

JOHN

Chapter 16

Note from Kathy

There is an old Latin proverb, "Praemonitus, Praemunitus," which loosely translated means, "To be forewarned is to be forearmed." If you are a Jesus follower you too have been forewarned about many future events so that you will not be caught off guard or stumble.



Observation

John 16:1-3

"All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. ²They 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. ³They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me."

John 16:6-7

"Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. ⁷But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."

1. Jesus told the disciples that they would suffer loss. What would happen that would cause them to suffer emotionally and spiritually?
2. Jesus went on to say the disciples would suffer loss in other ways as well. In verse 2 what did he say was going to happen?
3. Those who chose to harm Jesus' followers were distorted in their thinking. How did they view their actions?
4. According to verse 6 what were the emotions of the disciples as Jesus continued to tell them the events that were about to unfold?
5. Once again Jesus tells his disciples, I will not leave you alone. When he leaves, who did he promise he would send?

John 16:16

“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.’”

John 16:23-24

“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.”

John 16:31-33

“Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. ³² “A time is coming and in fact has 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. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

6. Verses 8-11 speak of the confrontation by the Holy Spirit. What three things will the Holy Spirit make clearly visible?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
7. Jesus begins bringing his teaching to an end. But he promises the Holy Spirit will come. In verses 12-15, what will the Spirit do when he arrives?
8. In John 16:16 Jesus tells his disciples, “In a little while you will see me no more.” Why will they not see him? What is about to happen to Jesus?
9. The disciples are confused and sad at all Jesus was telling them. Jesus does not deny that things are looking painful. What good news does he give them in verse 20? The very event that caused such pain would _____.
10. What example from nature did Jesus compare to their suffering?
11. There is a huge change coming for those who follow Jesus. It had been the practice of every Jewish man or woman to go to a priest or teacher with their questions or to seek spiritual advice. What will they soon be able to do?
12. Jesus speaks very clearly to his disciples in verse 28 NIV. He gives them the reason they will no longer be able to ask him their questions. Fill in the blanks: I came _____ and entered the _____; now I am leaving _____ and going _____.” How important are these facts for those who would believe?
13. The disciples now firmly believe that Jesus is the Messiah, One sent from God. But very soon their faith will experience a true testing. According to verses 31-33 what is about to happen? What good news were they given?

Application

2 Corinthians 1:20-22

“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘yes’ in Christ. And so through him the ‘Amen’ is spoken by us to the glory of God. ²¹Now, it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²²set his seal of ownership on us and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”

1. There is something wonderful about being forewarned. Nurses warn us just before a shot; pilots warn of turbulence coming, and teachers often warn their class of upcoming tests. They do not do this to instill fear but to help us prepare for future events. Jesus wanted the disciples to be prepared for the events that were about to happen. Make a list of some of the ways that studying John 16 might prepare you for possible upcoming difficult events?
2. Jesus made it very clear that the opposition he had endured would not stop when he was gone. This opposition to Jesus is still going on today. Have you experienced persecution or loss simply because you have placed your faith in Jesus? It may not be to the magnitude that the disciples experienced persecution but it hurt none-the-less. List some of your experiences with persecution to share with your group.
3. Jesus promised he would not leave his disciples alone but would send the Advocate, the Comforter, the Holy Spirit to them after he was gone. If you have been born again then you have the Holy Spirit living in you. In 2 Corinthians 1:20-22, the apostle Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit is given to each believer as an earnest or deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. Have you ever given a deposit to someone?

What happens to your deposit if you do not make good on your word?

How does knowing these facts make you feel?
4. In Observation question 7, we listed the things Jesus said the Holy Spirit would do when he came. What do these things mean to you in your day-to-day walk of faith?
5. The disciples are about to experience great loneliness and sadness when Jesus is gone. Anticipation of a difficult and sad moment can be torture. I cannot imagine what it must have felt like to walk with Jesus morning, noon and night, and then to hear that it will soon all change. In verses 17-18, we see they were talking among themselves, trying to figure out exactly what Jesus meant when he said, “a little while.”

Jesus acknowledged their grief but then shares with them that it will

turn to joy. Finding hope in a difficult situation can bring us peace. Have you ever been in a difficult situation and felt all alone?

Were you able to see God's plan and purpose and find joy even in your grief? Please briefly share in your small group. Your words may very well serve as a comforter to someone in a difficult situation.

John 16:21-22

"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. ²²So 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."

John 16:33

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

6. All mothers can relate to the example Jesus used in verses 21-22. There can be great pain involved when bringing a child into the world. Labor is a difficult and potentially dangerous time for the woman and the child. There is pain, and for a period of time it has your undivided attention. But, when the baby is born a mother's focus changes. If you are a mother you might like to think back on the birth of your child. Remember the feeling you had as they laid that precious child in your arms for the first time? Grief turned to joy. Can you honestly remember the pain or the joy?
7. What does it mean to you to know that you have direct access to the Father? You can have a personal relationship with him. You can talk to God and receive an answer just as Jesus did. In verse 27 Jesus said the Father loves you because you love me. Are you living in this truth?

Are you enjoying this intimate relationship with the Lord?

Are you walking and talking with Him as you go about your day? If not, why not?

8. In verse 33 Jesus told the disciples that he had shared all this with them so that in him they would have peace. He acknowledged the fact that in this world you will have trouble. But we are not to lose heart or hope, because Jesus has overcome the world. What do you believe it means when scripture says he has, "overcome the world?"

And, what does that mean to you personally?

9. Are you experiencing a trial today? What is the true longing of your heart? State it in just a few words.

In what ways is your trial testing your faith and your commitment to Christ?

Philippians 4:4-9

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

Psalms 34:1-4

*¹ I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.
² I will glory in the LORD;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
³ Glorify the LORD with me;
let us exalt his name together.
⁴ I sought the LORD, and he
answered me; he delivered me from all
my fears.*

10. Did Jesus' words to his followers give you hope? The Father did not leave Jesus alone in his hour of need, and he will not leave us alone. Are you experiencing the comfort and presence of your loving heavenly Father in your current trial?

It is very natural for our pain to get our attention from time to time, but we should not allow our hearts to remain focused on the problem. Jesus said, "I have overcome the world."

Counting our blessings is one of the best ways to get our eyes off the situation and find the peace that passes all understanding that Paul speaks of in Philippians 4:4-9. List some of the ways you are experiencing the peace of God in your circumstance. If this is a difficult question to answer, skip it and go on to #11, and then come back to it.

11. If you think there are no blessings right now, make a list of the ways your situation could be worse. After that, try counting your blessings. Let's join the Psalmist worshiping and praising our LORD. Read Psalms 34:1-4. Notice the activity of the Psalmist. What is he busy doing?

What did the LORD do for him?