

Bible Study August 23, 2023

JOHN 16 (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

JESUS'S WARNING

1 "All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. 2 They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God.

The Amplified Version says ¹"I HAVE told you these things so that you will not stumble or be caught off guard and fall away."

Really quickly, what are some of the things that cause a person to fall away.....

- ⇒ Church Hurt
- ⇒ Persecution
- ⇒ Things we may see or encounter in church or in people – and Not Understand
- ⇒ Sin/The Pleasures of this world
- ⇒ Correction, Rebuke or Exhortation

In fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God.

- ⇒ Saul (also known as Paul), under the authority of the high priest, went through the land hunting down and persecuting Christians, convinced that he was doing the right thing (Acts 9:1-2; 26:9-11).
- ⇒ Jim Jones, Charles Manson. Cultic men who led people to believe a lie and killed in the name of God.

If people read and study the Word of God on their own, for themselves, we are then able to know, discern & understand what is or isn't of God.

3 They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. 4 I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, 5 but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'

6 Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. 7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate (Comforter, Intercessor—Counselor, the one who is on Standby) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

- ⇒ If he did not return to the Father, the Holy Spirit would not come.

⇒ Jesus' presence on earth was limited to one place at a time, but his leaving meant he could be present to the whole world through the Holy Spirit.

⁸ When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me;

⇒ According to Jesus, not believing in him is a sin.

¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer. ¹¹ and about judgment because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

The Holy Spirits' job/role is to:

- ⇒ Convince people of **their sinfulness** to prepare them to seek repentance and **God's mercy**;
- ⇒ The Holy Spirit is to reveal **the standard** of God's righteousness to anyone who believes because Jesus is no longer physically present on earth; and
- ⇒ To **demonstrate** Jesus' authority over satan and his ultimate judgment and defeat of all evil.

Jesus' death on the cross made a personal relationship with God available to us. When we confess our sin, God declares us righteous and delivers us from judgment for it.

¹² "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the 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.

The Holy Spirit will:

- ⇒ Guides us to see the truth about Jesus Christ—who he is and what he came to do for us.
- ⇒ He helps us, through patient practice, to discern right from wrong (discern – when the enemy wants to deceive you).
- ⇒ He would tell them “about the future”—the nature of their mission, the opposition they would face, and the final outcome of their efforts.
- ⇒ He would reveal truths to them that they would write down in the books that now form the New Testament. – and He is still revealing today.

¹⁴ He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

¹⁶ Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."

In his last moments with his disciples, Jesus did the following:

- ⇒ He warned them about further persecution.
- ⇒ He told them where, when, and why he was going; and
- ⇒ He assured them that they would not be left alone but that the Spirit would come.

Jesus knew what lay ahead, and he did not want the disciples' faith shaken or destroyed. God wants you to know you are not alone. You have the Holy Spirit to comfort you, to teach you the truth, and help you.

17 At this, 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'?" 18 They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."

19 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'?" 20 Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.

What a contrast between the disciples and the world! The world rejoiced as the disciples wept, but the disciples would see Jesus again—in three days—and rejoice.

The world's values are often the opposite of God's values. This can cause us to feel like misfits. But even if life seems difficult now, one day we will rejoice. Keep your eye on the future and on God's promises!

21 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.

22 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. 23 In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

25 "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. 26 In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. 27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

A new day has dawned, and now all believers are priests, talking with God personally and directly (see Hebrews 10:19-23). We approach God not because of our own merit but because Jesus, our great High Priest, has made us acceptable to God.

28 I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

29 Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. 30 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."

31 “Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. 32 “A time is coming and in fact has now come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace.

- ⇒ The disciples scattered after Jesus was arrested (see Mark 14:50). However, Jesus accepted their statement of faith even though he knew their weakness as He knows our weaknesses.
- ⇒ Jesus knew they and we would have to grow into people whose words and lives matched even to the point of death, and Jesus takes us through the same process. How well are you living out what you say you believe about Jesus?
- ⇒ As Christians, we should expect continuing tension with an unbelieving world that is out of sync with Jesus’ values and often bitterly hostile to Him, His Good News, and His people. Some will face only astonishment or ridicule for what they believe. Others will face imprisonment and even martyrdom. But whatever we face, we can depend upon our relationship with Jesus & the Holy Spirit to produce peace and comfort because we are in Him.
- ⇒ Jesus summed up all He had told them this night, tying together themes from John chapters 14, 15 & 16. With these words, he told his disciples to take courage.