

John Chapter 16

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Introduction:

The disciples are getting a crash course in what is coming next for them. He warns of the danger of falling away, of the coming persecution from zealots, how the Spirit would be guiding them in what to say and how their sorrow in losing Jesus would be turned into permanent joy.

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JESUS CONTINUES HIS DISCUSSION

(16:1.) "I have told you these things so that you won't abandon your faith.

- There was a possibility of falling and Jesus acknowledged it. Provision must be made against departure from Christ in all generations. There is no once-saved-always-saved teaching here.

(2.) For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God.

- There will be **social pressure**. Minds will be confused into thinking that killing the followers of Jesus was a service to God. Paul was an illustration of this. He said:

"I used to believe that I ought to do everything I could to oppose the very name of Jesus the Nazarene. Indeed, I did just that in Jerusalem. Authorized by the leading priests, I caused many believers there to be sent to prison. And I cast my vote against them when they

were condemned to death. Many times I had them punished in the synagogues to get them to curse Jesus. I was so violently opposed to them that I even chased them down in foreign cities. (Acts 26:9-11 NLT)

- Their friends may avoid them and their businesses may suffer. They will be treated as outcasts.

(3.) This is because they have never known the Father or Me.

- The enemy actions were based in their total ignorance of the God they claimed to be serving.

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

(4.) Yes, I'm telling you these things now, so that when they happen, you will remember My warning. I didn't tell you earlier because I was going to be with you for a while longer.

- Jesus predicted the near future and wanted His men to connect the dots when it happened.
- There was no need for Him to explain these coming events as long as He was with them. Now He is leaving and they need to comprehend what He is telling them. It is clear that Jesus had His trainees in mind and not all believers throughout the ages.

(5.) "But now I am going away to the one who sent Me, and not one of you is asking where I am going.

- Jesus was setting the stage to return to His Father. They knew now that He was not talking about some other place on earth.

(6.) Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you.

- The Eleven truly loved Jesus and they were heavy-hearted to hear what was coming. They were focused on how Jesus' departure would affect them personally. Ideally, they should have rejoiced that Jesus was returning to His former glory.

(7.) But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send Him to you.

- Jesus pointed out the distinct advantage to His men when He left. He would leave, but send the Helper to replace His presence.
- While Jesus had the Spirit to empower His ministry, they did not have the Spirit yet and would not have it until He left.
- Some advantages of the coming Spirit:
 - The Spirit could be with every believer worldwide instead of Jesus bodily being with a handful of disciples. Now we can understand Matthew 18:

For where two or three gather together as My followers, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20 NLT)

By means of the Spirit, Jesus could be everywhere.

- The Spirit would empower the writing of the New Testament, something Jesus had not done. Jesus focused entirely on training His men, but not teaching them to write what He said. That came later. For instance, Peter spoke of the written word coming from Paul:

And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him--(2 Peter 3:15 NLT)

- They would learn to walk by faith and not by sight as they had been doing while the Lord was with them in person.

SIN, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUDGEMENT

(8.) And when He comes, He will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.

- The Advocate will have a three-fold work in the **world**.
 - **Sin** is about what *mankind* does that displeases God. Listeners need to hear about **sin** so they can turn from it.

Some proclaimers are so afraid of offending listeners that they made a wide berth around the subject of **sin** and therefore see little results from their efforts. One effective preacher said it accurately: *"You have to get them lost before you can get them saved."*

Tragically, the true sinners had labeled Jesus as a sinner.

So for the second time they called in the man who had been blind and told him, "God should get the glory for this, because we know this man Jesus is a sinner." (John 9:24 NLT)

Labeling Jesus as a sinner makes repentance nearly impossible.

- **Righteousness** is about our flawless God personally. God sets the absolutely perfect example of how to think and act. The example that we can *see* is the perfect life of Christ. There are several comments about Christ's perfection. Here are just four:

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

(2 Corinthians 5:21 NLT)

This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same testings we do, yet He did not sin.

(Hebrews 4:15 NLT)

He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone.

(1 Peter 2:22 NLT)

And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and there is no sin in Him.

(1 John 3:5 NLT)

If we want to know how to think and act, we need to follow the example of Jesus and this means that we will need to learn about His conduct from Matthew or Mark or Luke or John. We need to become intensely acquainted with those records.

Charles Sheldon wrote a book that is among the most printed in the world (50 million copies since 1896) named *In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?* While Sheldon had political and social themes in mind, his readers took the principles and asked "What would Jesus do?" and even formed WWJD clubs. The principle is correct and every one of us should test our decision asking the question. It can only be answered by knowing what Jesus did in His lifetime.

- **Judgment** is the time when our **sins** and His **righteousness** are compared. Enoch, quoted by Jude, makes it clear:

Enoch, who lived in the seventh generation after Adam, prophesied about these people. He said, "Listen! The Lord is coming with countless thousands of His holy ones to execute judgment on the people of the world. He will convict every person of all the ungodly things they have done and for all the insults that ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." (Jude 14-15 NLT)

Paul reasoned with Roman Governor Felix and his wife about the coming judgment and it frightened Felix who was a judge himself:

**As he reasoned with them about righteousness and self-control and the coming day of judgment, Felix became frightened. "Go away for now," he replied. "When it is more convenient, I'll call for you again."
(Acts 24:25 NLT)**

We need to include **the coming judgment** when we tell of sin and its cure.

(9.) The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in Me.

- There were many **sins**, but the greatest **sin** is not **believing** in Jesus just like idolatry was the leading sin of the Old Testament era and was at the top of the list in the Ten Commandments. We might have considered murder to be at the top of the list, but God placed idolatry there. In the case of Jesus, we might place some other sin at the top of the list, but Jesus placed the **refusing to believe** in Him at the top.

(10.) Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see Me no more.

- The **righteous Father** sent the **righteous** Son and the sinning world rejected Him. But not everyone rejected:

But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us.

(Galatians 5:5 NLT)

(11.) Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.

- **Judgment** is coming for everyone based on the fact that **the ruler of the world** has already been **judged**. **James Smith** says for mankind to cling to Satan is to cling to a sinking ship. In fact, the judgment reaches every one of us according to Jesus:

And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. (Matthew 12:36 NLT)

(12.) "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now.

- The clock was down to the last few hours, and Jesus still had many things to say to the men He had trained and loved. The Spirit would take over the training when He comes.
- Some believers now say they will only follow the words of Jesus in red letters, but this sentence shows those teachings were not yet complete. The fullness of the truth includes the words of the men whom Jesus inspired.

Together, we are His house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the corner- stone is Christ Jesus Himself. (Ephesians 2:20 NLT)

The way we are built on the apostles and prophets is by being built on their words.

(13.) When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future.

- Additional **truth** will come in the on-the-job training that is just ahead. They will be guided into all of the **truth** of God.
- **“All truth”** rules out later sources of heavenly **truth**. Later books such as the *Book of Mormon* are not from God. Later claims of direct verbal inspiration by upstart prophets are ruled out.

Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons. (1 Timothy 4:1 NLT)

- Like Jesus, the **Spirit** will not speak on His own authority but from the authority of the Father.

(14.) He will bring Me glory by telling you whatever He receives from Me.

- Jesus would not **glorify** Himself, but the Spirit will. The words are the same as Jesus would have spoken to them if He were present.

(15.) All that belongs to the Father is Mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever He receives from Me.'

- There is a perfect union between the **Father**, the Son and the **Spirit**.

(16.) "In a little while you won't see Me anymore. But a little while after that, you will see Me again."

- Within an hour or two, Jesus would be arrested and taken from the sight of His men. Most of them would not **see** Him again until after His resurrection.

YOUR SORROW WILL TURN TO JOY

(17.) Some of the disciples asked each other, "What does He mean when He says, 'In a little while you won't see Me, but then you will see Me,' and 'I am going to the Father'?"

- **The disciples** discussed this strange talk about Jesus being hidden and **going to the Father**.

(18.) And what does He mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand."

- Since they could not see even the near future, they were confused about what Jesus was saying.
- This was very puzzling talk from the One they expected to be the coming king of Israel.

(19.) Jesus realized they wanted to ask Him about it, so He said, "Are you asking yourselves what I meant? I said in a little while you won't see Me, but a little while after that you will see Me again."

- **Jesus** described their puzzlement perfectly. He knew what they were thinking without being in the conversation. No wonder they said in a few moments (verse 30) that He knew everything. This same ability to know was a deciding factor back in John 1:

"How do You know about me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus replied, "I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you." Then Nathanael exclaimed, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God -- the King of Israel!" (John 1:48-49 NLT)

(20.) I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to Me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy.

- They would **weep and mourn** when Jesus was punished and finally crucified. But **joy** awaited.
- The disciples would sorrow:
 - Because Jesus would be gone and they would be alone.
 - Because their Lord would seem defeated.
 - Because their enemies will seem to have won.
- It was not God's plan for them to avoid sorrow, but to turn that sorrow into **joy**.

(21.) It will be like a woman suffering the pains of labor. When her child is born, her anguish gives way to joy because she has brought a new baby into the world.

- While there is agonizing pain in childbirth, it fades into the past because of the reward of a **child** being born. So here, sorrow will turn into **joy**.

(22.) So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy.

- The emerging **joy** cannot be taken by any outside force.
- Many have debated as to the exact time that Jesus would see them again, but it might be John 20:20 where the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord on His resurrection day.

That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," He said. As He spoke,

He showed them the wounds in His hands and His side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!
(John 20:19-20 NLT)

(23.) At that time you won't need to ask Me for anything. I tell you the truth, you will ask the Father directly, and He will grant your request because you use My name.

- While the disciples may have asked Jesus for their wants, in the coming time, their requests go straight to the Father for action.

(24.) You haven't done this before. Ask, using My name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.

- Remember that prayer was an important part of the forms and rituals at the Temple. Jesus is telling His men that prayer, to be answered, had to be in His **name**.

I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD

(25.) "I have spoken of these matters in figures of speech, but soon I will stop speaking figuratively and will tell you plainly all about the Father.

- One **figure of speech** may have been that of childbirth in verse 21. They just couldn't figure out what He was saying.

Other figures of speech:

Destroy this temple and I will rebuild it in three days.

He that believes shall never die.

He would give living water.

You are clean, but not all.

(26.) Then you will ask in My name. I'm not saying I will ask the Father on your behalf, (27.) for the Father Himself loves you dearly because you love Me and believe that I came from God.

- Requests go straight to the **Father** now because you have **loved** me and believe that I came from God.

- This new plan about to go into place is powered by **love**. Because the disciples have **loved** Jesus, the Father **loves** them. It will be more than a set of rules to live by.

(28.) Yes, I came from the Father into the world, and now I will leave the world and return to the Father."

- The sojourn of Jesus on the earth is about over.
- He came to a virgin's womb, grew up in an ordinary family and carried on His ministry to the people of Israel. The nation rejected Him, but He gave His life for all who would believe. **Now** He would **return to the Father**.

(29.) Then His disciples said, "At last You are speaking plainly and not figuratively.

- Verse 28 is so simple and clear, it would take special training to misunderstand it.

(30.) Now we understand that You know everything, and there's no need to question You. From this we believe that You came from God."

- Jesus had just impressed them by describing what they were trying to **understand**. This further anchored their belief that He was directly from **God**.

(31.) Jesus asked, "Do you finally believe?"

- **Belief** comes in steps. They had been **believing**, but they should be able to **believe** to a greater degree now.

(32.) But the time is coming -- indeed it's here now -- when you will be scattered, each one going his own way, leaving Me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with Me.

- Jesus had never abandoned them, but they would abandon Him in just a few hours. But the Father would not abandon Jesus. Remember "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit?"

(33.) I have told you all this so that you may have peace in Me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

● **James Smith** says:

This is an amazing statement to make on the eve of being arrested and sent to die on a cross. Neither the Pharisees, nor Pilate, nor the soldiers, nor death and the grave could overcome Jesus. And because he overcame the world the flesh and the devil, Jesus empowers his followers even today to live victorious lives. No matter how bad their tribulation in the world, disciples can take courage because their master has overcome the world.

In the next chapter, we consider Jesus' great prayer for unity among believers.

MUSIC BOX	
<i>Come, let us sing to the LORD! (Psalms 95:1 NLT)</i>	
Verse	Link: Put in Browser:
24	<i>What a Friend We Have in Jesus</i> bitly.ws/pvZi