

11.18.18 ~ John 16:25-33,
Jesus' Concluding Words to the Eleven about Love and Peace.

Read John 16:25-27... Notice the phrase "these things I have spoken to you," it seems Jesus was continually reiterating something He had already told these guys (cf **John 14:25, 28-29; 15:20; 16:1**).

But what is Jesus referring to here in **John 16:25a**? Jesus has been speaking to them about His leaving to go to the Father and how they would weep and grieve, but it would turn to joy when the Helper [Holy Spirit] comes to them, indwells them, and guides them into all truth.

Only after the Spirit's coming at Pentecost would they really be able to understand why Jesus had to die in order to save them, and that He was fully God, in the flesh of a man.

Part of the reason the disciples hadn't been able to clearly understand what Jesus was telling them is that Jesus spoke in figurative language, using parables, metaphors, and enigmatic language, that was full of hidden meaning, but it needed to be discerned and could, therefore, appear confusing.

As we have seen in the past, it didn't take much to confuse these guys; in fact, last week, we studied how Jesus said to them "A little while, and you will no longer see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me," and their response among themselves illustrates their confusion (cf **John 16:17-18**).

See Mark 9:9-10, 31-32...

Many times Jesus had to explain the meaning of what He has said to them or to the crowds; and there were some things they didn't understand at the time, but decades later, when writing their accounts that would become part of our Bible, they made reference to understanding things after Christ's death that they didn't understand before (see **John 2:19, 22**).

We studied last week about how the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost would change everything. Jesus reminds them here (**John 16:25b-27**) of what He told them in **John 16:23-24**, that they will be able to ask the Father anything in Jesus name, and the Father will grant their request; but now Jesus adds that the Father loves them as His own children, because they love His Son, Jesus Christ.

All God's children have the privilege of praying directly to the Father; in fact (cf **Hebrews 4:16; 10:19**) we can come to the throne of grace, where God is, to receive mercy and find help in our time of need, because of the sacrifice of Jesus.

On the cross, when Jesus cried out "it is finished," the curtain in front of the Holy of Holies at the temple was torn apart from top to bottom, allowing anyone to come into the presence of God through Jesus Christ (cf **John 14:6**).

Listen, as a believer and follower of Christ, you do not need to pray to Mary, Peter, James, John, or any other dead saint, nor do you need the Pope, or any priest, in order to have access to God. Jesus is the door to the Father.

Through Jesus Christ you can come directly into God's presence, because the Father loves [phileo] you with the deep affection, that a parent has for their own child. Christians can approach the Father without any fear, for instead we have full confidence of His unconditional love for us.

Read John 16:28-32... Jesus tells them again that He came from the Father and He is leaving to go back to the Father (see **John 1:1-3, 14**).

Jesus came to die for the sins of the world, and anyone (everyone) who repents of their sin and believes in Him will be saved (cf **John 1:29; 3:16; 6:38-39**).

Jesus came to show us the Father (cf **John 1:18; 14:7**).

Jesus came into the world to save sinners (**Mark 10:45; 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 John 4:9, 14**).

Notice (**John 16:29-30**), it seems that these guys are finally beginning to understand, for they say Jesus is speaking plainly to them and that they now know He understands all things and they believe that He has come from God.

Perhaps now they are finally beginning to understanding why Jesus came from the Father, and why He must go back. But notice, Jesus questions the depth of their "belief" (**verse 31**), "Do you now believe?" i.e., Do you really believe now?

Jesus challenges their belief (**verse 32**), telling them that in a very short time, they will run away, abandoning Him, when He is arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane (see **Matthew 26:30-35**).

But Jesus would not be alone, even though they all desert Him, for the Father will be with Him throughout the whole ordeal of suffering on the cross — except when sin's penalty is poured out upon Him and He serves as the once for all sacrifice for all sin; at the moment, Jesus is abandoned by the Father, because sin cannot exist in God's presence.

Matthew 27:46, "About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?'"
Habakkuk 1:13, "Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor."

2Corinthians 5:21, "He [the Father] made Him [the Son] who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Galatians 3:13, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree'"

1Peter 2:24, "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed."

1Peter 3:18, "Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."

Read John 16:33... Jesus, earlier that evening (cf **John 14:25-29**) told them He would give them His peace.

Colossians 3:15, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful."

Philippians 4:7, "the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Even though they will have tribulation in this world, Jesus tells them not to be afraid, not to be discouraged, for He has overcome the world [everything that displeases or dishonors God], Jesus defeated sin, death, and judgment.

In **John 16:27** Jesus tells His disciples they are dearly loved by God the Father because of their love for Him, God's Son. They have the love of the Father and the love of the Son; they will have the peace of God through the presence of God's Spirit, to rule in their hearts and to guard their minds, and they have, through Christ the Lord, overcome sin, death, judgment, and the world.

1John 4:4, "You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

1John 5:4-5, "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"

Pastor Mike

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