

John 16 Bible Study

Title: Prepared for What Is Coming

Main idea: Jesus prepares His disciples for what is coming after His departure, He teaches them to depend on the Holy Spirit, trust the Father, endure sorrow and tribulation, and live with peace because He has overcome the world.

Exegesis

About the author

- John son of Zebedee
- A Palestinian Jew
- Audience: Jews and Gentiles
- Genre: The Gospel of Jesus
- An apostle
- A disciple of Christ
- Whom Jesus Loved (John 13:23-24, 18:15-16, 20:2-9)

John Chapters 13-17

Jesus Is in the Final Hours of His Earthly Ministry

These chapters are often referred to as Jesus' Farewell Discourse

- He knows exactly what is about to happen to Him.
- The disciples do not fully understand what is coming.

Therefore, much of what Jesus says in these chapters is preparation for what the disciples are about to experience.

John 16

- John 16 takes place on the night before Jesus' crucifixion, during the final hours of His earthly ministry. Some theologians say it was an hour or two before His arrest.
- Location: Jesus and the disciples are in Jerusalem, during the Last Supper.

Section 1: The Promise of the Holy Spirit

John 16:4-15

Key verse: John 16:7

7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

What is happening:

- Jesus is communicating that He is leaving them and going back to God the Father
- He had not initially told them everything because He was with them.
- Now He is preparing them for His departure.
- Their sorrow/grief is connected to the realization that Jesus is leaving.

Then we get to verse 7

7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

Jesus had to depart in order for the Advocate to come (Holy Spirit)

- Jesus' departure on the cross, resurrection, and ascension had to happen **first** to **fulfill** God's salvation plan and pave the way for the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus is fulfilling God's salvation plan with his departure
- **Jesus was very intentional**
- While Jesus was on earth He could only be in one place at a time but the Holy Spirit would carry Jesus' ministry over the entire world at all times.
 - The Father - Sent the Son
 - The Son - Fulfilled the Gospel
 - The Spirit - Spreads the Gospel

John 16:7-15 The Roles of the Holy Spirit

1. **V.7 The Advocate** (Comforter) - Jesus leaves physically, but the disciples will not be left without God's presence. (Whenever you think you're alone, God is always present)
2. **V.8-11 The Holy Spirit Convicts** - The Spirit has a ministry toward the world. He brings conviction concerning three things:
 - a. 1. Sin
 - b. 2. Righteousness
 - c. 3. Judgment
 - d. The Spirit exposes the reality of sin. Jesus connects this specifically to the world's failure to believe in Him.
3. **V.13 The Spirit of Truth** - The Ministry of the Holy Spirit is to provide guidance, understanding and the Truth. The disciples aren't simply left to figure everything out on their own after Jesus leaves.
 - a. What is the Truth? The Greek translation is "into all the truth."
 - b. "the truth" refers specifically to the **full revelation** of **Jesus Christ**, His character, His work, and God's plan of salvation.

4. **V.13 The Holy Spirit Reveals The Future** - This suggests that the Holy Spirit knows the future, something that is true to God alone. This gives evidence of the full deity of the Holy Spirit.
5. **V.14 The Holy Spirit Glorifies Jesus** - The Spirit never speaks of Himself or draws attention away from the Son. Instead, He constantly directs the eyes, hearts, and minds of believers back to Jesus. The Spirit does not bring a "new" or separate gospel. He takes the wisdom, character and finished work of Christ and translates it directly to our hearts
6. **V.15 The Communicator** - Jesus connects the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Everything the Father has belongs to Jesus. The Holy Spirit takes what is received from Jesus and shares them directly with us. He communicates the very heart of Christ.

Section 2: Sorrow Will Turn Into Joy

John 16:16-24

Key verses: John 16:16,20-22

16 Jesus went on to say, "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**. (promise) **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.

What is happening:

- Jesus tells the disciples that:
- He will be gone for a little while.

Verse 16 "Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."

- Jesus says "In a little while you will see me no more"
 - This is referencing his Crucifixion which is shortly about to happen
- Then he says "and then after a little while you will see me"
 - This is referencing His appearance after His resurrection
- The disciples didn't understand that the arrest of Jesus was only an hour or two away, and then His crucifixion would follow. Yet because He must go to the Father, they would see Him again after He rose from the dead.

Grieving in the in-between

John 16:20 Very truly I tell you, you will **weep** and **mourn** while the world **rejoices**.
(promise) **You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.**

Jesus knew that during the interval between His death and resurrection the disciples will grieve and some will lose their faith.

- This goes back to Pastor Mitch's sermon a few Sunday's ago about the in-between season. The season between God's promise and the fulfillment of that promise.

The funny part is, the disciples only had to wait 3 days... but it must've felt like a lifetime

There's a few things that God does here and is telling us

- He acknowledges our pain during the season
- He knows that pain endures in the night
- He understands but He also provides a promise that "Joy will come in the morning.
- Whoever is grieving during this in-between, Know that God sees you, acknowledges you and promises that your grief will turn into joy
- **The Song Writer Says "You have turned my mourning into dancing"**
- Somebody say "My Joy will come in the morning"

John 16:23-24

23 On 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**.

Jesus begins by saying, "On that day you will no longer ask me anything"

- "That Day" is references to Christ's resurrection
- Meaning that Jesus' disciples can now communicate directly to the Father because of the completion that Christ will do on the cross.
- Jesus' sacrifice on the cross removes the barrier of sin that divided God and Man and now (WE) believers have direct access to God the Father.
- Jesus was also referencing the Holy Spirit. He will be the one to guide them into all truths and help them understand the work and ministry of God.

We see this confirmed in verse 24

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

- Because of Jesus' work on the earth, disciples had unlimited access to God through Him. The disciples had yet to really pray in the name of Jesus, but He would teach them.

Then Jesus ends it by saying: **Ask** and **you** will **receive**, and your joy will be **complete**.

- This reminds us in everything we do, we can ask our Father in heaven and if it's according to His will, we will receive it.
- That's the access we have PLUS the authority Christ gave us
- This also shows how close and personal God is with us

My favorite verse to lean on whenever I feel alone

- Jeremiah 29:12 "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you"
- This shows how close our Father is with Us
- He sits high yet he looks low
- He is closer than a brother and closer than a friend

Section 3: Faith Will Be Tested, But Christ Has Overcome the World

John 16:25-33

Key verses: John 16:28,33

28 **I came from the Father** and entered the world; now I am **leaving** the **world** and going **back** to the **Father**." 33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have **peace**. In this **world** you will have **trouble**. But take heart! **I have overcome the world**."

What is happening:

- Jesus is essentially bringing His final teaching to a close by assuring the disciples that, although He is leaving and they will experience trouble, they can trust the Father, pray in His name, and have peace because Jesus has overcome the world.

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

- In these two sentences we have a **declaration** of the **whole redemptive** progress of the **Son of God**. Jesus explains how He came from the Father into the world; and now from the world he goes back to the Father.
- This also communicates His deity as God and His humanity where he promises to return and dwell with all who love him.

- John begins his writing by explaining Jesus' pre-existence and incarnation since the very beginning.
- In the beginning, was JESUS, and JESUS was with God and JESUS was God
- John is reconfirming his beginning statements in this verse
- The disciples are now seeing that Jesus is more than just a **teacher** but a **God** that knows their **beginning** and **end**!

Church, our God knows our beginning and end.

He was there since we were born and John states in verse 27 that the Father himself loves you because we have loved Jesus.

- Not only do we have a loving God but one who is always in control regardless of what we face, think, believe or challenge in life.

V32 "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

- Jesus begins with "A time is coming..."
- This is the prediction of a coming hour at which the disciples will be scattered because of the crucifixion
- This was also stated in Zechariah 13:7: "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered."
- This shows that even in Christ's suffering, everything is happening according to God's divine plan.
- He's such a detail oriented God

But He finished this verse by saying "**You will leave me** all alone. **Yet I am not alone**, for my **Father** is with **me**."

Charles Spurgeon

"I remember that passage about Abraham going with Isaac to mount Moriah, where Isaac was to be offered up. It is written, 'So they went both of them together.' So did the Eternal Father and his Well- beloved Son when God was about to give up his own Son to death. **There was no divided purpose; they went both of them together.**"

- This is known as the oneness or union between **Christ** and **believers**, and Jesus models it directly after **His** own **relationship** with the **Father**

V33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have **peace**. In this **world** you will have **trouble**. But **take heart!** I have **overcome** the **world**.”

- ESV Commentary Said: The expression peace has a richer connotation than the english word does. It doesn't mean the absence of conflict and turmoil but the blessings you receive by being in good standing with God.
- In the midst of suffering that we have or go through, we can have that PEACE of God that surpasses all understanding because of our fellowship with God.
- At that very minute, Judas met with Jesus' enemies to plot His arrest. Jesus knew that He would be arrested, forsaken, rejected, mocked, humiliated, tortured and executed before the next day was over– yet Jesus had peace, and enough to give to others.
- But in order to obtain this peace you must be and remain in fellowship
- Just because you feel his peace one day, doesn't mean you stop fellowshiping
- The word says to pray without ceasing.
- You must be in continual prayer and fellowship with God everyone you go.

Lastly, Jesus ends the verse by saying: In this **world** you will have **trouble**. But **take heart!** I have **overcome** the **world**.”

- Jesus ends this chapter in Triumph
- Stating that he has already overcome the world
 - Mind you, this was before He dies on the cross
- He was such in tune with the Father that He knew that we will fulfill being on the cross and resurrecting on the third day
- In Greek theology, this is often viewed as a "prophetic certainty." His trust in the Father's plan was so strong that He viewed His future victory on the cross not as a **possibility**, but as a **finished reality**.
- When Jesus wanted to comfort and strengthen His disciples, He spoke of **His victory**, not their victory. This wasn't a motivating speech but Jesus knew that **His victory would be theirs**
- He overcame the world when nobody else had overcome it

We end with this thought

- Knowing that Jesus has overcome the world, it brings us good cheer. It is the foundation for our peace in Him.

- We see that Jesus is in control, we see that although He leaves He does not abandon, we see that He loves, and we see that the victory is His. We can be of good cheer indeed.

So church, don't lose hope, because Christ has Overcome the world. All of our worry, sorrow and grief will turn into joy in Jesus' name.

Questions

1. Am I truly depending on the Holy Spirit, or am I trying to navigate life on my own?
2. What am I waiting on God for, and am I trusting Him in the in-between?
3. Am I looking for peace in my circumstances, or am I finding peace in Christ?