

WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY

The Glory of Conquering Grace

INTRODUCTION

One of the great expressions of love that a person can give to their loved ones is to prepare for their own death. Although many people know this, it is often a hard thing to do. Recorded by John, in 3 chapters of His Gospel, is our Lord's preparation of His disciples for His departure.

He wants them to feel loved, not abandoned.

He wants them to feel confident, not fearful.

He wants them to be joyful, not discouraged.

This day of His departure has been something that He has anticipated since the Wedding of Cana in John 2:4. Again in John 7:30 and 8:20 we read of "his hour that had not come yet."

In our passage of study this "time-stamp" is evident in the words of Jesus. Note:

- ¹⁶ A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again, a little while, and you will see me.
- ²³ In that day you will ask nothing of me.
- ²⁶ In that day you will ask in my name.
- ³² Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come.

This "day" or "hour" is not an actual 24 hour/60-minute time. Christ is speaking of an event. The day of His death, burial and resurrection. This is the hour of His glory. In less than two hours He will be arrested. The hour and day that Christ is referring to is His passion. His death, burial and resurrection.

TEXT: John 16:16–33 (ESV)

OUTLINE

These 4 timestamps enable us to organize our thoughts in this passage. Remember that the main thought is that Jesus is equipping His disciples as to what to expect on "That Day".

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| 1. ¹⁶ "A little while." | Present Sorrow Turned to Joy. |
| 2. ²³ "In that day." | Prayer Directly to the Father, through the Son. |
| 3. ²⁶ "In that day." | Positiveness of the Father's Love |
| 4. ³² "Behold, the hour is coming." | Peace that Christ has Overcome the World. |

EXPOSITION

I - PRESENT SORROW TURNED TO JOY (vv16-22)

Jesus is speaking to them in ambiguous speech. "Now you see me; now you don't; and then now you see me." That confused the disciples. What in the world is He talking about? Because we stand on this side of the Cross, we can be quite sure that Jesus is saying that right now they see him clearly, in the flesh. But the day is coming when they won't. He will die and be buried. But after that they will see Him again in His resurrected body.

Jesus then provides another intriguing thought. Because of this, "now you see me, now you don't and now you see me", you will weep and lament (meanwhile the world will rejoice). But when you see me again, your sorrow will turn to joy.

Then Jesus illustrates this as the birthing pain that a mother has in childbirth that is replaced by the joy of seeing her child. Jesus makes His point clearly in verse 22 starting with the little word "so". ***"So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."*** (John 16:22, ESV)

The resurrection will be a time of great joy! But more than that: the joy these men will experience when they witness the resurrection will be a joy never to be taken from them.

I I - PRAYER DIRECTLY TO THE FATHER, THROUGH THE SON (vv23-24)

They won't see Him when He dies but they will after the resurrection. They will also witness His resurrection. Jesus will ascend to the Father and again they will lose sight of Him. So, He says, "In that day you will ask nothing of me."¹ Once Jesus goes back to the Father, they will not be able to physically turn to Him and ask Him questions as they have in the past. But the good news is that they have a greater privilege. They can go directly to the Father and ask Him anything in the name of Jesus and it will be given.

Again, we have an incredibly unique statement by Christ. "Until now you have asked nothing in my name."² Until now they have just asked him questions because He was their Rabbi, their teacher and

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Jn 16:23). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

² [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Jn 16:24). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Lord. But once His work on Calvary is finished, they will make their requests to the Father based upon His merits.

When the disciples walked and talked to Jesus, they had a unique privilege. They never had to stop and think: "Hey, we get to converse with the Son of God because of His life, death, burial and resurrection to ascended glory." But access to the Holy Place in glory comes only through the blood. And the promise that Jesus provides His disciples is that because the veil is torn; because access to the Father has been opened; then they can make their requests directly to the Father, through the merits of Jesus Christ.

III - POSITIVENESS OF THE FATHER'S LOVE (vv25-28).

Christ now clarifies one implication as to what He means by praying in His Name. *"In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God."* (John 16:26–27, ESV)

I believe that what Jesus may be saying is that disciples don't go through Him as if the Father is indifferent to believers. Christians need to be certain that the Father loves them. Jesus doesn't have to beg the Father to give attention and affection to His Children. Asking in Jesus' name means simply asking based on His merit, His righteousness, and for whatever would honor and glorify Him to build His kingdom. You don't have to ask in Jesus name because the Father doesn't want to have anything to do with you. The Father is not reluctant to love, care and provide for His children.

"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" (Matthew 7:11, ESV)

Don't picture Jesus interceding for us, pleading an unwilling Father – attempting to bend His will. No quite the contrary. The Father loves to give what is good and we ask through Jesus because of His love for us on Calvary.

IV - PEACE THAT CHRIST HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD (vv28-33)

Lastly, we read, *"Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."* (John 16:32–33, ESV)

Again, we see the brilliance of the Master Teacher. In the world you will have tribulation. In Christ you will have peace. Jesus was foretelling the response and the threats that were coming. His disciples would disperse and hide. In the world there is hardship. In Christ there is peace. Why? Christ has overcome the world.

That is a precious statement. The tense implies that it could be written: "I have and continue to overcome/conquered/prevailed/overpowered the world." This is the world that hates Him and hates His disciples. He has overcome the world. Jesus life and His eventual death has won a decisive battle. The world continues to assault Christ and His Bride, but they are attacking the declared Victor. The disciples CANNOT be ultimately harmed or defeated. From this they can take heart and share in His peace.

SUMMARY

Jesus and His disciples will now continue into the Garden of Gethsemane. John doesn't record the agony of Christ, but he will record Jesus' prayer. Christ will then be arrested about Midnight. But we have just been granted the grace to hear the final instructive words of Jesus to His disciples. His goal was to prepare them for His death, resurrection, and ascension. Notice how His conversation is framed:

- a) He starts with: "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me." (John 14:1, ESV)
- b) He ends with: "*I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*" (John 16:33, ESV)

APPLICATION

These two verses (14:1 & 16:33) are the bookends of the Believer's life: **LET NOT YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED & TAKE HEART**. What happens between those bookends is varied and often full of difficulty. But within those bookends we have been given the grace of the Holy Spirit and the privilege of prayer.

For those who have placed their faith in Christ and His life, death, resurrection, and ascension:

- ♥ **Let not your hearts be troubled**, Christ has lived the perfect life demanded by the Father, in your place. By faith in Him you are justified.
- ♥ **Let not your hearts be troubled**, Christ has, once and for all, paid the due penalty for your sin. By faith in Him you are no longer condemned.
- ♥ **Let not your hearts be troubled**, the Cross has defeated the power of sin. Sin no longer is your master.
- ♥ **Let not your hearts be troubled**, because you belong to Christ, by His Spirit he assures you of eternal life and makes you willing and able to serve Him with joy.
- ♥ **Let not your hearts be troubled**, because of the Father's unquestionable love for you, nothing will happen to you that does not conform to that love.
- ♥ **Let not your hearts be troubled**, as sure as Christ has ascended, He will return and take you to be with Him forever.
- ♥ **Let not your hearts be troubled.**