

JOHN 16:16-33

REVIEW...

- **JOHN 13:1- 14:31 – THE THREE COMMANDS – THE THREE PROMISES...**
- **JOHN 15:1-27 – CONNECTED TO JESUS / FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD...**
 - Having left the upper room – Jesus continued to teach the disciples...
 - He used the example of a vineyard to show they must be connected to God...
 - Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own – so we can do nothing apart from Jesus!
 - Jesus no longer calls us servants – He calls us friends...
 - To be the friend of Jesus – means being an enemy of the world...
 - The world also hates us because we represent Jesus to the world!
- **JOHN 16:1-15 – TIME TO GROW UP...**
 - Jesus did not want the disciples to fall away – stumble at the hatred of the world...
 - They would be kicked out of church – even put to death for the sake of the Gospel...
 - Jesus had not told them before because He was still with them...
 - But He was going away – and it was for their good – so they would stand up and grow!
 - Jesus had much more He wanted to teach the disciples – but they could not handle it...
 - The Spirit would come and convict the world of sin / righteousness / and judgment...
 - And the Spirit would help them to grow so they could take the meat of the Word!

LIVING IN A TROUBLED WORLD... (3 THINGS)

- **1ST – ASK QUESTIONS... VS. 16-22**
 - In just a little while Jesus would leave – and the disciples would not see Him... vs. 16-18
 - Then just a little while after that – and they would see Jesus again...
 - This saying confused the disciples – they had no idea what Jesus was talking about...
 - They looked at each other – tried to figure it out – but none of them understood...
 - They wanted to ask Jesus – but were too embarrassed to say anything...
 - **If we do not understand something the Word of God says – ask...**
 - **I can remember as a child being confused by Psalm 23...**
 - **‘The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want’ – I thought why would I not want God...**
 - **If I had asked - I would have realized it means God provided so I had not wants!**
 - **There are always going to be things in the Bible / about God we do not understand...**
 - **If we have a hard time understanding the Word of God - ask questions!**
 - The disciples had already asked Jesus 4 times about where he was going...
 - Peter – **John 13:36** / Thomas - **John 14:5** / Philip - **John 14:8** / Judas – **John 14:22**
 - **If we have asked the question before – and still do not understand...**
 - **Never be embarrassed to ask again – it does not always make since the first time...**
 - **I remember being in school and having a teacher explain advanced math...**
 - **She got done teaching and asked if we understood – the truth was no – it was hard!**
 - **In the same way there are things in the Bible that are difficult for us to understand...**
 - **Like the rapture of the church / the gifts of the Holy Spirit...**
 - **We are not going to understand the first time we hear about them – ask again!**

- Jesus knew the disciples did not understand...
 - We cannot fool God – we can say we understand – but He knows our heart...
 - Better to be honest with the Lord – ask Him if there are doubts...
 - When we are honest with our doubts – the Lord can answer them...
 - He encourages us to look to Him – He has every answer we will ever need!
 - He reassures us – and the doubts/ fears / and uncertainty goes away!
- o Jesus explained – He was talking about the crucifixion... vs. 20-22
 - The disciples would weep and mourn when they saw Jesus die on the cross...
 - They would cry – but the world (*and satan*) would rejoice...
 - When Jesus was put on the cross - satan rejoiced - he thought he had won...
 - He had managed to crucify Christ - he had killed God...
 - What he did not understand - but would learn in 3 short days - it was his defeat!
 - It was there on the cross Jesus crushed satan / sin / and death!
 - **I Corinthians 15:55-57** - “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin... But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - The disciples’ grief would suddenly turn to joy – when they saw Jesus resurrected!
 - Like a woman who is giving birth to a child...
 - During the delivery there is a LOT of pain and suffering...
 - But the moment the child is delivered into the world – all the pain is forgotten...
 - Likewise when the disciples saw Jesus resurrected – forget all their sorrow...
 - They would be filled with Joy – and no one would be able to rob it from them!
 - God loves to take turn our mourning into praise...
 - **Isaiah 63:1** – “Beauty for ashes, joy instead of mourning, praise instead of despair.”
 - I cannot count the number of times I have been overwhelmed by my circumstances
 - Because I could not see Jesus – He was hidden behind the problems I was facing...
 - But the moment I looked up – it was like the sun breaking through a cloudy day...
 - Once we look at Jesus all our despair melts away in the Joy of the Lord!
- **2ND – ASK IN JESUS’ NAME... VS. 23-24**
 - o When the disciples saw Jesus resurrected – they would ask for nothing... vs. 23
 - The reason is because they would have the one thing that mattered most...
 - Most of the time we ask God for things – because we are not content...
 - Lord please give me money / Lord please give me a new cell phone...
 - Lord if you could please make my husband / wife – a better person...
 - Our focus is firmly fixed on the things of this earth – so we think we have needs...
 - But the reality is we do not need money or a cell phone...
 - We NEED a relationship with Jesus Christ – we NEED to be saved!
 - When we put our eyes on Jesus – all our ‘needs’ vanish...
 - Instead we will realize that God has given us EVERYTHING we need...
 - Because if we do not have it – it means we do not need it – it was just a want!
 - **Philippians 4:11-18** – “Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to get along happily with whatever I have... Indeed I have all and abound. I am full...”
 - o Whatever the disciples did ask for – in Jesus name – they would receive... vs. 24

- This is the 3rd time in Jesus final teaching Jesus He told the disciples to ask...
 - God does not stutter – He is not interested in wasting time or space in the Bible...
 - If God repeats Himself – it means what is being said is VERY important...
 - If you are reading your Bible – and something strikes you over and over...
 - There is a reason – its likely cause the Lord is trying to tell you something...
- In this case - Jesus was telling His Disciples – ASK!
 - The first time He told them in **John 14:13** – ask for the Glory of God...
 - Because if we are asking for the glory of God – we are not asking selfishly...
 - **James 4:3** - “When you ask, you don’t get it because your whole motive is wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.”
 - Jesus said again in **John 15:7** – ask so that we will bear good fruit...
 - Because as we are connected to Jesus – we know what God wants...
 - **Psalm 37:4** – “Delight yourself in God, He will give you the desires of your heart.”
 - Since the desire comes from God – we can be certain He will make it happen...
 - Giving us confidence to keep on ask Him / making us even more fruitful!
 - Now a 3rd time Jesus tells them to ask – using His name...
 - Have you ever wondered why we end our prayers with ‘in Jesus name Amen!’
 - If you walked into the mayor’s office – asked to cement the road to Lumangog...
 - The likely response you would get is – who are you...
 - But if you came in as a ‘friend of the mayor’ and asked – here comes the cement!
 - We do not come to God asking on our authority – who are we to ask God...
 - We come to the Father asking in Jesus’ name – we use His authority!
 - And when the disciples asked – they would receive so their joy would be full!
 - When I was a child – one of m favorite days of the year was Christmas...
 - I knew when I came out in the morning – my parents had gifts laid out for me...
 - Not because they had to – but because they loved me – and that gave me Joy!
 - God does not HAVE to answer our prayers – ‘in Jesus name’ is not a password...
 - God answers our prayers because He loves us – and that brings us Joy!
- 3RD – ASK FOR PEACE... VS. 25-33
 - Up till then – Jesus had often taught in parables... vs. 25-28
 - The parables were not meant to make spiritual truths more understandable...
 - They were meant to conceal or hide the truth from the multitudes...
 - The crowds did not understand the parables of Jesus - the ‘Parable of the sower’...
 - For all the multitudes knew Jesus was telling them how to be better farmers...
 - They completely missed the spiritual meaning behind the parables!
 - But Jesus would no longer use parables...
 - Instead He would use simple language - telling them all plainly about the Father...
 - I am always entertained by people’s efforts to describe God...
 - They create BIG churches – meant to show the power and majesty of God...
 - They use BIG words – hard to understand – to show the complexity of God...
 - But it turns out none of these are accurate – God looks like Jesus...
 - **Colossians 1:15** – “Christ is the visible image of the invisible God...”
 - The Father liked (*phileo*) the disciples – because they loved (*phileo*) Jesus...

- And because they believed that Jesus had come from the Father / heaven...
- God calls us to love one another – even love our enemies – **Luke 6:27**
- But just because I have to Love them – does not mean I have to like them...
- God also LOVED (*agape*) the disciples – as well as the whole world – **John 3:16**
- But what an amazing statement that God also liked (*phileo*) them!
- **The Father does not just Love us – He likes us because we believe in Jesus!**
- Jesus came from the Father – and He would return to the Father...
 - Jesus gives us access to the Father in heaven – our bridge between God and man...
 - **Hebrews 7:25** – “[Jesus] lives forever to plead with God on [our] behalf.”
 - **We are sinners – and have no hope of coming to God on our own!**
 - **Jesus goes before us – talks to God on our behalf – prays for us...**
 - **It is only through Jesus we have complete access – to our Holy and Perfect God!**
- o The disciples answered – ‘at last you are not talking in parables...’ vs. 29-32
 - Now they understood that Jesus knew EVERYTHING – and did not need ANYTHING...
 - But the truth was the disciples did not understand...
 - In fact in only a few hours they would all be VERY confused...
 - Judas would come with the temple guards – and Jesus would be arrested...
 - All of the disciples would scatter and run – each one going his own way!
 - They would leave Jesus all alone – but not alone because the Father was with Him!
 - The disciples were just telling Jesus what they thought He wanted to hear...
 - They still did not understand that Jesus had come to die for the sins of the world...
 - They did not understand that 3 days later He would rise from the grave...
 - And because they did not understand – they were going to be scattered...
 - **When we do not know the Word of God – when we do not understand Jesus...**
 - **We are not going to be able to stand for Jesus when the hard times come...**
 - **Because we do not understand why we have to go through hard times...**
- o Jesus was trying to tell them how to have peace... vs. 33
 - In the world they would have trials and sorrows – difficulties were a guarantee!
 - **This is not one of those promises we want to hand on our wall – ‘life will be hard!’**
 - **If life were perfect – we never had any problems – we might never look for heaven...**
 - **God allows life to be hard – so that we remember this is not our home!**
 - The disciples were to be encouraged – because Jesus had overcome the world!
 - Jesus triumphed over sin / death / and satan through the work of the cross...
 - **Colossians 2:15** - “Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”
 - **So lets ask questions – so we have joy understanding the Love God has for us...**
 - **Asking God in Jesus name – not for the things we need – but for His will to be done...**
 - **Able to have peace in the world – because we know the God who died to save it!**