

***“Ye Shall Be Witnesses”***  
***John 15:26 - 16:4a***

**Introduction:**

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles:
  - To John 15 - Where:
    - The Lord Jesus Continues:
      - To Share His Heart:
        - With His Disciples:
          - On The Very Night Of His Arrest & Trial That Will Lead To His Death!
2. And - Since He Was Just About:
  - To Leave Them:
    - He Wanted Them & Us To Know:
      - What It *Should* Be Like:
        - For His Disciples:
          - When He Is Gone!
  - Already In John 15:
    - He Explains What:
      - Our Connection With Him:
        - *Should* Be Like!
    - According To 15:4 - We Should:
      - Abide In Him!
        - And - Because Of Who He Is:
          - We Can! Even Though He Is In Heaven & We Are On Earth!
  - Then - He Reminds Us:
    - Of What Our Connection:
      - With Each Other:
        - *Should* Be Like!
          - As Christians & As A Church!
    - According To 15:12 - We Should:
      - Love One Another!
        - Even As He Loved Us!
          - With A Selfless & A Sacrificial Kind Of Love!
  - But Then - Toward The End Of This Chapter:
    - Jesus Reveals What Our Connection:
      - With The World:
        - *Will* Be Like!
    - And - According To 15:19:
      - We Should Not Be Surprised That:
        - “The World Hateth You!”
      - Because - As Jesus Also Said:
        - In 15:18 - “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you!”
3. And - It Is Because Of:
  - The Fact That:
    - We Live In A World Of Hate:
      - That We Need To:
        - Abide In Christ - And:
          - Love Other Christians:
            - All The More!
  - But - If This Is What:
    - It *Will* Be Like:
      - For His Disciples:
        - In This World!
  - Then - Why Would Jesus:
    - Leave Us Here - Instead Of:
      - Bringing Us Immediately:
        - To Be With Him In His Home In Heaven?
4. Well - We Find That Answer:

- In The Verses We Come To This Morning:
    - That Will Carry Over:
      - From Chapter 15 Into Chapter 16!
  - And So - Let's Read:
    - Starting In 15:26 - Through - 16:4a
      - Where Jesus Continues His Conversation:
        - With His Specially Chosen:
          - Eleven Disciples!
- "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: / And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning. / These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. / They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. / And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. / But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them!"

5. Now - The First Thing:
- That Jesus Wanted His Disciples To Know:
    - Is That - Even Though:
      - They Would Remain In This World:
        - When He Returned To Heaven:

**1. *You Are Not Alone!***

- In This World!
  - You Are Not Alone!
    - Because - Just Like He Already Told Them:
      - Back In Chapter 14!
  - When Jesus Would Leave Them:
    - Someone Else Will Be Sent:
      - To Them - To Be With Them!
  - Even - The Holy Spirit Of God:
    - Who He Once Again Calls:
      - The "Comforter" - Or - "Paraclete!"
        - Who Will Help Them In Every Thing & In Every Way!
  - And - When He Comes:
    - His Primary Ministry Will Be:
      - 15:26 - To "Testify Of Me!"
        - Jesus Says!
    - That Is - His Mission & Ministry:
      - In This World & To This World:
        - Is To Be A Spiritual Witness About Jesus Christ!
      - And - All The Truth About:
        - His Coming!
        - His Claims!
        - His Conduct!
    - Which All Led Up To:
      - His Death & Burial & Resurrection:
        - To Provide Salvation To Sinners:
          - Who Just Turn To & Trust & Believe In Him!
  - And So - The Comforter:
    - Will Do - What Jesus Himself Did:
      - In This World!
    - And - The Comforter:
      - Will Be - What Jesus Himself Was:
        - To This World!
    - And So - When This "Comforter Is Come" - Then:
      - You Will Not Be & You Will Never Be:
        - Alone In This World!

- And So - When It Comes To This Comforter:
  - You Can Trust & Embrace:
- His Commission!
  - Because - Jesus Himself:
    - Will Send Him! Even As He Says Here:
      - 15:26 - “Whom I Will Send Unto You From The Father!”
      - So - Both Jesus & God The Father Are Personally Involved In Providing The Promise:
        - Of This Comforter!
    - And - If You Can Trust Them:
      - You Can Trust Him!
  - Also - When It Comes To This Comforter:
    - You Can Trust & Embrace:
- His Credibility!
  - Because He Is “The Spirit Of Truth!”
    - He Was Also Described This Way:
      - Back In 14:17 - Which Means That:
        - He Is All About The Truth!
    - Because He Is “The Spirit Of Truth”:
      - His Character Is:
        - Fully True!
      - After All - He Even “Proceeds From The Father!”
        - Which Means That:
          - He Is So Close To God:
            - He Is The Very Expression Of God:
              - And His Character & Heart!
        - He Is As Close To God The Father:
          - As His Breath!
            - And When He Speaks:
              - He Can Only Speak The Truth!
        - His Character Is:
          - Fully True! But Also:
      - Because He Is “The Spirit Of Truth”:
        - He Communicates:
          - Nothing But The Truth!
        - This Is What Makes Him:
          - Such A Good Witness! **IE:**
            - He Is Truth!
            - He Knows The Truth! And:
            - He Will Communicate The Truth!
            - Especially About Jesus!
    - And So - Jesus Wanted His Disciples To Know:
      - That Even Though They Would Be Left In This World:
        - They Would Not Be Left Alone!
          - Because Of The Promise Of His Comforter, Who Would:
            - Take Over For Jesus:
              - Where He Left Off!
        - Now - Did Jesus Keep This Promise?
          - Absolutely! Because In Less Than Two Months Time - We Find In The Book Of Acts:
            - Acts 2:1a - That “When the day of Pentecost was fully come!” - Which Was 50 Days After The Passover - That:
              - Acts 2:4a - “They were all filled with the Holy Ghost!”
              - And - They Were Not Alone In This World!
      - And - Ever Since Then:
        - The Same Comforter:
          - Comes To & Stays With:
            - Every Believer & Follower Of Jesus!
            - From The Moment Of Your Salvation!

- Even As We Find In:
  - 1 Corinthians 3:16 - “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”
- So - Even Though Jesus Left You:
  - In This World:
    - He Did Not Leave You:
      - Alone In This World!
- Do You Believe This?
  - Remember What Jesus Promised To You:
    - Back In 14:16-18 - “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; / Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. / I will not leave you comfortless!”
- You Are Not Alone In This World!
  - And - You Can Trust In & Embrace:
    - The Ministry Of This Comforter!
      - But Also - As We See Next:

## 2. ***You Must Not Be Aimless!***

- In This World!
  - You Must Not Be Aimless!
    - Because You Too Have:
      - A Purpose & A Mission:
        - That Is Like The Mission:
          - Of The Comforter!
  - Which Is Why Jesus Adds:
    - In 15:27 - “And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning!”
      - And So - Just Like The Comforter:
        - Had A Commission:
          - From God!
      - So Did They!
        - And - So Do You!
          - Because Jesus Himself Gave His Disciples:
  - Their Own Commission:
    - When He Said:
      - “Ye Also Shall Bear Witness!”
        - This Is Same Thing That:
          - The “Spirit Of Truth” Is To Do!
            - “Testify / Witness!”
    - And So - Even Though:
      - The Holy Spirit Is - Without A Doubt:
        - The Greatest Witness:
          - Of Jesus & The Gospel!
      - They *Also* Had:
        - Something To Say:
          - About Jesus!
        - Something To Do:
          - For Jesus!
      - And So - *This* Is Why:
        - When Jesus Left:
          - They Stayed!
        - To Fulfill His Ongoing Purpose:
          - In This World!
      - But Also - Just As The Comforter:
        - Was A Credible Witness:
          - As “The Spirit Of Truth!”
        - So Were They!
          - And So - Jesus Talks About:

- Their Own Credibility:
  - When He Said:
    - “Because Ye Have Been With Me From The Beginning!”
      - That Is - From The Very Beginning:
        - Of His Ministry! (John 1)
  - When He Personally:
    - Chose Each One:
      - Of Them - And Then:
    - Called Each One:
      - Of Them - In Order To:
    - Change Each One:
      - Of Them - By Grace:
        - Through Faith In Him!
  - So - They *Knew* Him!
    - Maybe Not As Well As:
      - The Comforter!
    - But - They Still Knew Him!
      - And Had Something To Share:
        - About Him:
          - To This World!
    - The Good News Of Jesus Christ:
      - And His Life & Light & Love!
        - Which Would Be Displayed To Them Even More:
          - In Just A Few Hours Time!
- And So - Jesus Wanted His Disciples To Know:
  - That Even Though They Would Be Left In This World:
    - They Must Not Be Aimless!
      - Because Of The Purpose:
        - That Jesus Christ Had For Them!
  - Jesus Reminded His Disciples Of Their Purpose:
    - After His Resurrection:
      - In Acts 1:8 - When He Told Them:
        - “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and *ye shall be witnesses* unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth!”
  - And - Did The Disciples Fulfill Their Purpose?
    - Yes! Which Is What We Find:
      - All Through The Book Of Acts:
        - As Well As In The History Of The Church!
    - But - They Also Realized That:
      - Their Purpose Was Tied To:
        - The Holy Spirit’s Purpose!
      - Their Witness Was Connected With:
        - The Holy Spirit’s Witness!
      - So Much So That:
        - In Acts 5:32 - As Peter & The Other Apostles Spoke Before The High Priest In Jerusalem - They Said:
          - “We are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him!”
  - So - Even As The Disciples Accomplished:
    - Their Aim In This World:
      - It Was Because:
        - They Were Not Alone:
          - In This World!
- And This Is True For You As Well!
  - Now - Even Though Not Everyone:
    - Can Say That They Were With Jesus:
      - “From The Beginning” Of His Ministry:

- Like The Apostles!
- *Every Christian Can Say:*
  - That Jesus Has Been With Them:
    - “From The Beginning” Of Their Salvation!
  - And So Now:
    - You *Too* Have Something:
      - To Say & To Share About Jesus!
    - About How Jesus:
      - Chose You!
    - About How Jesus:
      - Called You! And:
    - About How Jesus:
      - Changed You!
  - A Personal Testimony:
    - Is A Powerful Thing!
- And So - As A Christian & As A Church!
  - You Have The Great Purpose & Privilege:
    - To Be A Co-Witness & A Co-Worker:
      - For God & Even:
        - With God!
  - As You & I Witness:
    - To The Ear - God Himself:
      - Witnesses To The Heart!
- Paul Even Puts It This Way:
  - In 1 Corinthians 3:9 - “For we are labourers together with God!”
    - Because - As Paul Would Plant The Seed & Apollos Would Water The Seed - God Himself “Giveth The Increase!”
- And So - Because You Are Not Alone:
  - In This World - According To Jesus’ Promise:
    - Now - You Must Not Be Aimless!
  - Because You Have Been Given:
    - A Great Purpose In This World!
      - “Ye Also Shall Bear Witness!”
- But - At The Same Time:
  - Jesus Also Wanted His Disciples To Know That:

### 3. ***You Need Not Be Alarmed!***

- By This World!
  - You Need Not Be Alarmed!
    - Because In 16:1-4 - Jesus Prepares:
      - His Disciples Even More:
        - For What They & We Will Face:
          - In This World!
  - In Both 16:1 & 16:4:
    - Jesus Explains To His Disciples:
      - Why He Told Them:
        - About The World:
          - He Would Leave Them In & Leave Them To!
    - In 16:1 - Jesus Says:
      - “These Things Have I Spoken Unto You!”
    - And - In 16:4 - Jesus Says:
      - “But These Things Have I Told You!”
    - Though Put Differently In English:
      - Jesus Said The Exact Same Thing:
        - In Both Verses!
  - Because - He Wanted To:
    - Prepare Us With:
      - With A Reality Check:

- Of What Will Happen To Us:
    - In This World!
  - In 16:1 - Jesus Wanted To Prepare Us:
    - *To Run To Him:*
      - When We Face The Hatred & Hostility:
        - Of The World Head On!
    - So - He Says:
      - “These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended!”
        - To “Be Offended” Means:
          - To Stumble & Fall:
            - Because Of Some Obstacle That Gets In Your Way! **IE:**
  - Jesus Knows Our Frame!
    - He Knows That - “When The Going Gets Tough!”
      - It Is Very Easy - Even For Christians:
        - To “Stop Going” At All!
      - And To Experience:
        - Doubt & Distress & Even Disobedience!
- But - Jesus Told His Disciples All About:
  - This World - So That:
    - Instead Of Fainting In The Way:
      - You Might Run To & Cling To Him All The More!
  - Remember What Our Connection:
    - To Jesus Should Be Like?
      - 15:4 - “Abide In Me!”
  - Especially When:
    - You Experience The Kinds Of Obstacles:
      - He Specifically Mentions:
        - In 16:2!
- *They Would Face Exclusion!*
  - Because - 16:2a - “They shall put you out of the synagogues!”
    - This Was A Real Fear:
      - Among The Jews!
  - Because The Synagogue:
    - Was Not Only The Central Place Of Jewish Religious Life:
      - But Social Life & Family Life As Well!
  - The Disciples Already Saw This Happen:
    - To The Man Jesus Healed:
      - Who Was Born Blind In 9:34, When His Own Leaders - “Cast Him Out!”
  - And This Would Become:
    - Their Experience As Well!
      - And So - They Needed To Be Prepared - By “Abiding” In Christ!
      - But - As Bad As This Trial Would Be - Things Will Get Even Worse For Them!
- *They Would Face Execution!*
  - Because - 16:2b - “Yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service!”
    - This Can Also Be Translated:
      - “The *Hour* Is Coming!”
  - Which Is How Jesus Frequently Described:
    - His Own Impending Death!
      - So - His Disciples Could Expect:
        - That They Would Face An Hour Much Like His Own!
  - But - The Ones Who Kill Them:
    - Will Actually “Think” That They Are Doing So As A Spiritual Service:
      - To Their God!
  - And - Didn’t This Become:
    - Their Experience As Well?
      - Once Again - In Acts - We Learn Of A Man Named Saul:
        - Who Persecuted The Church Out Of Zeal For God - When In Fact -

He Did Not Truly Know God!

- And So - They Needed To Be Prepared:
  - For This Too!
    - By Running To & “Abiding” In Christ!
- But - Even Though Jesus Confirms These Trials:
  - In 16:3 - “And These Things Will They Do Unto You!”
    - He Also Wanted Them To Know Why:
      - “Because They Have Not Known The Father, Nor Me!”
  - And - *This* Is Why:
    - They Would Remain:
      - In The World!
    - Even When Jesus Would Return:
      - To Heaven!
  - Because - The World Would Need:
    - Their Witness! And:
      - It Still Does!
- And So - In 16:1 - Jesus Wanted To Prepare:
  - His Disciples:
    - To Run To Him! And Then:
- In 16:4 - Jesus Wanted To Prepare Them:
  - *To Rest In Him!*
    - So - He Adds:
      - “But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them!”
- Jesus Revealed:
  - His Promise To Them:
    - Of The Comforter!
  - His Purpose For Them:
    - To Witness! And Even:
  - Their Problems:
    - All - So That When They Happen:
      - They Would Remember:
        - What He Said!
- But - What’s The Point:
  - Of Remembering?
    - Because - It Would Show Them:
      - That Nothing Took Jesus By Surprise!
    - *They* Need Not Be Alarmed:
      - Because *Jesus* Was Not Alarmed!
- In Fact - Remembering Jesus’ Words:
  - Would Reassure Them That:
    - Jesus Knows & Comprehends:
      - All They Are Going Through!
    - Jesus Cares:
      - About Them! And:
    - Jesus Is Ultimately:
      - In Complete Control:
        - And Will Given Them All Of His “Grace To Help In Time Of Need!”  
(Hebrews 4:16)
- And So - Jesus Wanted His Disciples To Know:
  - That Even Though They Would Be Left In This World:
    - They Did Not Need To Be Alarmed:
      - By This World!
  - Because - Even:
    - The Peril & Persecution:
      - They Would Face:
        - Would Cause Them To:
          - “Abide” In Him More!



- By Running To Him!
- And - Resting In Him!
- And This Is True For You As Well!
- You Do Not Need To Be Alarmed:
  - When Faced With Your Own Kinds:
    - Of Spiritual Obstacles!
      - Whatever Form They Might Take! From Without / From Within!
- Remember The Words Of Jesus - Found In 14:1:
  - “Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled! Believe In God! Believe Also In Me!”
    - Through His Own Word:
      - Jesus Prepares You:
        - To Run To & To Rest In Him - Even As You Fulfill Your Purpose - To Witness For Him!

**Conclusion:**

1. So - This Is Why:
  - Jesus Continues To Leave Us:
    - In The Wilderness Of This World!
      - We Are His Witnesses!
  - Because - When You Belong To Christ:
    - You Have Something:
      - To Say & To Share About Him!
2. So - Remember:
  - As His Witness:
    - You Are Not Alone!
      - Because - You Have The Promise Of:
        - The Comforter - Who Works:
          - In You & Through You!
  - As His Witness:
    - You Must Not Be Aimless!
      - Because - You Have The Greatest Purpose & Privilege:
        - In All The World!
          - To “Go Ye Into All The World, And Preach The Gospel To Every Creature!”  
(Mark 16:15)
  - And - As His Witness:
    - You Need Not Be Alarmed!
      - Because - Through His Own Words:
        - Jesus Has Already Prepared You:
          - To Run To & Rest In Him:
            - No Matter What You Face!

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