



John

Lesson 16 Chapter 16

Jesus shared the Passover meal with His disciples on Thursday evening (chapter 13) of Passion Week. The previous Sunday He made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Many at that time believed in Jesus as the prophesied Messiah and had the hope that He had finally come to release them from their enemies, the Romans. The disciples seemed to have an expectant attitude as well. But during the meal that Thursday evening, Jesus would begin to tell them things that were going to happen that didn't feel as victorious as they had felt the previous Sunday. On their walk from the last supper to the Mount of Olives, Jesus informed them He would soon be leaving this world, and they would be taking over in His place. In Chapter 15, Jesus gives the illustration of the vine and branches and stresses the importance of the branches abiding in the vine. Only by His life surging through them can they bear

spiritual fruit. In Chapter 16, Jesus goes on to explain the suffering that they will face because of Him. The world would hate them because it hated Him. They would be ostracized from family, friends, and community. The people who had previously loved them would now become their enemies and seek to kill them. This information had to be traumatic, confusing, and frightening for the disciples. Their world was being turned upside down. Jesus had mentioned His death a few times in passing before, but they never really understood what He meant. But the impending doom His words expressed was crushing. They were now experiencing deep sorrow, but Jesus assures them that their sorrow would soon be turned to inexpressible joy with the arrival of the promised Holy Spirit.

READ CHAPTER 16



The Greek word in verses 1 for “stumble” (NAS) or “to be offended” (KJV) is skandalisthete. It means to “to cause a person to begin to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey; to cause to fall away.” (Englishman’s Concordance) Its base word refers to setting a trap to trip one up, and from this word we get the English word “scandal.”

1. Summarize from chapter 14-15 some of the things that Christ had said to the disciples that He was referring to in 16:1 so they wouldn't be “skandalisthete.”

2. *What does He tell the disciples to expect from here on out, and what was the reason for that kind of treatment? Vs. 2-3*

3. *Why did Jesus wait until now to tell them these things, and what would be His reason for not waiting longer? Vs. 4 How had John expressed this in John 2:19-22?*

4. *Jesus had explained in John 15:27 that the disciples' calling was to "bear witness" to who He is. The Greek word for "bear witness" in 15:27 is "martus or martur" which is where we get our English word "martyr" for one who bears witness by his death. Why do you think God chose suffering to be a mark of those who follow Him? 1 Peter 4:12-14; Rom.8:16-17; 2 Corinthians 1:3-11.*

5. *What three things would the Holy Spirit convict the world of, and what is the reason for each? Why would this be an advantage for the disciples? Vs. 7-11*



"The role of Counselor is one of the distinctives of Christianity. God is not merely a distant deity demanding impossible acts of service from his followers. Rather, God resides within each believer, by his Holy Spirit, and helps them do his will. Apart from the Holy Spirit's work in your life, you could not fully obey or glorify God. But with every command God gives you, he provides the Counselor to enable you to do it." ~Experiencing God Bible

6. *What specific promise does Jesus make to the disciples about the Holy Spirit? Vs. 13-15*

7. *Why do you think the disciples never asked Jesus where He was going (vs.5) but were very concerned about understanding the phrase "a little while" (vs.18)?*

8. *How do verses 19-22 explain to the disciples what is happening and what is to come?*
9. *How does the promise Jesus gives them in verse 23 connect to the previous things He has said? What does that teach us about the purpose of prayer?*
10. *Why were the disciples confused about what Jesus was saying to them, and what did He say that they claimed they finally understood?*
11. *Why is Jesus telling them what He and they will suffer, and why would this bring them peace? Vs.32-33*
12. *How did Christ “overcome” the world? How do you think this statement sounded to His disciples?*
13. *Read Romans 8:37. The same word “overcome” that Jesus used to describe what He has done in John 16:33 is applied to believers in the Romans passage. The difference is that the prefix “hupo,” meaning over and above (translated “more than conquerors” KJV or “overwhelmingly conquer” NAS), is added in Romans to describe believers in Christ. Explain what you think this means and how it applies to you.*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
