



Sermons of the Savior

John 16:16-33

Lesson 21

The phrase *because I go to the Father* is mentioned twice in this section. The thought brought much sorrow to the disciples. The Eleven were certainly not experiencing much joy that night! But what Jesus said to them eventually made a difference in their lives, just as it can make a difference in our lives today. Tenderly and patiently, our Lord explained how His people can have joy in their lives. May you find a renewed appreciation of Him as you rejoice in His provision for joy in sorrow.

OBSERVATION: Read John 16:16-33

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *Father* and *Jesus*.

Key Words: *Father, Jesus, joy/rejoice/be of good cheer, loves(d), sorrow/anguish/weep/lament/tribulation, believe, and because*
3. Underline the following phrases: *you will not see Me, you will see Me, I go to the Father, and most assuredly*
4. The contrasting words *yet* and *but* are used several times in John 16:16-33. Mark each time these words are used. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.
5. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, is used in verses 18 and 22. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of the times and record the conclusion and what it is based upon.

CONSIDER THESE THINGS:

1. How do you feel when God has enabled you to overcome an adversity?
2. When have you enthusiastically anticipated someone's return or arrival?

Note: Rather than separate this homework by verses, we will be choosing several of the Key Words and studying them in the context of Jesus' message in John 16.

BECAUSE: (focus verses = 16,17,21,27,32)

1. Consider the word *because*. Record some examples of when people use this word.
2. Jesus made several statements in these verses and then gave a reason for what He said. Supply those reasons by filling in the blanks in the following verses:

A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because _____. (verse 16) Notice in verse 17, the disciples repeated what Jesus said in verse 16.

A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because _____. (verse 21)

for the Father Himself loves you, because _____ and _____. (verse 27)

Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because _____. (verse 32)

3. What comfort do you find in:
knowing that Jesus is gone, but is with the *Father*

the Father loves those who love Jesus and believe He came forth from God

like Jesus, you are never alone, because the Father is with you

4. God has given believers so many *because*s. Complete the following sentences as they apply to you personally. Challenge: Use scripture to support your answers.

I don't need to fear because:

I know I am going to heaven because:

I know God loves me because:

The word of God is valuable because:

Prayer changes things because:

Continue this list by adding a few of your own *because*s.

SORROW AND JOY: (focus verses = 20-24,33)

1. *Joy* and *sorrow* are contrasting words. Each time Jesus mentioned *sorrow*, He followed with a contrasting statement about *joy*. Consider this as you fill in the blanks from the following verses.

...A little while, and you will not see Me... Most assuredly, I say to you that you will _____ and _____, but the world will _____; and you will be _____, but _____. (verses 19,20)

A woman, when she is in labor, has _____ because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the _____, for _____
_____. (verse 21)

Therefore you now have _____; but I will see you again and _____
_____, and your _____. (verse 22)

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have _____; but be of _____, I _____
_____. (verse 33)

2. Why do you think the *world* rejoices at the seemingly lack of the presence of Jesus?
 - a. Praise God that we are never without His presence. The disciples spent three days with neither the presence of Jesus or the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. What do you think that was like for them?
 - b. Think for a moment what your life would be like without His presence. What are your thoughts?
3. In what ways is child birth a good example of how *sorrow* is turned to *joy*?
4. Describe the *joy* that Jesus gives you.
5. Refresh your memory, by recording from John 15:11, the reason Jesus gave for *speaking these things*.
 - a. What is the reason He gave in John 16:33?
 - 1.) How are *joy* and *peace* related?

b. Again, in John 16:33, Jesus mentions the sorrow (*tribulation*) we face in this life. What is to be our attitude?

1.) Why?

c. *Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.* (Acts 27:25) What are some things *God has told you* in His Word that help you to *take heart, have peace, and be of good cheer*?

BELIEVE: (focus verses = 27-31)

1. The word *believe* is a crucial word in Christianity. Just before Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He had a conversation with Martha. Read John 11:25-27 and record what Jesus told her about *believing*.

a. What is the Father's reaction to our *believing that Jesus came forth from God?* verse 27

2. Define the word *believe*. A Bible dictionary would be helpful and more accurate. One good resource is www.blueletterbible.org

a. What is the difference between *believing* in Jesus in your head and *believing* in Him in your heart?

REVIEW: Read John 16:16-33

1. What do you think Jesus wanted the disciples to understand from these verses?

2. How do you think you would have responded to Jesus' words had you been there with His disciples?
 - a. What is your response having studied these words this week?

3. How does the knowledge of Jesus' return give you *joy*?

4. How does the fact that Jesus has *overcome the world* help you to *be of good cheer*?

5. What is your favorite truth from this lesson?

*Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ,
who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age,
according to the will of our God and Father,
- Galatians 1:3,4*

Observation Worksheet

John 16:16-33

¹⁶ "A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father." ¹⁷ Then *some* of His disciples said among themselves, "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 go to the Father'?" ¹⁸ They said therefore, "What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is saying." ¹⁹ Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, "Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'?" ²⁰ Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. ²¹ A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²² Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. ²³ And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. ²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; ²⁷ for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. ²⁸ I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father." ²⁹ His disciples said to Him, "See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! ³⁰ Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God." ³¹ Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? ³² Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. ³³ These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."