

## Joined to Jesus to Have Peace

John 16:4–33

Studies in John #38

**S**ADLY, all good things must come to an end. What have you experienced that was good, but it came to an end? Maybe you went on a great trip that you didn't ever want to end. Maybe it was your final semester in college and you knew the day was coming when you and your friends would go your separate ways.

We've been meditating on Jesus' Upper Room Discourse for a number of months and with our text this morning it comes to an end. Technically chapter 17 is part of it but there Jesus isn't discoursing with his disciples but prays to his Father. But the good things Jesus is teaching his disciples and us face-to-face come to an end here. The big point of this section of his discourse is found in verse 33: **"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace."** The peace of God comes to us through the ministry of the Spirit and the ministry of Jesus.

### THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT (VV. 4–15)

Jesus brings the good things he's teaching on THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT to an end in verses 4–15. He **"did not say all these things** he's just spoken of **from the beginning** of his ministry alongside them, **because I was with you"** (v. 4). **"But now I am going to him who sent me"**—which he's

been explaining the reason why since 13:33—**“and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’”** (v. 5) They’ve asked, but they haven’t *really* asked. **“But because I have said these things to you”** about my impending absence and your impending persecution **“sorrow has filled your heart”** (v. 6). Remember 14:1, “Let not your hearts be troubled.” Remember 14:18, “I will not leave you as orphans.” Remember 14:27, “Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” **“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away.”** We’ve seen many ways his absence is advantageous; they’re all summed up in this: **“if I do not go away, the Helper (ὁ παράκλητος, *the Advocate*) will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you”** (v. 7). Jesus is our Advocate and his absence means the presence of another Advocate, the Holy Spirit (14:16). Look at his twofold ministry.

First, *his ministry to the world*. **“When he comes, he will have a threefold ministry of convict[ion] toward the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment”** (v. 8). This word “convict” is used eighteen times in the NT of exposing sin to expose guilt and shame so that people would repent. Listen closely to how these are explained in verses 9–11: **“concerning [their] sin, because they do not believe in me”; “concerning [their false] righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer”**

[the Spirit will convict of this]; **“concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged”** [and if he is, all his followers are too]. We need to pray for this ministry in the world and in the lives of those we know.

Second, *his ministry to the disciples*. **“When the Spirit comes, he will also have a ministry to the disciples. “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now”** (v. 12). They would receive these teachings, though, through the other Advocate who would communicate the truth: **“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.”** Which truth? Remember 14:6: “I am...the truth.” Look at the assurance that he’ll do this: **“for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come”** (v. 13). Does that sound familiar? Go back to chapter 3:32 where Jesus said of himself: “He bears witness to what he has seen and heard.” Then in chapter 8:26: “I declare to the world what I have heard from him.” Verse 40 says, “You seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God.” Finally, look at words we saw just two weeks ago in 15:15: “for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.” The Son has seen and heard from the Father what he’s declared to the world. **Whatever the Spirit hears he will speak and...declare.** Hears from whom? Look at how

amazing verses 14–15 are: **“He will glorify me, for *he will take what is mine* and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”** Do you see the logic, the connection, and the relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? What about us? We have everything necessary to know that the Spirit said to the apostles. We have it all in the NT. “What more can he say than to you he has said?”

#### THE MINISTRY OF JESUS (VV. 16–33)

We also see here the good things about THE MINISTRY OF THE JESUS brought to an end. And also recognize a two ministry of Jesus.

First, *his ministry of joy*: **“A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me”** (v. 16), which is what he said back at the end of chapter 13 about his death and then resurrection. This caused the disciples to wonder what all this meant (vv. 17–18). Knowing this (v. 19) Jesus said, **“Truly, truly”—*Amen, amen*—“I say to you, you will weep and lament because of my death, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful because of my death, but your sorrow will turn into joy because of my resurrection”** (v. 20).

Jesus illustrates this with something mothers who've gone through labor understand, but we men can only understand through a parable: **“When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come,”** meaning, there is great pain and need for endurance. **“But when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world”** (v. 21). Here's the point of the parable: **“you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you”** (v. 22). What promise! There's that great battle speech in the movie *Braveheart* where William Wallace says, “They may take our lands but they can never take our freedom,” and the Scottish army goes nuts! We have something greater: joy. What Jesus said to the disciples applies to us. Especially in this season of Thanksgiving and Christmas I know many of us can see all the outward excitement but inwardly feel sad because of the loss of a loved one, or lonely because we don't have the ideal Norman Rockwell scene of a family gathered around a table, or depressed because what we do have is so full of dysfunction that we just want to go back home anyway and be alone. Rejoice for the joy you have in Jesus: **“no one will take your joy from you.” “In that day you will ask nothing of me.”** He's speaking not only of resurrection but also of ascension here. **“Truly, truly—Amen, amen—I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in**

**my name, he will give it to you.”** The time’s coming when Jesus will be gone and they can’t ask him for anything; but they’ll be able to access the Father in his name or in the authority of Jesus. **“Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full”** (vv. 23–24).

Then Jesus brings it all home with *his ministry of peace*: **“I have said these things to you**, such as I being a vine and you being branches, such as a woman’s labor pain and joy, **in figures of speech** (παροιμίας). **The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech** (παροιμίας) **but will tell you plainly** (παρρησίᾳ) **about the Father”** (v. 25). Children, when I was little and asked my mom about where babies came from she talked to me about “the birds and the bees.” She described this in a way I could understand. But when I grew up she spoke to be in a strait forward way. Don’t forget Jesus has been calling his disciples “little children” (13:33); but **the hour is coming** when Jesus will be raised and his disciples will mature so that he can speak to them in a plainer way. **“In that day you will ask the Father in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf”** (v. 26). Why not? Because they can ask the Father directly! Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection he’s opened a new and living way for us into the heavenly Holy of Holies so that we can directly and boldly ask the Father.

Jesus explains: **“for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God”** (v. 27).

To this the disciples finally speak: **“now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God”** (vv. 29–30). Note Jesus’ response: **“Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone”** (vv. 31–32). When? At the cross. **“Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me”** (v. 32).

Verse 33 is Jesus’ bringing all the good things about the Spirit’s ministry in the world and to the disciples and about his ministry of giving joy and peace: **“I have said these things to you, *that* [here’s the purpose] in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”** In the world there’s tribulation; in Jesus there’s... In the world there’s anger; in Jesus there’s... In the world there’s chaos; in Jesus there’s...