



The Dynamic Gospel Study Guide – Book of John

Chapter 16

1 “Even when they try to snare you, My Word will keep you from destruction.

2 “Yet the religious zealots will see it just the opposite, running you out of the meeting houses as heretics. Eventually, they'll think they're doing God a service by killing you.

3 “This kind of hatred and violence is a sure sign they don't know God the Father, much less Me.

4 “Hear Me now, friends. The time is surely coming when all this will come to pass, and you'll need a strong memory of My teaching to comfort you. Difficult parting words, I know. Not like the warm closeness we experienced in the beginning.

5 “You're beginning to accept it now, aren't you? - That I'm really heading Home **without you**. Hard as it is, that understanding at least puts to rest your constant debates about 'where' I'm going.

6 “I can see it in your eyes - the truth hurts. Don't let what I've said consume you with despair.

7 “I can't stop telling you the Truth just because it's difficult to hear. My absence will greatly speed up the best thing you could possibly experience - God the Comforter Himself! As soon as I'm home I'll dispatch Him without delay. Clinging to Me here merely holds Him back.

8 “So much more will be made clear to you when He arrives. Light and darkness. The colors of sin and righteousness. Like a bright lamp flushing out the shadows, you'll see things as they really are.

9 “Society cracked or skewed; every man warped by disbelief and sin - everything will be shown for what it is.

10 “Justice will finally prevail when I've returned home. Even though you can't see Me, I'll be setting all things right.

11 “And judgment will be declared because the sentence will finally be passed down - 'guilty on all counts for the devil who oppresses you!'"

12 “There is so much more I could say, but I'm afraid it's simply beyond your capacity to comprehend right now.

13 “But I need to reiterate this - when the Spirit comes, He will guide you into all kinds of new understanding, and He'll have the time to gently lead you along. This is how the Spirit works: He whispers the things He hears from Us and hints at things to come - He never boasts, brags or draws attention to Himself.

14 “He will focus on Me, revealing everything I am and continue to be; bringing the message to life **within you**.

15 “Whatever the Father holds now will be Mine to do with as I please, so I'll be sending all the good stuff your way through the Spirit. Get ready to download amazing blessings!

16 “For just a little while you'll lose sight of Me. But not a moment later you'll see Me like you've never imagined!"

17 In the break between remarks, the students started asking questions again about things like the mystery of 'losing sight of Jesus' and then 'really seeing Him' because of His return to the Father.

18 Still they didn't have the courage to put it to Jesus, at least not yet. So they just pondered what 'a little while' meant.

19 Jesus knew they were anxious, and why, so He addressed the unasked question. "So you're curious about the meaning of 'a little while,' eh? How long is a 'little' - how patient must you be before we meet again?"

20 "Well, it won't be easy on you to tell the truth. Hear Me on this - really hear Me: You will weep like you've never wept while the world around you taunts and rejoices. The sorrow will crush you to the core. **BUT!** Now listen, here - it won't end that way. The sorrow will be utterly extinguished and joy like you've never known will burst from you.

21 "A woman in labor weeps from the pain, knowing she will not escape the agony to come. But as soon as the child is born, the joy of new life washes away all the grief.

22 "Your agony will be just as intense but remember this: We **will** meet again, and with it will come such an abiding and deep joy that nothing in this world will ever snatch it away.

23 "That will be the day when all confusion and debates will end. You won't need clarification because you will see Me just as I am. Then, and **only** then will your questions make perfect sense. You'll ask clearly; you'll receive clear answers - direct from the Father Himself.

24 "Till now you've never really asked God for anything like I do. Ask substantial questions - the kind that really put God on the line - the kind of questions He wants to hear. Then you'll get substantial answers. And then, hold on tight! Because He will pour out such blessings you won't be able to contain the joy it brings.

25 "All these years I've dropped you little nuggets of wisdom which you can chew on till the Truth pops out. But the day is coming when this communication will burst out into a glorious, messy, boisterous conversation among friends. All of us together exploring the meaning of things and laughing over all the misconceptions.

26 "In that day, we'll think alike and sound alike. No need for Me to get in the middle of your conversation with the Father. He's always heard Me - He will always hear you.

27 "You will experience the same kind of passion and directness from Him that I have always known. Why? Because He always warmly welcomes those who love Me and accept Me as His ambassador.

28 "I came directly from the Father's side and fully entered the world you know. So, naturally, when My time here is through, I'll return to His side."

29 Jesus was speaking so much more plainly to His disciples. No more riddles or parables. "Now that's more like it!" some said. "We don't have to think so hard.

30 "You're saying You're on the inside track with the Father and speak of the things You know firsthand. If you hadn't convinced us before, we're compelled to confess it now. If You need to hear us say it out loud: We believe that You're 'the **ONE**.'"

31 Jesus answered them "In the safety of this room you sound so convinced.

32 "But watch out! The hour is coming - in fact it's practically upon us - when you all will be scattered and isolated. But even when you all desert Me, I will not be utterly abandoned because the Father will be right at My side.

33 "I know it sounds like a contradiction, but I'm telling you this in advance so that you will have My peace when you need it most. Face the fact that this world will harass you mercilessly and won't let up. But be courageous! I have already disarmed the enemy. There is no way he can win."

Explain the Context:

From your reading provide a short answer to the following:

What is the theme of this chapter?	What is the BIG Idea?
What is something that surprised you?	What is this chapter <i>not</i> saying?

Take a moment to consider these questions:

- 1) How do you think it benefited the disciples for Jesus to tell them of difficulties to come?
- 2) How does it benefit you to know there will be difficulties because of your loyalty to Jesus?
- 3) What does Jesus tell His followers the purpose of the Holy Spirit is?
- 4) Spend some time in another translation of scripture. What are some other “names” used for the Holy Spirit? How does each name resonate with you in your current life situation?

- 5) What are the 3 ways Jesus says the Holy Spirit will convict the world?

- 6) How is Jesus' analogy about birthing a child helpful to the disciples as they process His words about leaving?

- 7) Think a moment about how you might respond if Jesus told you that you would be "scattered" at the time of His greatest need?

- 8) How might Jesus' words bring peace?

- 9) What does Jesus mean when He says, "But be courageous! I have already disarmed the enemy. There is no way he can win."

Apply the Scripture

Write the verse that stood out to you while reading [in this translation or your favorite].

How does this verse challenge you? Does it reveal an attribute of God's character?

For further study:

- Exodus 12:25
- John 14:29
- Psalm 119:144
- Colossians 2:15
- Hebrews 2:14
- 1 John 4:6
- 2 Thessalonians 2:10