

**The Gospel of John**  
**Week Twenty-Four**  
**John 16:1-33**

**Day One**

<sup>1</sup> "All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. <sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. <sup>3</sup> They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. <sup>4</sup> I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you.

v. 1 – Jesus wanted to preserve and protect His disciples since He was the good shepherd and had promised that none of His would be lost. As a good leader, He prepared those who followed Him as best He could for what was ahead. **If you are leading, how well are you preparing those who follow you for what is to come? Do you have a sense of what is to come?** Part of leadership is anticipating what is ahead and preparing for it. For Christians, that should be easier than for others since we have the Holy Spirit to lead and guide.

v. 2 – Jesus was warning these Jewish men that they would be evicted from their beloved synagogues and from their Jewish culture. That must have taken their breath away to hear that, but Jesus was telling the truth. Their stand for Him would cost them dearly and at the same time would cost them nothing, as Paul wrote:

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:7-11).

**What price are you willing to pay to identify with Jesus?** Notice that those who would put the disciples to death would actually think they were worshipping God through murderous acts. That is truly wicked, and God would use the disciples to reveal the true condition of men's hearts.

v. 3 – **Why would anyone kill and think they are doing God a favor?** Obviously it is because they don't know God! If they did, they could never carry out such evil deeds. But they don't know Him, and when a man doesn't know or serve God, he is capable of anything! **Have you ever done something you thought you were not capable of doing – something wrong that is?** Then you know to what I am referring.

v. 4 – Jesus revealed why He was telling the disciples all this: Because when He was with them, they did not need to know. Yet He was getting ready to depart and now they needed to know to prepare for the future. Jesus was and is a good Shepherd. He protects, informs and trains as the sheep require. I want to be good shepherd like Jesus for those who are part of the flock He assigned to me. Jesus was always teaching and imparting some truth. **What do you hear your Shepherd saying to you today?** You may not understand it all today, but in time it will make sense.

## Day Two

<sup>5</sup> "Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'" <sup>6</sup> Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. <sup>7</sup> But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

vs. 5&6 – Jesus told the men that he was departing, but none of them asked, “Where?” **Why is that?** It was probably because they were grief stricken and scared. They did not question Jesus out of fear. There are probably things you won’t ask God either because you are afraid of the answers. **Is that true?** The disciples loved Jesus and had been with Him for more than three years. The thought of Him departing made them sad; that is understandable. They were simply being honest with their feelings. **Can you be honest with yours?**

v. 7 – Jesus consoled them with the truth that it was a good thing He was going away. He would send the Holy Spirit, the Counselor as He referred to Him, who was to play a critical role in their development and ministry. Since this Spirit was one with Jesus and the Father, they were not losing anything. It would be a difference presence yet the same presence. **Does that make sense?**

This aspect of the new covenant made it new – the Spirit’s presence. God would enable His people to live by the terms of His covenant when they put their faith in Christ and receive the help of the Spirit. All that was and is required is obedience and faith. God does the rest. That is a great deal!

vs. 8&9 – While I can preach repentance, only the Spirit can convict anyone of the need to repent. The Spirit works conviction in a woman’s heart and she in turn will come to God and ask forgiveness. Repentance is a gift but it must be accepted as such. The first thing the Spirit will convict of is sin and the sin in this case is unbelief in the Son of God. That is truly missing the mark where God is concerned. The Spirit is wooing and drawing people to Jesus; some accept and some do not. ]

v. 10 – The Spirit also convicts and convinces the world of the fact that Jesus has fulfilled His mission and is seated at the right hand of the Father. If Jesus is there, then Jesus has told the truth and He is the only way to the Father. The Spirit's role is to convict people of their attempts to find a way to God other than the one and only provided by Jesus. When Jesus went to the Father, no one could see Him, yet the Spirit could convince and convict people that He (Jesus) was indeed where He said He was going.

We cannot underestimate the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. He is so important that Jesus said it was good He (Jesus) departed so that He (Holy Spirit) could come.

v. 11 – The Holy Spirit will convict the world of the fact that the prince of this world, Satan, is judged and defeated! This truth is easily explained in one of John's later letters:

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world (1 John 4:4).

### Day Three

<sup>13</sup> "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup> He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. <sup>16</sup> "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."

v. 12 – Jesus was full of things He wanted to say as He prepared to depart. Yet He knew that the men were not ready to receive it all. Jesus knew the hearts and condition of those who followed Him. I want the same kind of sensitivity. I know I have shared too much with some who were not ready to hear what I had to say. I was not sensitive to their situation or their ability to accept and comprehend the truth, or at least the truth as I saw it. Help me, Lord, to be a good shepherd like Jesus was and is.

v. 13 – Jesus did not have to share it all, for the Spirit was coming who lead and guide them into all truth. We see the Spirit working and moving in the book of Acts, as these same men came to realize more fully their purpose and the work God had called them to do. What's more, the Spirit gave them the power to do it all.

Jesus promised that the Spirit was not coming to do anything but continue the work and teaching that He had introduced. This Spirit was coming from God and was God, or else He could not have done what Jesus promised He would do. The Spirit would not speak on His own initiative, but would share what Jesus said according to the Father's purpose.

v. 14 – Jesus came to glorify the Father, the Spirit would glorify Jesus the Son. And the Father would glorify them both. The Spirit is a teaching Spirit, for He takes what belongs

to Jesus and shares it with Jesus' followers. Therefore the Spirit must know who those followers are, another indication that He is the Lord God Himself. He knows all things and teaches all things. I know I have never seen such biblical evidence for the reality of the unity in the Godhead as I have in this study of John. **Can you see it too?**

v. 15 – So the Spirit will take what belongs to Jesus and share it with the disciples, but all that Jesus has come from the Father. **Do you see how interconnected they are? How they take from one another, glorify one another and are unified in their work and purpose, even though their roles vary?** I have seen more on this subject than I ever have and I am grateful for what God is showing me. These studies over the last eight years have changed my life. I know they have changed others as well, for they have told me so.

v. 16 – Jesus told them a bit of a riddle, that they would not see him and then see Him again. We look back and know that Jesus was referring to His death and subsequent resurrection. The disciples did not understand and could not even comprehend it fully when He did come back to life. That is what Holy Spirit came to do: Provide the witness and conviction that Jesus was and is alive.

#### Day Four

<sup>17</sup> Some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" <sup>18</sup> They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'?" We don't understand what he is saying." <sup>19</sup> Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'?" <sup>20</sup> I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.

vs. 17&18 – The disciples were accustomed to asking questions, because they did not always understand what Jesus said. Someone once said quality questions lead to a quality life. I agree with that. **What questions are you asking God to provide the answers? What are you seeking the Lord to understand and/or do?** The disciples discussed it among themselves and that is also a good way to learn and grow. Yet God is always the best source of insight and knowledge, so don't ever hesitate to ask Him for insight and then trust that you will receive it.

I would expect that God would say and do things that we cannot understand. That should not perplex us or cause us to dismay. We should walk in what we know and seek Him for what we don't, trusting Him fully if we don't get all the answers we seek. Yet we should keep on seeking.

v. 19 – Jesus was always observant of things around Him and He saw in this instance that the disciples wanted to ask Him about what He had said. **How observant are you of those who are around you? Can you read what people are thinking and really**

**saying?** It isn't that hard to do, but you must pay attention and act on what you see. If you are going to "read" others, it means that you have to be less self-conscious and more others-conscious. Plus, you must want to read others if you are going to do it. **Do you want to be able to do this?**

v. 20 – Jesus threw in another "I tell you the truth" on top of the many He had already spoken. Once again what followed seemed like something that did not make sense. They would grieve, the world would rejoice, but then the disciples would rejoice again. We know that this is just what happened when Jesus died and rose to life. Jesus gave the men as much as He felt they would need for what was about to happen. In the same way, you have the information you need to do what God wants you to do today. You may need more information tomorrow, but you have enough today. So go do what it is that God wants you to do with confidence.

For the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared (Proverbs 3:26).

### Day Five

<sup>21</sup> A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. <sup>22</sup> So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. <sup>23</sup> In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

vs. 21&22 – Jesus gave the men a practical example of what they would soon encounter. It was similar to a woman in travail about to give birth. It is painful, but once the baby is born, the woman tends to forget the pain for the joy of having brought a child into the world. So it would be with the disciples and the events of the coming days. They would go through tremendous upheaval, but in the end, it would all be for their joy.

As I read this account of Jesus' time with these men, I realize that I have underestimated the emotional turmoil and anguish these men were about to go through because of Jesus' departure. They experienced disillusionment, grief, mourning, sadness at the loss of their friend and mentor, confusion, guilt, and anger, all in a matter of a few days. Jesus was painstakingly preparing them for what was to come, because what was to come would be tough to handle.

I have not always been aware of or sensitive to what others go through emotionally. Too often I have simply expected people to suck it up and keep a stiff upper lip. What's more, I have been too hard on myself as well. Jesus was being very supportive of the men, giving them as much notice and warning as possible about what was to come. I need to model myself after the Lord and do the same. Help me, Lord. I know that isn't natural for me to do.

v. 23 – A day was coming when the disciples would not be able to ask Jesus anything, yet a day was also coming when they would ask the Father and He would give them whatever they asked in Jesus' name. So their relationship would continue between Jesus and the men, but it would be a different kind of relationship. In this context, Jesus' promise seems to indicate that their prayers would be answered not when they ask just anything, but questions that related to God's will for their lives and their relationship with Jesus.

In this context, it seems that Jesus was telling them to ask what they needed to know and the Father would make it known to them through the Spirit. **Do you see that in this context or am I off here?** So I ask again: **What are you seeking the Lord to know at this point in your walk with Him?** I am asking for more insight into the purpose message that I have preached for 20 years. I want to know how to be more effective in what God has called me to do. **What are you seeking from Him?** Notice that I am not seeking things from Him, but information, wisdom and insight. That is the context of what Jesus said in this verse, but I could be wrong.

v. 24 – It is true that the men had not prayed or asked for anything up to this point in Jesus' name. From this point on, they would come to the Father because of Jesus and in His name and the Lord would grant them what they asked. When this would happen, their joy would be full and complete. They would mourn, then rejoice when Jesus came back and then have full joy when He left again and they were able to ask the Father in His name and receive their request.

### Day Six

<sup>25</sup> "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. <sup>26</sup> In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. <sup>27</sup> No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. <sup>28</sup> I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

v. 25 – Jesus admitted that He had been speaking figuratively about the Father, since these Jewish men were struggling to get their minds around the concepts that Jesus had shared. Plus, the Spirit had not yet been released to teach and guide, so there would come a new spiritual dynamic soon that would help the men understand and grasp the concepts Jesus was sharing.

**Are you growing in your ability to grasp spiritual concepts?** The writer of Hebrews wrote about this when he said:

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone

who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil (Hebrews 5:11-14).

I have always prayed and desired that God would enable me to handle meat and not milk. **Why don't you pray the same?**

v. 26 – When that new day comes (and it is now here), Jesus told the men that they would go directly to the Father in His name. He would not carry their prayers to the Father, but rather they would go to the Father themselves. That is how we pray today. We go to the Father in Jesus' name and God answers our prayers! So one of the telltale signs of a believer is that he or she has prayers answered in Jesus' name. **What are you praying for at this point in your life? What prayers are being answered for you?** Examine your prayer life to see how effective it is and how it can be improved.

v. 27 – The Father loves those who believe He sent the Son. He loves those who love Jesus. This has implications for anyone who does not love Jesus. You cannot say you love God and not love and put faith in the One He sent. So we see here that Jesus is saying that He is the only way to the Father. And the Father has established that the only way to Him is through the Son. Sinful man does not like to have his options limited in only one way and the enemy does just as he did in the Garden with Adam and Eve: He challenges whether or not this is really what God said or meant. He would ask man today: **“Aren't there many ways to God? If a man is sincere, doesn't that count for something, even if his sincerity leads him to another path to God other than Jesus?”**

Those questions sound intriguing, but they are deceiving traps! There is no other way to God and Jesus plainly stated that fact over and over again. What's more, Jesus proved that He was from the Father through the miracles He performed. So God has spoken and endorsed His position. Man has the choice to either accept what God said or reject it, but He cannot change it.

v. 28 – Jesus had come from the Father and was returning to the Father. Jesus had completed His mission, or at least was on the verge of doing so. Notice how clear Jesus was as to where He was and what He was doing. He operated from such certainty, and was never at a loss for the time and season in His life. You and I can have that same kind of clarity, for God wants us to know what season it is. **What time is it in your life?**

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance (Ecclesiastes 3:1-4).

### Day Seven

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. <sup>30</sup> Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have

anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God." <sup>31</sup> "You believe at last!" Jesus answered. <sup>32</sup> "But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. <sup>33</sup> "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

v. 29 – **Suddenly the lights went on and the disciples understood, or did they? I have to take them at their word, but their actions over the next few days indicate that they did not really understand, and how could they?** Jesus was talking about things yet to come, but it does seem like what He said did make an impact. Don't ever be discouraged that you don't grasp something from God right away. Just keep seeking, asking and learning and you will be fine, just like the disciples who walked with Jesus.

v. 30 – Oh, I see. Jesus anticipated what they were going to ask and that gave the disciples confidence. Yet Jesus had done that very thing before in their walk with Him, so I am not sure why this time was anything different. Yet that is how it is with understanding and teaching. The teacher is never sure when it will finally click for the student and they will comprehend. This is why Jesus never passed up a chance to teach, looking for that "teachable moment" that was really a "student moment" when they were open to receive. **Do you recognize those teachable moments? What's more, are you working at being able to "read" people so that you can anticipate their questions to enhance their receptivity to what you have to say?**

v. 31 – Jesus seemed happy and relieved that they understood! That is what a teacher lives for – to have the students grasp the meaning of what is being taught. So Jesus had been teaching them for more than three years and it finally got through. This was just in time, for Jesus was about to leave and do it in a way that they men never imagined possible. Jesus had to trust the Father for the breakthrough in understanding and God is involved when the student learns, as we read in Acts:

One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. (Acts 16:14).

**Are you frustrated that what you are teaching isn't getting through to the students?** Then keep on teaching and trust God, asking your for new ways to say old things.

v. 32 – Jesus predicted what would happen in a few hours. He was prepared for what was about to happen and the disciples were not, nor could they have been ready. They were about to be driven from Jesus due to events and fear and they would each go back home, wondering what had happened and what to do next. They would leave Jesus alone, but He knew that He was not really alone, no matter what He was going through. God was with Him and He would go through His agony and death with the Father's support.

v. 33 – Jesus warned the disciples so they would have peace, but somehow I don't think they had much peace over the next week or so. This was a sign of things to come, for

they would encounter much trouble in serving the Lord for the rest of their lives, and they were to take the lessons to come and apply them to life in general. They could have peace because God was and is in control and they would overcome the world because He had overcome the world.

**Have you ever given thought to how much of life you spend in anxiety and stress over matters beyond your control?** I have spent most of my adult life uptight and worried. I have yet to learn the lessons from this verse – that I can have peace because Jesus overcame the pain and suffering this world had to offer, including death. Jesus proved Himself faithful as He trusted the Father and the Father did not abandon Him. Yet I have been worried about so many things. *Forgive me, Lord. What's more, help me to live in a manner that is pleasing to you.*

**As you look back on your life, what can you learn from how God has led you that will enable you to have peace today? Where have you lived in fear and anxiety? What do you worry about over which, if truth be told, you have absolutely no control?** Perhaps it is time to re-read Paul's instructions to the Philippians, and be diligent to apply what he (and Jesus) said to your own life:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:4-7).