怎麼做到的呢？

Through us: John 15:26-27 say Jesus sends us the Spirit of truth, he will testify about Jesus and we must also testify because we know Jesus.

通過我們：約翰福音 15: 26-27 說耶穌差遣真理的靈，祂會為耶穌作見證，我們也必須作見證，因為我們認識耶穌。

Again, this brings us back to what Jesus has said about loving one another, obeying his commands, remaining in him.

再一次，這讓我們回到耶穌所說的彼此相愛，順服祂的命令，住在祂裡面。

When I love you, do what Jesus tells me, seek Jesus with all my heart, I am Spirit's witness to the world that Jesus was crucified, resurrection, and ascended.

當我愛你時，做耶穌告訴我的，全心全意地尋求耶穌，我是聖靈的證人向世界見證耶穌的十字架、復活和升天。

Now look at verse 11: "and about judgement, because the prince of this world now stands condemned."

現在請看第 11 節：「為審判，是因這世界的統治者已受了審判。」

Who is the prince of this world?

誰是這個世界的統治者？

Satan, the Devil. In this world the power of evil stands in total opposition to God.

撒旦，魔鬼。在這個世界上，邪惡的力量完全站在神的對立面。

This is a spiritual reality – we see Satan's evil in the distortion of God's truth, the manipulation of human sin, the stimulation of human pride, the aggression of human obstinacy, the opposition against Christ and the church.

這是一個屬靈的現實—我們看到撒旦的邪惡在於歪曲神的真理，操縱人類的罪，助長人類的驕傲，人類固執的侵略，反對基督和教會。

Let's understand two things about Satan.

讓我們了解關於撒旦的兩件事。

Satan is like a wounded, vicious animal – he will lash out and kill.

撒旦就像一隻受傷的惡毒動物—牠會猛烈攻擊和殺戮。

We cannot take him for granted or dismiss him as irrelevant.



我們不能看牠是理所當然的，也不能認為牠無關緊要。

His desire is that we go astray – we wander off the path of discipleship (as Jesus warns in John 16:1).

牠的願望是我們都誤入歧途—偏離門徒的正道（正如耶穌在約翰福音 16: 1 中警告的那樣）。

Second, Satan is a defeated enemy.

第二，撒旦是被打敗的敵人。

His defeat is guaranteed because Jesus made a public spectacle of the evil powers by triumphing over them by the cross (Colossians 2:15).

牠的失敗是有保證的，因為耶穌通過十字架已經戰勝邪惡勢力，並使牠的邪惡公開示眾（歌羅西書 2: 15）。

It's this second point that John 16:11 declares.

這是約翰福音 16: 11 所宣告的第二點。

The Spirit's role is to confirm the judgement of the cross upon this world and the prince of this world.

聖靈的作用是確認十字架對這個世界和這個世界的王的審判。

Satan is defeated; his condemnation is guaranteed.

撒旦被打敗了;他的譴責是有保證的。

In other words, you and I know the outcome.

換句話說，你和我都知道結果。

It's like watching a sports game and knowing the final score before the game begins and as the game is played.

這就像觀看體育比賽並在比賽開始前和比賽進行中已經知道最終比分。

We continue the battle against the devil, but even if we feel we are the underdogs, that so much seems to be against us, that persecution is real (as Pastor Lee reminded us last week), Christ has won.

我們繼續與魔鬼爭戰，但即使我們覺得自己是弱者，似乎有很多人反對我們，逼迫是真實的（正如李牧師上周提醒我們的那樣），基督已經贏了。

Romans 16:20 says, "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."

羅馬書 16: 20 說：「那賜平安的神快要把撒但踐踏在你們腳下。」

"Take heart," Jesus says in John 16:33, "I have overcome the world."

耶穌在約翰福音 16: 33 中說：「但你們要有勇氣，我已經勝過世界。」

The Advocate – in this courtroom – confirms the truth that Jesus is Lord.

保惠師- 在這個法庭上 - 證實了耶穌是主的真理。

He convicts the world of their sin of not believing in Jesus.

祂使世人因不相信耶穌而知罪。

He proves Jesus is just and right because Jesus is seated above all power and authority.

祂證明耶穌是公義和正確的，因為耶穌坐在一切權力和權柄之上。

He condemns this distorted world and the prince of this world because Jesus defeated Satan at the cross.

祂譴責這個扭曲的世界和這個世界的君王，因為耶穌在十字架上打敗了撒旦。

So what does this mean for you and me today?

那麼這對今天的你和我意味著什麼？

Let me offer two thoughts.

讓我提出兩個想法。

First, we persevere.

首先，我們堅持不懈。

We know following Jesus is not always easy.

我們知道跟隨耶穌並不總是那麼容易。

We will be rejected – as Jesus says in John 16:2.

我們將被拒絕—正如耶穌在約翰福音 16: 2 中所說。

You will be disagreed with; you will be held in contempt; you will be pushed out.

你會不被贊同;你會被蔑視;你將被排斥出去。

The world hates Jesus, it will hate us – don't be surprised if you face opposition.

世界恨耶穌，它會恨我們—如果你面對反對，不要感到驚訝。

The opposition you face is a sign of the Spirit's work in you and through you.

你面對的反對是聖靈在你裡面並通過你做工的標誌。

But know that you are not left ill-equipped.

但要知道，你不會裝備不良。

The Spirit comes. He will guide us into all truth – meaning opening Scripture to us.

聖靈來了。祂將引導我們進入所有的真理—意思是使我們明白聖經。

We have the resources to continue.

我們有資源繼續下去。

He will confirm our relationship with the Father – he brings glory to Jesus by taking what is Jesus' and making it known to us – we share the beauty and wonder of Christ's relationship with the Father.

祂將確認我們與天父的關係—祂向我們顯明有關耶穌的事情來榮耀耶穌—我們分享基督與天父關係的美麗和奇妙。

What a privilege!

這是何等榮幸！

Second, these verses guide us in every conversation.

第二，這些經文在每一次對話中都指引著我們。

No matter who you talk to, the profile is plain:

無論您與誰交談，個人境況很簡單：

that person is broken and needs healing;

那個人是破碎的，需要醫治；

that person is lost and needs to be found;

那個人是迷失的，需要被尋回；

that person is a sinner and needs to find forgiveness.

那個人是罪人，需要得到寬恕。

But what they really need is to come into the light and believe in Jesus.

但他們真正需要的是進入光明並相信耶穌。

Our task isn't to identify every moral failure in someone's life, our task is to introduce them to Jesus – in him they find forgiveness.

我們的任務不是找出某人生命中的每一個道德失敗，我們的任務是將他們介紹給耶穌——在耶穌裡找到寬恕。

Every person seeks hope and assurance.

每個人都尋求希望和確據。

Our task isn't to offer therapeutic assistance or consolation, but to introduce them to the one who reigns supreme, seated above all power and authority.

我們的任務不是提供治療幫助或安慰，而是將他們介紹給至高的那一位，就是那坐在所有權能和權威之上的。

Every person longs for freedom (from addictions, attitudes, guilt, past events, negative influences from family or culture or circumstance).

每個人都渴望自由（遠離成癮、態度、內疚、過去的事件、家庭、文化或環境的負面影響）。

Our task isn't to debate the details, but to introduce them to Jesus whose death on the cross and resurrection guarantees ultimate release from the clutches of evil.

我們的任務不是辯論細節，而是向他們介紹耶穌，祂在十字架上的死和復活保證了人們最終會從邪惡的魔掌中得釋放。

We point to Jesus – this is the Spirit's work in this great courtroom.

我們指向耶穌——這是聖靈在這個大法庭上的工作。

You no doubt have heard of the great Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen.

毫無疑問，你曾經聽說過偉大的挪威探險家羅爾德·阿蒙森。

He was the first to discover the magnetic meridian of the North Pole and to discover the South Pole.

他是第一個發現北極磁子午線和南極的人。

On one of his trips, he took a homing pigeon.

在一次探險中，他帶了一隻信鴿。

When he reached the North Pole, he opened the cage and set the bird free.

當他到達北極時，他打開籠子，釋放了信鴿。

The pigeon made it all the way to Norway, to Amundsen's home, to Amundsen's wife.

這信鴿竟然回到挪威，來到阿蒙森的家，來到阿蒙森妻子的身邊。

She looked up and saw the pigeon circling above and she exclaimed, “He’s alive. My husband is still alive.”

阿蒙森的妻子抬起頭，看到鴿子在半空盤旋，她驚呼道：「他還活著。我丈夫還活著。」

That’s all she needed to know.

這就是她需要知道的一切。

Jesus will depart.

耶穌要離開。

But he gives the Holy Spirit to his disciples – you and me.

但祂把聖靈賜給祂的門徒—你和我。

The Spirit, like Amundsen’s pigeon, is the constant reminder that Jesus is alive, he is victorious, he is at the Father’s right hand.

聖靈，就像阿蒙森的鴿子一樣，不斷提醒我們耶穌是活著的，祂已經得勝了，祂坐在天父的右邊。

In the great courtroom, we declare that the verdict is given.

在大法庭上，我們宣佈審判結果。

The case is won.

這場官司打贏了。