

## Jesus is Your Peace, Now and Forever

**Scripture:** John 16.16-33

<sup>16</sup> “A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” <sup>17</sup> So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” <sup>18</sup> So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.”<sup>19</sup> Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’?” <sup>20</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. <sup>21</sup> When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, 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.<sup>22</sup> So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. <sup>23</sup> In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

<sup>25</sup> “I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. <sup>26</sup> In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; <sup>27</sup> for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. <sup>28</sup> I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

<sup>29</sup> His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech!” <sup>30</sup> 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.” <sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe?” <sup>32</sup> Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. <sup>33</sup> I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

**Context:** Jesus is talking to His disciples the night prior to His crucifixion. He They will soon experience losing Him, seeing Him killed on the cross. Almost all of them will lose their life for Him, being killed because of their testimony for Jesus. He tells them how they can have peace.

**Three aspects of longing for peace:**

**You cannot find peace through your circumstances**

- The disciples wanted peace. They had experienced hardship in following Jesus as people opposed Him. Yet, their lives were about to get even more challenging.

- Jesus says at the end, “I have told you these things so that you will have peace.” So, we know that His words at the beginning of these verses were for the disciples to have peace.
- So instead of answering straight out Jesus said that they will weep and lament and gave an illustration of a woman giving birth. Sorrow that turns into joy. He says that when giving birth, she has sorrow, but when she is delivered of the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish. Ask any mom; they can probably remember the anguish. But the point is that the joy replaces the anguish. The anguish is no longer the center of her world and her thoughts; the baby is. The joy of seeing a new life that has come from her body is enough to put the anguish out of her attention and out of her mind.
- Jesus says that the disciples will experience the same thing: that they will experience anguish and pain and sorrow, but that it will turn into joy. And when they see Him again, they will have joy that no one will take from them, and that they will no longer have confusion or questions for Jesus.
- The disciples didn’t have peace, because they were not looking to Jesus for peace.
- We don’t know what the disciples were looking toward for peace, but we know that Jesus said these words so that they would have peace. He told them these things so that they would look to Him, and not to their circumstances.
- Consider: What are you looking to, to have peace? Are you looking to the end of the stay at home order? Are you looking for things to get back to how they were? Are you looking for economic recovery?
- Peace cannot be found in circumstances. Instead...

### **You can only find peace in Jesus**

- Jesus then begins to talk about life on earth: how the disciples need to ask the Father in the name of Jesus so that they will receive, and that their joy will be full.
- The disciples lived this out in the book, The Acts of the Apostles. We see their way of life, one that was focused not on themselves, but on God. They lived out great faith in the Lord; not seeking their own kingdom, but the kingdom of God. And their joy was full despite the struggles they faced.
- Jesus then says that He will not need to ask the Father on their behalf, but that the Father Himself loves them, because they loved Him and believed that He came from God the Father. Instead, they can ask the Father directly in Jesus’s name.
- He says that He came from the Father into the world, and is leaving the world and going to the Father. This I believe helps us to interpret the first part of the passage, that they will experience sorrow, not only at the crucifixion, but for the remainder of their life on earth, and then they will see Jesus again.
- This is where peace just jumps off the page! Here we are, human beings, living in this world, and this unfathomable thing happens: God Himself in the person of Jesus Christ comes to us! That He lived on the earth as a human being for over thirty years, that He died and rose again, and went back to heaven.

- This is a great comfort for us. There can be a perception that the God of the Old Testament was harsh and cruel, and that Jesus of the New Testament is loving and kind. But they are one in essence - both perfectly and infinitely loving, and both perfectly and infinitely just. Just read Hosea! God loves His people even when they are unfaithful! And know that Jesus is perfectly and infinitely just! Just read Revelation, how He comes to do justice on the earth.

Ephesians 2 says, “14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.”  
Jesus is our peace. He is the only place we can ever find peace.

Sink yourself deep into the love of God and the person of Jesus for peace. There you can have peace. Not only that, but...

### **You can have peace in Jesus even in tribulation**

- The disciples were glad for Jesus' explanation, and finally felt that they understood. They proclaimed with great faith that they knew that Jesus knew all things and came from God.
- Jesus tempered their enthusiasm. He let them know that they would be scattered and would leave Him alone. He said that they would have tribulation while they are in the world, but that they could still have peace in Him. And He told them that despite their tribulation, they should take heart because He has overcome the world.
- Jesus knew He had to go away even though the disciples wanted Him to stay. Without the persecution that began toward the beginning of Acts, the disciples may have just stayed in Jerusalem, and the Gospel would not be spread like it was.
- He told them they would have tribulation and they did. Persecutions, imprisonment, and death - the tradition of church history teaches us that all eleven of the disciples, except for John, died because of their faith in Jesus.
- Consider the peace that Peter had in Acts 4. He had healed the beggar in the name of Jesus, and the crowd was around him and John. The authorities came and arrested both of them. The next day they brought Peter before the council, including Caiaphas, the high priest who had conspired to put Jesus to death. Think of Peter, being in the custody of one of the people most responsible for putting Jesus to death. Do you think you would have peace? If you look to circumstances, no. If you look to Jesus, yes.
- Peter had peace despite his circumstances. He spoke boldly to the council, even saying that Jesus is the one you crucified, and he said that there is no other name under heaven given among men by which you must be saved.

- Despite being on trial and in jail, Peter had peace. He had peace by having his eyes set on Jesus - God Who had come to earth and was back in heaven again. He had peace by knowing that he was loved by God the Father. He had peace by that connection with God that was always available.

Find your peace in Jesus. It doesn't matter what is happening in your life right now! You can have peace in Him. Find your peace in Jesus. It doesn't matter what happens tomorrow! You can have peace in Him.

Keep your heart and mind fixed on Him. Keep on remembering the great love that God the Father has for you.

A simple test, one that is very convicting to me - do you think more of God the Father and the Lord Jesus, or about your circumstances? The answer to this question may help you determine where you are looking for peace. May He help us to find our peace in Him.

### **Jesus is your peace, now and forever**

I'd like to finish by reading part of Romans 8:

"1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

"16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

"28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

"31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"

"35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?"

"37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor

powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

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