

(16) “A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me.” 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’?” 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’? 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. 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. In that day you will ask nothing of Me.

(23b) “Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in My Name, He will give it to you. 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. 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; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God. 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! 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? 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. 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.”

Think on these things:

- 1) Verses 16-20 address the confusing statement Jesus made that in a little while the disciples would not see Him, and then a little while later they would. Do you know what He is talking about? The disciples did not know at that moment --- but we know today --- that Jesus was just hours away from being arrested and crucified.

**Jesus knew He was about to be arrested, tried and crucified --- even though His disciples did not. ‘In a little while’ He would be arrested and separated from them. Then, ‘in a little while’ He would rise from the dead and come to them as their Risen Lord and Savior.**

- 2) The discussion of a woman giving birth to a baby is about how suffering through great pain can be quickly forgotten by experiencing tremendous joy afterward. Jesus acknowledges in v.22 that the disciples will go through sorrow and distress. What is the post distress event that will lead to great rejoicing and leave them speechless (v.22).

**The disciples had a foreboding that things would not go well in Jerusalem (John 11:16). They soon knew that He was crucified. But when He came to them in life, after death, their joy knew no bounds. Faith in Jesus as God’s Christ solidified. All disciples, except John, then died later as martyrs for proclaiming Jesus rose from the dead, refusing to deny Him.**

- 3) As Jews, the disciples were well-acquainted with approaching God (the Father) in prayer. Jesus says in v.24 that, “until now, you have asked nothing in My Name.” His next words are: “Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” (This statement is an example of Jesus’ declaration of being “divine,” of being one with the Father above.) As it pertains to joy, explain the truths from these passages: Nehemiah 8:10 (w/Ecclesiastes 5:18-20); Psalm 16:11; John 15:11; Romans 14:17; and 1 Peter 1:8-9.

Nehemiah & Ecclesiastes – **Nehemiah claimed, ‘the joy of the Lord is your strength.’ Solomon said in Ecclesiastes that God’s joy within man --- the gift of God --- allows him to live out this life’s toil with contentment, accepting his lot in life and finding enjoyment in food, work and fellowship.**

Psalms – **Being in the presence of God brings man fullness of joy.**

John – **Jesus spoke about abiding in Him so that His joy could be found in us.**

Romans – **God’s Kingdom is about righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (not just a matter of following life rules).**

1 Peter – **We ‘love’ Jesus though never physically meeting Him. Believing in Him despite this evidence, we experience inexpressible ‘joy.’ Through ‘faith’ we obtain this outcome: salvation!**

- 4) Jesus also gives further teaching about praying to God the Father in Jesus’ Name. He seems to ‘contradict’ Himself by saying He won’t intervene with the Father for prayers made in His Name. Why not (vs.26-27)? How does the Father know we love Jesus?

Why not? **Jesus doesn’t need to intercede. God the Father already loves us Himself!**

How? **The Father knows: 1) that we love Jesus; and 2) believe He came from the Father.**

- 5) Do you remember why Jesus always taught people in parables? Read Matthew 13:3, 10, 13-15, and Luke 8:9-10. The disciples struggled with His parables, too. Clearly, they were happy that Jesus was speaking plainly now. How do we move from NOT understanding God’s Word to understanding it (1 Corinthians 2:10-13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, and Hebrews 5:11-6:3)?

Why parables? **Quoting Isaiah’s prophecy, Jesus considered the religious people in Israel as ‘dull’, not truly wanting to hear or to perceive God’s message for them. Thus, He shrouded His messages and mysteries in parable stories to keep the Kingdom’s secrets from them**

How to understand God’s Word? **(Cor) Spiritual teachings cannot be grasped apart from the revelation by the Holy Spirit. (Tim) God’s Word should be studied carefully and practiced to lift people into maturity. We need to move from baby (basic) topics to the hard topics (Heb).**

- 6) This chapter ends with a promise. See also John 14:27. Jesus tells His disciples to “take heart” even in times of their pending problems and trials. How were they supposed to do this (v.33)?

**In our world, believers will have tribulation trying to live as Christians. But don’t be dismayed; Jesus has overcome the world! His triumph will both lead and inspire us.**

People and situations I want to pray for this week: