



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: LESSON 17 "COME AND SEE"

Jesus and His disciples are moving slowly towards Gethsemane. Jesus is spending His last moments with His friends by sharing some very important truths. He told them in chapter 15 that the world would hate them, and now in chapter 16, Jesus continues to warn them about the coming persecution. He doesn't want them to be shaken or feel abandoned. He takes this time to explain when, where, and why He's leaving, but comforts them by explaining the purpose and function of the Holy Spirit, who would soon be coming. (Pentecost is approximately 40 days away.) They would not be left alone.

At this point, we are only a few hours away from the crucifixion of Christ. I pray that we will "listen up" as the Spirit speaks to our hearts. These were important words then; they are important words now, as well. May you be comforted by the fact that you are not alone, even in the middle of the darkest night.

First Day

1. Read John 16:1-33. **Observe** and **list** the facts in each section. **Title** each section with some phrase that will help you remember what it's about. List the **key words** or **phrases** in each section.

Section 1: Verses 1-15

That's it for now. I pray that your "joy may be full" as you learn to depend on Jesus for everything. You, my friend, are not alone. Jesus is always with you, and He has overcome the world!!!!

Memory Verse of the Week: "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Second Day

Work on your memory verse. Are you finding your peace in Him?

1. Read John 16:1-15 again. Note the word "stumble" can be translated "offend." It also carries the meaning of "setting a trap." The world often tries to trap and destroy us. We must always be careful, and be aware!

In verse 2, Jesus tells the disciples that soon those who are "religious" will be persecuting them, thinking that they are serving God by destroying the church. After all, wasn't this what was happening to Jesus?

2. Who is an example of what Jesus was saying in verse 2? Read Acts 8:1-4, 9:1-2, and Philippians 3:6.
3. According to Jesus, why are they doing this? (vs.3)
4. Does this same thing still happen today? Do "religious" people still persecute Christians, thinking they are doing it for the Lord? Give examples.

In verse 5, Jesus mentions that no one had asked Him where He was going. Although they actually asked about His death (13:36, 14:5), they had never wondered about its meaning. They were concerned about themselves and what His death would do to them, being very self-absorbed. It never seemed to occur to them to ask Him what it meant for Him, and why it was necessary. Sorrow filled their heart (vs. 6) as they thought about His departure, instead of the glory of where He was going. John Phillips said, "They were filled with natural but unspiritual sorrow. How tender this great Shepherd of the sheep was. He submerged His own feelings in order to deal with theirs, even as every step brought Him closer to Gethsemane."

5. Why was it to their advantage for Jesus to go away, according to verse 7?

The "Helper" or the "Comforter" is the Holy Spirit, as we've discussed in our earlier lessons. "Parakletos," the Greek word translated "comforter" is composed of two parts. "Para," meaning "beside," and "kaleo," meaning "to be called." The "parakletos" is the One who is called alongside to give comfort. It is variously translated as comfort, encouragement, and exhortation. This word is used five times in the Greek New Testament, four times in the Upper Room Discourse (John 13-17), and once in 1 John. The New Open Bible Study Edition says this: "Many Christians know that the Holy Spirit is called the 'Paraclete.' What perhaps is less known is that Jesus Himself is called a Paraclete and that the Holy Spirit is 'another Paraclete' (John 14:16,17). In 1 John 2:1, Jesus is called our 'Advocate,' which, in the Latin, has a very similar meaning. An Advocate is someone who takes up your cause."

"Because Jesus could not be with them forever physically, He was going to leave someone else on earth for them (and us) to turn to. This is His 'Vicar,' or Personal Representative on earth, the Holy Spirit. He is like Jesus."

6. What will the Holy Spirit do when He comes (at Pentecost), according to verses 8-11? How would you explain this, in your own words?

The word "convict" in verse 8 can have a judicial meaning in the sense of sentencing or convincing of one's true guilty state. It can also be translated as "reprove."

7. How does Jesus define sin in verse 9?

Michael Card, in his book The Parable of Joy, lists 3 things that the Holy Spirit will prove the world wrong about when He comes:

1. **Sin** - the world says it is an offense against the status quo. The Spirit defines it as not believing on Jesus.
2. **Righteousness** - Jesus' return to the Father will be the final demonstration that He was truly righteous.
3. **Judgment** - Jesus will define judgment on the cross. That is where the judgment of the world takes place and satan's end is proclaimed.

John MacArthur said, "The Spirit shatters the pretensions of self-righteousness and exposes the dark recesses of the heart. Since the world is under satan's delusion, its judgments are faulty and evil. So the Spirit convinces men that their assessments of Christ and satan are erroneous." We know that Jesus judged satan by His death on the cross (John 12:31), and although satan is the prince of this world, he is a defeated prince. His judgment has been announced and the sentence will be executed when Jesus returns. John Phillips said, "The Holy Spirit's reproofing ministry is revealed in verse 8. This important work tells us of another ministry of the Holy Spirit in the world. In John 3 we learn of His regenerating ministry, in Thessalonians 2 we learn of His restraining ministry, and here we learn more about His reproofing ministry. The first work of the Holy Spirit in an individual soul is that of conviction. A person has to see himself as God sees him, become alive to his own lostness and desperate need. After the conviction that he is lost, then the Holy Spirit convicts them of their need for righteousness, or the need to be made right with God. A way has to be found to clothe the sinner in the righteousness of Christ. The Holy Spirit then warns of the nearness of judgment (Romans 1:18)."

8. What else will the Holy Spirit do, according to verses 13-15?

9. Read what Jesus told His disciples in John 8:26. According to these verses, how does the Holy Spirit follow the same principle?

When the Holy Spirit came, a change of dispensation was ushered in. He would do something never done before in all His dealings with mankind. He would baptize people into the church (Acts 1:5, 1 Corinthians 12:13), indwelling them, enabling them to grasp divine truths that were only slightly comprehended before. The teachings of the Spirit and the Son come from the same infallible source of truth. The word "guide" in verse 13 means "to lead the way." This suggests a moving forward, or a process. The Holy Spirit also reveals eschatological truths, as in the prophecies.

10. It has been said that the Holy Spirit's major work is to exalt the person of Christ (14a). How did, or does, He do that?
11. I know there has been a lot of explanation in the lesson today, but it is very important. Let me ask you this ... What does this all mean for you, and to you?

See you tomorrow, ladies. I pray that you understand the function and role of the Holy Spirit. He is a person, like God the Father, and God the Son. He loves you.

Third Day

Work on your verse. Are you of good cheer?

Today we will continue walking with Jesus and His disciples towards Gethsemane. Listen closely ...

1. Read John 16:16-33. What do you think Jesus is saying in verse 16?
2. Did the disciples understand?
3. In verse 20, Jesus is talking about His death and the three days following. Contrast the world's reaction with the disciples'. How will their sorrow be turned to joy?
4. The world's reaction to things is usually quite contrary to the believer's. Can you think of any examples where this is true?
5. Explain the analogy Jesus uses in verses 21-22.
6. What kinds of things happen in our lives that bring us sorrow, or make us feel like we are in anguish? How can the resurrection bring us hope, turning our sorrow into joy?
7. When we see Jesus face to face, we will have complete joy. Meditate on Heaven for a few minutes. How does the hope of Heaven encourage you today?

8. Has someone, or something, been stealing your joy? How can you get it back?

Tomorrow we'll look at prayer and how it enables us to get to know the Father better (16:25), which should be the desire of each one of us. Spend some time reflecting on the character and attributes of God.

Fourth Day

What's your memory verse?

1. Let's read John 16:16-33 again. What's the main point in this section?

Jesus is telling His disciples about a new relationship that they can have with the Father. Before the resurrection, people had to approach God through priests. While Jesus was on earth, the disciples turned to Jesus to meet their needs, both physical and spiritual. Now, a believer can approach God directly. Jesus is our High Priest and sits at the right hand of God, making intercession for us (Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25, 10:19-23), as well as being our Advocate (1 John 2:1). Jesus prayed to the Father for us; now we can approach the Father ourselves, through the Son. Now we would be able to go directly to the Father who loves us. We approach God, not because of our own merit, but because Jesus, our great High Priest, has made us acceptable to God. The Father loves us as much as the Son does, and now we are called to go straight to the Father, through the name of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

2. How do you get your "joy full"? (vs. 24)

Jesus was speaking figuratively, or "veiled." What was difficult for the disciples to understand during the life of Jesus would become clear following His resurrection and the coming of the Spirit.

3. Jesus links "joy" with "answered prayer." How does that work? (Does that include prayer requests that are inconsistent with the character of Christ?)

4. Is joy lacking in your life because you aren't praying in His name, according to His will? Perhaps you've been asking amiss, or selfishly, and God isn't answering as you've hoped. What do you think?

John Phillips says that "Jesus sums up His life on earth in four majestic statements: 'I come forth from the Father.' (His incarnation) 'I have come into this world.' (His mission). 'I leave this world.' (His passion) 'I go to the Father.'" (His ascension)

5. Can you relate the above quote with John 3:16? What is the one word in this verse that answers the question ... why?

6. How did the disciples respond, in verses 29-30? What did they say about His words? About His person?

I read something interesting about the disciple's reaction. Christ had answered their unspoken questions. This was proof of His omniscience to them. They were convinced! They definitely affirmed their faith. But they were still misinterpreting His words. Jesus was telling them that they wouldn't need to ask Him anything because they would have the Holy Spirit to lead them and illuminate them. It is possible to understand His words and have faith, yet still fail the Lord.

7. How did Jesus answer them?

8. Their faith was soon to be tested. What was He talking about? How did their faith hold up? (Mark 14:50)

Jesus was soon to be abandoned. Loneliness must have been part of His anguish. When Jesus and His disciples arrived at Gethsemane, they fell asleep while Jesus went off to pray. Not once, but twice (Matthew 26:36-46)! These disciples who pledged their love to Him would also run off when the chips were down, leaving Him alone (Matthew 26:56). Yet, He was not alone. God the Father was with Him. That was His sole comfort.

9. Our faith often falters when put to the test. How does this section encourage you?

10. According to verse 33, why does Jesus speak these things to them? Why would these words bring the disciples peace and hope?

Some translations substitute the word "conquer" for "overcome" in verse 33. These were perhaps the greatest words of comfort Jesus ever spoke. I wonder if they seemed strange to the disciples, seeing that Jesus was a hunted man. How could He claim to have conquered the world while He was staying away from those in power? It looked more like the world was about to conquer Him. Jesus wanted His disciples to know the truth -- He was the victor!

Fifth Day

Write out your verse from memory.

1. Read John 16:31-33 again. Verse 33 has been called the climax of the Upper Room message. Where do we need to be to obtain this peace?
2. Revelation 21:7 says, "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son." How can we "overcome the world"? Read 1 John 5:4-5.
3. Jesus said to "cheer up" in verse 33. We can find victory in Jesus. Warren Wiersbe said that we are either "overcome" or "overcomers." Are you "overcome" by something in your life? What is it? How can you overcome it?
4. Can Jesus break the chains of any addictive behavior? (John 8:36) Is there any sin in our life that He won't give us strength to overcome? If you are struggling to overcome some bondage, ask a sister in Christ to pray with you and for you. Jesus wants to set you free forever!

We end our chapter with Jesus admonishing them to abide in Him; and during the coming persecution, they would find peace. **His peace.** "Cheer up," He said. "Don't let this world scare you ... I have conquered it!"

In verse 25, Jesus says that He will "tell them plainly" about the Father. We have to know God, not just know about God. We won't be able to find our peace in Him, if we are not "in Him." I recently was reading a book called You are a God Chaser if ... by Tommy Tenney. He reminds his readers that we are to "seek intimacy with God rather than flirt with God." God Chasers are people who are hungry for more of Him, and aren't content with just knowing "about" Him anymore. Tenney makes the claim that many in the church aren't seeking real intimacy with God. He said, "There is something in us that makes us afraid of the commitment that comes with real intimacy with God. For one thing, intimacy with God requires purity. The days of fun and games in the church are over. In other words, if your concept of 'church' means low commitment, high anointing, the feeling of being blessed, and receiving the 'spiritual gifts' like a religious gold-digger, then all you've ever wanted to do is 'date' God. However, the last time I checked, God was still looking for a bride, not a girlfriend; one who is willing to put on the ring of commitment. God is saying to the church today, 'If you want to marry Me, let's do this right. Let's pledge ourselves to each other.' We've chased the cheap thrills without the commitment, but God is saying 'Intimacy.'"

Tenney gives 9 ways to know if you are a "God Chaser." Read each one and ask the Lord to search your heart to see where you're at.

"You are a God Chaser if ..."

1. All you want is to know Him.
2. You don't care about being "religiously correct."
3. You hunger for the bread of His presence.
4. You desire habitation, not visitation.
5. You choose intimate relationship over distant respect.
6. You desire His presence at all costs.
7. All you want to do is worship Him.
8. You will be broken to receive a breakthrough.
9. You press in and let God break out!

Well ... are you a God Chaser?

