

The Passion of Jesus [John 16:16-33]

John 16:16 "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'?" ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. 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. 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.

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."

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. ³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Theme: This passage is a lead up to Jesus' arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection, yet this passage brings to light a greater reality...

BI: This world is a Shadowland of the Age to Come.

- I. C.S. Lewis' "Shadowland" is based in Judeo-Christian _____:
- II. Jesus' metaphorical language makes it _____ (16:16-24).
- III. There will be a _____ when it is all made clear (16:25-33)
- IV. Becoming _____ brings with it a certain degree of _____.

Application Questions

- I. What was your reaction to the teachings of Christianity when you first heard about salvation in Christ alone? Intrigue? Offense? Confusion?
- II. The disciples were utterly confused about what was about to happen with Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion, burial, and resurrection – Jesus had been speaking metaphorically and they just didn't get it. But what did Jesus say would happen when they would see Him raised? (Read John 16:20-22)
- III. You have not seen the resurrected Christ, but if you have believed in Christ, what change did you notice that took place in your life concerning your understanding of Jesus and the Scriptures?
- IV. This Good Friday we will meet at Trinity WS at 7:00pm. This is a great opportunity to invite someone who is confused about life and needs Jesus. And Easter Sunday is a great follow-up. Let us pray, now, for who to invite and courageous.