

John Chapter 16

In the previous passage Jesus had been speaking of His departure, and the persecution the disciples will face from the world as His ambassadors. Soon however they would be sent a Counselor from the Father to comfort and strengthen them. These topics were not part of his teaching from the beginning because he was still with them (16: 4). Now Jesus is preparing the disciples for dealing with the world when He is rejoined with His Father and present at God's side.

Read John 16:5-15

“Jesus Teaches about the Holy Spirit”

v. 5-6 - Peter had already asked this question (13:36) and Thomas also wondered where Jesus was going (14:5). They had asked earlier, but now they are grieving instead of asking. Perhaps Jesus is saying that they lack trust, that they are grieving when they should be considering where Jesus is going.

v. 7-11 - The Spirit was already present (1:32), but if Jesus did not return to the Father the Spirit could not accomplish its work. Jesus, who *“humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross”* (Philippians 2:8) was limited to one place at a time. His leaving meant He could be present to the whole world through the Holy Spirit.

The role of the Spirit is to bear witness to Jesus and the work of the Father (John 3:16). So until Jesus has completed His work, the Spirit cannot to do His job because the first part has not been accomplished at Calvary.

v.9 - The world is in sin because it does not believe in Jesus. The Jews had condemned Jesus as a sinner, (9:16, 24). But they were the ones guilty before God, because they would not believe in the one God sent (6:29). Look up John 3:18

v.13-15 - Although the Spirit guides, it is Jesus who is *“the way”* & *“the truth”* (14:6). So the Spirit will focus on the Son. The Son has done exactly the same with respect to the Father (15:15). The Son has revealed the Father, and now the Spirit will reveal the Father by revealing the Son. Look up: 1 John 4:2

But the disciples cannot understand much of this at this point because the ultimate revelation has not yet occurred: the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension; and also because they have not yet experienced the new birth by the Spirit. But when all this is completed, the Spirit will guide them into all the truth that is in Jesus. The Spirit will focus on the Son, who is focusing on the Father.

Read John 16:16-33

“Jesus Teaches about Using His Name in Prayer”

v.20-22 - Jesus is referring to the grief they will suffer at His death. The pain a woman experiences at childbirth follows an established order. Jesus refers to the time of birth and its pains as her "time" coming upon her. Jesus has spoken throughout this Gospel of His own hour, meaning His death and the resurrection and new life that follows (12:23).

v.23-26 – What is the new revelation concerning prayer?

The disciples have been asking Jesus a lot of questions in this farewell discussion. What the disciples have been asking about will become clear once they see the Lord's death and resurrection and receive the help of the Holy Spirit to sort it all out (1 John 2:20).

The second change in this relationship will be their sharing in Jesus' work as his friends. They have not asked in His name up to this point because He has not dwelt *in* them. This will soon change, and then they will share in the eternal life that Jesus has with the Father, which includes the work of God in the world. Such prayer is based on the love that is active through obedience (15:7-17; 1 Jn 3:22) and therefore is directed toward God's will being done and not toward one's own will apart from God (1 Jn 5:14-15). This revelation ought to take place in each believer's life and the community as a whole. John later promoted such a life in the community through sharing in what has been revealed, which brings fullness of joy. Look up: 1 John 1:1-4

v. 32 – Who alone would be loyal to Jesus in those coming dark hours? Look up: Mark 14:50

When Jesus *took our sin upon himself* on the cross, He who had always known complete intimacy with the Father experienced, for the first time, the gulf that separates God from sin. This experience does not mean Jesus lacked faith in God. In fact, the cry of abandonment is a quote from the beginning of Psalm 22, and the whole meaning of the Psalm is that God does not desert His suffering servants. His cry expresses both the reality of what He was undergoing and His faith in its outcome. If Abraham could offer up Isaac in the hope of resurrection (Gen 22; Heb 11:17-19), how much more could Jesus have confidence in God, whom he knew far better than Abraham?

v.33 -This peace is found in Christ, not in the world. The peace spoken of is possible because the peace grantor will soon conquer death itself. Look up: Philippians 4:7