

## John 16:17-25

**John 16:17-19** *“(17) Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father? (18) They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith. (19) Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me?”*

A. The disciples had questions, but as we’ve seen often throughout the life of Jesus on earth, they were not asking Jesus those questions (**Mark 8:15-18, Mark 9:10, Mark 9:32, Luke 9:45, Luke 18:34, John 4:27, and John 12:16**).

1. They could not tell what Jesus was saying because many of these things were a mystery at that time (**Romans 11:25 and I Peter 1:10-12**), though our Lord’s plan was that they would later understand these mysteries (**Luke 8:10, Luke 21:15, and Luke 24:45**).

2. Unlike the disciples, we have all things revealed (**II Peter 1:3-4**) and need not wonder what the Lord’s will is (**Romans 16:25, Ephesians 1:9, Ephesians 3:1-10, Ephesians 3:17-19, II Timothy 2:14-18, II Timothy 3:15-17, and I John 5:20**).

B. With Jesus, there was no way for them to ask questions just among themselves (**John 2:24-25**).

1. Jesus knew what they were saying amongst themselves (**Matthew 16:6-8, Mark 9:34-35, and Mark 10:26-27**).

2. Jesus did not ignore the fact that they had questions because He wanted the disciples to learn (**Matthew 11:26-30**).

**John 16:20-22** *“(20) Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. (21) A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. (22) And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.”*

A. Jesus foretells of the sorrow that will surround His death (**Mark 16:9-10, Luke 23:27, and Luke 24:15-17**).

1. While the disciples mourned when Jesus died, the world got what the world wanted (**Matthew 27:39-44**).

2. However, the sorrow the disciples faced when Jesus died was not permanent (**Luke 24:51-53**).

B. Like childbirth, it will be painful to see Jesus fulfill His work on this earth but the end result is worth the pain (**Hebrews 2:9**).

1. Sometimes we have to face difficult times when our faith will be tried (**James 1:2-4**).

- a. However, like Jesus, we have to focus on the end of our work rather than all the suffering here and now (**I Peter 1:3-9**).
  - b. God's faithful may face times of sorrow, but we know joy is to come (**Matthew 5:4** and **Luke 6:21**).
- 2. The disciples can know that when they've sorrowed over the death of Christ, they will thereafter rejoice in that they'll see Him again (**John 20:19-20**).

**John 16:23-25** *"(23) And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. (24) Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. (25) These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father."*

A. Jesus refocused the disciples on the fact that they'll need to ask of things from the Father rather than asking of Him (**Matthew 7:7-11**).

- 1. They'll need to ask the Father of things by the authority of Christ (**Colossians 3:17**).
- a. Their requests to the Father will have to be in accordance with the will of Christ (**I John 5:14-15**).
  - b. They'll have to be in the right relationship with our Lord to be able to ask anything of the Father (**Proverbs 15:29, Proverbs 28:9, Isaiah 59:1-3, John 9:31, I Peter 3:12**, and **I John 3:22**).
  - c. If they ask amiss, they will not receive anything (**James 4:3**).
- 2. Still today, we are expected to pray to the Father through the Son (**Ephesians 5:20**).
- 3. Jesus is the mediator between God and man (**I Timothy 2:5**).

B. Jesus wasn't always clear in what He was teaching (**Matthew 13:34-35**).

- 1. As we've addressed already in this chapter, part of the reason He hasn't been clear is that they weren't ready to learn everything yet (**John 16:12**).
- 2. Jesus will reveal more after His death (**Acts 1:3**).
- 3. When the Holy Spirit came, after Christ was in Heaven, all truth was revealed unto the disciples of our Lord (**John 16:13-14** and **I John 2:27**) and through them to us (**II Timothy 3:16-17**).