

What does he mean, in a little while?

John 16: 17-33

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I. INTRODUCTION

Within the next twenty-four hours, Jesus would be taken from his disciples, but three days later, after he was crucified and resurrected, they would see Him again. Their sorrow would be replaced by joy, just as a woman's pains before giving birth are replaced by joy after the child is born. Jesus' victory through death and resurrection would give them a confidence in God that they never had before. They would see Jesus Christ as a mediator through whom they could confidently pray to the Father in Jesus' name and thankfully receive the Father's blessings.

II. WHAT DOES HE MEAN , IN A LITTLE WHILE ?

1. vv. 17-18.

Jesus had told them a few times before that in a little while you will not see Me, then in a little while you will see me. They were confused as to what He meant, especially at this crucial time. Maybe because he said a little while.

2. v. 19.

Jesus sensed what they were confused about and knew what they were asking one another, so Jesus answered the question before they asked.

3. v. 20.

The disciples will weep and mourn while he is removed from them, but the world will rejoice; unbelieving Jews, and not even the common people, but the chief priest, with scribes and elders mocked Him, insulted Him while on the cross.

4. v. 21.

Jesus gives parable about a woman's pain during child birth.

5. v.22.

After Jesus was crucified and resurrected, He appeared to his disciples, giving them peace, assurance, and knowledge that he had truly returned. He calmed the tears of his mother Mary. He showed himself to the disciples, breathing the Holy Spirit to them. And then he empowered them with undeniable knowledge of his resurrection when he let them touch his resurrected body. Thomas declared "My Lord and My God", although he didn't believe until he saw Jesus for himself (John 20:29). Jesus said, you have seen me, you believed, but blessed are those who have not seen, but yet believe.

6. vv. 23-24.

They will no longer ask Jesus for anything. In the past, they would ask for prayer or healings, Jesus would go to the Father on their behalf. When Jesus leaves this earth, Jesus will be the go-between. We will pray to the Father in Jesus' name, by the Holy Spirit.

7. v. 25.

Jesus now say he will talk plainly to the disciples so they can understand when he talk about the father. He would no longer speak figuratively. There are at least two ways of speaking figuratively:

a) **Simile**: compares things, use words, for example:

- Black as coal
- Busy as a bee

b) **Metaphor**: A figure of speech that describes an object or action in a way that isn't literally true, but helps explain an idea or make a comparison. For example,

- Bread of life
- Light of the world

8. vv. 26, 27 & 28.

In that day (when Jesus leave) you may go directly to the Father, because you love me and believe I came from the father. Now Jesus Is going back to the Father. In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the word was God (John 1).

9. vv. 29-30.

Now, the disciples say they believe Jesus came from God. All of a sudden their understanding is so clear. They are now convinced that Jesus came from the Father in heaven.

10. **vv. 31-32.**

Jesus said at last! But a time is coming when they will scatter because of Jesus . Peter denied him three times, at the cross, the disciples were no where to be found ,except John, the one who Jesus loved, along with the two Mary's and his mother. But Jesus said they left him alone, but yet he is not alone, for the Father is with him.

11. **v. 33.**

Jesus tried to give the disciples encouragement for what was going to happen to him. He told them to have peace, although they will have trials and tribulation, take heart, because he has overcome the world.

III. CONCLUSION

In a little while, Jesus knew all hell was going to break loose. He knew the disciples would dessert him in the hour of trial. Jesus met the injury of betrayal and disloyalty with love and trust in the disciples. Jesus calls each of us to take courage, because he has overcome the world. In the power of the holy spirit, it gives us the strength and courage we need to overcome adversity and to persevere in faith.