

John's Gospel @ CF!

John 16:16-33

Sermon notes – BK

December 7, 2025

JOHN 16... Still moving on in our notes ☺

Last time we were in John, we covered through 16:15...

I handed out sheets with the verses on it, for you to go along with and make notes of your own.

Hopefully that was helpful.

Today, of course, we will be building on where we have been.

We are actually covering a bit of ground today...

I am going to read through to the end of this whole chapter!

I know – not my normal routine, but it flows well with some things that are key for us this time of year.

To quickly bring you up to speed

- Jesus finished His public ministry
- Jesus then had an extended and meaningful final meal with His disciples
 - o He washed their feet
 - o He watched His betrayer leave the room
 - o He instructed the other 11 disciples in some of the most meaningful teaching we have in the New Testament
 - o He then leads them out of the Upper Room, to the Garden where He would be betrayed
 - o He teaches on how He is the Vine, God is the Gardener, and we are the branches of Him (as the vine) to be the bearers of fruit He provides...
 - o Jesus then transitions into preparing them for the trials and troubles ahead, but assures them He will send the Holy Spirit to be with them.

Jesus continues His preparing them for the very soon coming tumultuous time...

You can imagine this will be no easy conversation...

We will be covering some ground today!

We will read through them and hopefully I will shed some light on them as well...

Remember, these words are part of a longer conversation that we have gone over in John for several weeks now.

With Jesus' time with His disciples is coming to a close...

Jesus' words are to help them to see what will be taking place
SO that –

- They would have peace
- They would be set up for success, in the midst of what WILL BE the toughest part of their lives, period.

So, let's read and walk through these verses...

John 16:16-19

¹⁶ “A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” ¹⁷ So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father?’” ¹⁸ So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” ¹⁹ Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’?

“A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.”

They have heard Jesus say these kind of words before...

John 7:33

Jesus then said, “I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me.

John 12:35-36

So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

John 13:33

Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’

John 14:19

Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

Then, we come to this teaching...

“A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” –

Jesus makes this statement, then repeated by the disciples, then repeated by Jesus again... Why?

It almost seems comical that John records this whole exchange... but there is a reason for it...

Likely to highlight the disciple's confusion and how they were not getting it.

- They were looking at it from the surface
- They were not looking at the big picture

Thought they had heard these words before, I am sure they knew this time was different...

- The disciples knew a shift was happening
 - o The resurrection of Lazarus
 - o The triumphal entry
 - o The proclamations Jesus made
 - o The time they just had in the Upper Room with Jesus...

- And NOW, Jesus seems to have kicked it into high gear... "*It is about time...*" You could almost hear them say...
- ALL of it was pointing to something...

John is not hidden about the fact that they (the disciples) were clueless and exasperated.

Jesus says these words...

- They were caught up on the words, "a little while..."

"A little while"

- How long is that?
- When?
- Two, "little while's?"

Grk: - "mikros" - Meaning little - Here... "shortly, it will come to pass."

This was absolutely true for the disciples here...

- An hour or two before Judas would betray Him
 - Getting Beaten
 - Being Crucified
 - Dying...

"A little while, and you will see me no longer..."

Then...

"...and again a little while, and you will see me."

JESUS IS RISEN early that Sunday morning...

- He appears to them over the next 40 days to:
 - Prove His **resurrection**,
 - To **strengthen** them,
 - To **teach** them,
 - To **equip** them
- Then the ultimate gift comes... The Holy Spirit to indwell them... ALL the way to TODAY!

In this moment, while Jesus is speaking these words...

- None of this has happened – *but it will!*
- None of this makes any sense – but they will understand completely.

They simply walked in the faith they had, till the Lord gave them bigger rocks to walk on.

“A little while...”

To be honest... I get stuck on the “little while” too...

- I can only imagine what the Disciples felt
- We now see what they could not see
- THAT said, we need to walk in the same faith and obedience they did, in the ways that WE ourselves cannot see.

“A little while...”

- It is true it gets quicker every year!
- *Micros...* no kidding!

How long till the "and suddenly?"

How fast a long time goes by?! Faster every year!

For God... that could be a long time!

Remember what we see in Revelation...?

Rev. 1:1a, 3

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place.

³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

Revelation 22:20

He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

How long ago was that?

How many of you know, "Behold I come quickly" is quicker all the time?!!

For the disciples... the "in a little while's" come in various ways...

- **His death and resurrection**
- **His ascension and coming of the Holy Spirit.**
- **His second coming...**

We forget how perplexed they were...

...Until we look at our own lives...

Jesus does not ignore their questions... He addresses them directly, though still in some level of mystery.

You can almost feel the moment...

The statements that may be *confirming their greatest fears...*

All of this clearly points to the humanity of the disciples and presence of Jesus right with them...

The Disciples were working it out, and so are we!

We know now... (now, on this side of the story)...

"A little while, and you will see me no longer..."

- **Jesus will die (a horrible, humiliating, vicious death)**
- **Jesus will be put in a tomb, where they will no longer see Him**

"...and again a little while, and you will see me."

- **Jesus will rise from the dead, victorious over the grave!**
- **They will see Him, physically after His resurrection...**

We can also see this as –

- **Jesus ascending into Heaven**
 - o **The Holy Spirit descending to be with us**

- **Jesus going to Heaven**
 - o **He will return to us, His bride...** at the second coming

Jesus paused for His disciples – to bring more clarity, but also knowing they would not “get it” until it happens...

Jesus is clear with them...

John 16:20a

²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice.

The world does not get it.

“*The world*” – the mindset that opposes God.

- **Those who reject God** altogether
- **The religious leaders that reject the plan God had in and through Jesus.**

John 16:20b

You will be sorrowful,

The disciples will feel sorrow – and **DEEP sorrow it will be, Jesus does not hide that...**

BUT – it is only temporary...

“...but your sorrow will turn into joy.”

Jesus was giving them words to hang on when it all goes south.

- The death is temporary
- The separation is temporary
- The pain of loss is temporary

I am sure it did not feel “temporary” at the time...

Jesus’ illustration could not be better –

John 16:21-22

21 When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. 22 So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

The joy of life that will flow – that joy remains.
Does this happen? Yes!

“...and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”

23 In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

The relationship the Disciples have with the Lord after the resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit – changed everything.

They will ask the Father directly in Jesus' name...

- The miracles
- God's leading through all the persecution that was coming
- The fruit of their efforts going all over the world
- We see an amazing recording in the book of Acts...

25 “I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. 26 In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; 27 for 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 have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

Jesus speaks these words to help them see they have access to the Father as well.

- The Father loves them... The Father Himself loves them...
 - o Because they loved Jesus

- Because they have believed
- The relationship with the Father will be different after Jesus' resurrection...
 - Their sin will be forgiven
 - The veil of separation is torn in two
 - There will no longer be separation

They will have access to the Father through Jesus...

THIS was NOT TRUE until Jesus rose from the dead –

- Yes, they had been given authority for some of the missions Jesus gave them... but this is NEW...
- **THIS is Where WE get to live now too !**

Now... a lightbulb goes on...

²⁹ His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰ Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” ³¹ Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? ³² Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.

Jesus is saying, “You are getting it... but it is about to get real – and all that you think you know will be tested...

- Scattering to their own homes
- They will abandon Jesus... out of fear.

Does this sound like a real story?

Yes, there is a true human response to the betrayal and cruc

³³ I have said these things to ifixion of Jesus...

you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Jesus is giving them what they need to recover from their fearful response...

- He has told them what was going to come
 - His leaving

- His coming back

Jesus is letting them know He is still in control, even though it will not look like it.

Jesus speaks these words...
“*...that in me you may have peace.*”

The world will NOT have peace...

Where can you find lasting peace outside of Jesus?
Jesus says,

“*In the world you will have tribulation.*”

This was the same word used in childbirth (verse 21 translated as anguish)

- There are times when you will feel like you are in great anguish or tribulation... but that is only temporary...
- Jesus SAYS this will be the case...

All of these words are in the present tense...

- Peace
- Tribulation
- Take heart

Challenges will come...

...But they are NEVER the end of the story...

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

“*In the world you will have tribulation.*”

“But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

The word “overcome” is in the PERFECT tense.

- Jesus HAS overcome
- Jesus ALWAYS WILL overcome

The disciples had no clue what was about to happen

- *Jesus did*

Jesus warned them as much as He could...

- *They did (eventually) get it!*

Their hope and trust was in Jesus.

As a result... God used them to change the world...

- They DO take heart
- THEY DO CHANGE THE WORLD!

Are we overwhelmed by the trials/tribulations/anguish?

“But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Remember... the word “overcome” is in the perfect tense.

- Jesus HAS overcome
- Jesus ALWAYS WILL overcome

Is this not the greatest part of celebrating, “Emmanuel... GOD WITH US...?”

I could not think of any other greater encouragement this Christmas Season...