

Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of February 27, 2022

John 16:16-33

Sermon Series: *This is Love*

DO YOU REMEMBER A TIME ...?

Can you recall a time when you were separating from loved ones? (e.g. Going away to school, moving to a distant location) What was it like?

LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE

Read through the final portion of Jesus' words in the final hours before the cross: John 16:16-33

Jesus repeats that something big is happening soon. (See 13:1). Read through the "you" statements in verses 16-22. What does Jesus say will happen to them? (16)

This part of Jesus' instruction was aimed at helping them be prepared for the soon coming days.

Note three things that He addresses:

- He thoroughly explains what they are going to feel as He is crucified and later raised.
- He explains again the handoff to the Father and the Holy Spirit's work in them
- He explains that He knows that they are going to abandon Him. This would pave the way for them to reconnect later.

What is their response to Jesus words? (17-18)

Confusion and angst. Very understandable.

What did Jesus predict that they would soon experience? (19-22)

Deep grief and fear followed by elation and joy.

Jesus returns to a topic that He has addressed multiple times in this evening's conversation: prayer. Why do you think He finished the evening by addressing prayer? (23-28)

This was now how they were going to 'see' Jesus. They could ask questions of the Father; they could ask the Father to work and fulfill their requests.

What do we learn about prayer (which includes "asking about something" and "asking for something")? (23-28) Be specific. Include what we learn about God, Jesus' mission, the results of prayer, etc.

It is difficult for us to stay in the mode of trust in God to do the work of mission (making disciples). It is also difficult for us to get answers to life's questions, where to share our feelings, how experience God's presence. PRAYER is what Jesus indicated was the answer to all of these. We ask God's questions and look for His wisdom through prayer; we ask God for provision, for help, for supernatural works through prayer; we turn to God in prayer to grow deeper in our relationship and to know that He walks with us through prayer.

In the final paragraph, the disciples came to conclusion about Jesus (30). How is this a summary of what we have seen in this whole gospel?

Throughout Jesus' ministry, He has told them that He came from the Father, that He was sent to reveal the Father, that He speaks the words and does the works of the Father. Now they finally understand this.

What is Jesus' response to their statement? How did this prediction come to pass? What would He tell them would happen?

He made the 'at last' remark. Then He told them that they would abandon Him. I believe He said this to pave the way for their reconnection after the resurrection. He knew this would happen and didn't scold them.

What was Jesus' purpose for these final words? (33) How is this still true for us?

John 16:33 ³ "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

These words were for all of us throughout our lives. We live in a world with tribulation, but are called to live by trust and confidence in Him. He has already given us eternal victory.

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

Are we sometimes like the disciples who heard things from Jesus and still not take it to heart? Which of these final words do you need to take to heart? Feeling abandoned by God? Struggling with the trouble of this world? Trying to fulfill Jesus' mission without praying? What is God saying to you that you can apply now?

DISCUSS TOGETHER

This week is meant to be a time of reflection from chapters 13-16. If possible, ask your group to consider this time of reflection and sharing early so that they can share in your group time.

This passage ends Jesus' teaching in the upper room with the disciples only hours before He is arrested. He has repeatedly said that "His hour had come" (13:1) referring to His soon arrest and crucifixion. He said what they will feel: "grief" followed by "joy." He used terms like "in a little while" and "time" (Lit. "hour") referring to the gap when they waited to see Him again. During that time, the disciples would experience tribulation followed by the joy of the resurrection.

We too live with a gap. We are awaiting a time when we will live forever in the complete presence of the Lord (Revelation 21:3). How have these chapters instructed and encouraged us while we live in this world?

How are we to live day to day?

What kind of people are we to be?

What is our purpose and mission?

What promises does Jesus give us? What provisions does He give?

How is prayer involved in our mission and bearing fruit?

What are His commands and instructions?

How are we to stay encouraged?

PRAYER NEEDS. PLEASE ASK YOU GROUP TO PRAY -- GOD LISTENS AND ANSWERS!

There is so much that we ask of our Father.

- Pray for one another as we seek to “abide” (remain) in Jesus together
- Pray for our helpers, teachers, leaders partnering with parents in our Kid’s Ministries
- Praise for the shepherds of our student and young adult ministries
- Pray for leaders of our country as we respond to troubles in our world

I’m praying for your love and leadership with your friends.

Steve