

Reedy Fork Baptist Church

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

BIBLE STUDY

Theme: "Making Prayer Your First Priority"

SCRIPTURE: John 16:19-28, NIV

19 Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'?"

20 Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.

21 A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world.

22 So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

23 In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

25 "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father.

26 In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf.

27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

28 I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

I. **Key Words:**

- Priority
- Prayer

II. **People, Places, & Times:**

- Jesus
- Disciples

III. **Background:**

In John 16:19-28, Jesus prepares His disciples for the cross by promising that their upcoming grief will be transformed into eternal joy. He assures them they will have direct access to the Father in His name, and confirms the ultimate triumph of His divine mission.

IV. **In Depth:**

1. Lesson Emphasis: 1. The Paradox of Pain and Joy (vv. 19-22)

- A. The Immediate Reality (v. 19-20): Jesus perceives the disciples' confusion over His "little while" departure. He plainly tells them they will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices.
- B. The Analogy of Birth (v. 21): Jesus compares their coming grief to a woman in labor. The pain is real and intense, but it is temporary and serves a glorious purpose.
- C. The Promised Turn (v. 22): Their grief will be swallowed up in an unshakeable, eternal joy.

2. Lesson Emphasis #2: Lesson Emphasis: 2. Direct Access and Complete Joy (vv. 23-24)

- A. A Shift in Prayer (v. 23): "In that day," after the resurrection and ascension, their relationship with God shifts. Instead of asking Jesus questions, they will have direct access to the Father.
- B. The Power of the Name (v. 23b-24): Asking the Father in Jesus' name grants them direct audience. It moves their faith from uncertainty to "complete joy".

3. Lesson Emphasis #3: The Father's Direct Love (vv. 25-27)

- A. From Figures to Plain Truth (v. 25): Jesus' veiled teachings will give way to a crystal-clear understanding of the Father, realized through the Spirit. [1, 2]
- B. No Middleman Required (vv. 26-27): Jesus states that because the disciples love Him and believe He came from God, the Father Himself personally loves them. They do not need Jesus to be an intermediary on their behalf.

