

The Gospel of John

Lesson 11 John 16 - John 18:12

Jesus has spoken to the eleven apostles about the importance of staying attached to Him so they will be fruitful in their ministry. In addition, He has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to help them as they continue the work He has begun. Jesus does not shy away from His warning of persecution and struggle as he continues in the next passage to provide them with information about what is going to happen.

Warning - Outcast from the Synagogue

John ^{16:1} "These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. ² "They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. ³ "These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me. ⁴ "But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ "But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' ⁶ "But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

The strongest opposition for the apostles is the pressure from the Sanhedrin. Because they have associated themselves with Jesus and consider Him the Christ, they will be put out of the fellowship of Judaism and denied the privileges of the Synagogue. The eleven apostles are not the only ones to be expelled. Blind Bartimaeus was expelled when he stood before them and proclaimed the Lord's greatness, something his parents would not do. Many within the Sanhedrin believe in Jesus as the Christ, but they will not expose their positions to the group because they will lose their source of livelihood. With the pressure on the apostles in the near future, a great stumbling block lies in their way, but the Holy Spirit is going to be there to help them even through their appointed time of death. However, all this hope does not take away their sorrow as they try to carry on without Jesus in the coming days.

The Advantage of Jesus leaving

John ^{16:7} "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸ "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; ¹¹ and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. ¹² "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. ¹³ "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you. ¹⁵ "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose *it* to you. ¹⁶ "A little while, and you will no longer see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me."

The Holy Spirit has always been working in the hearts of these men, but not in the same way that He will help them when the Lord is gone and the Holy Spirit comes. Once Jesus has returned to the Father, the Holy Spirit will begin to convict the world of sin, specifically

the reality of sin in missing the mark, thereby wronging God. He will address the moral depravity that has been destroying man's relationship with God and begin to bring about the kind of righteousness found only in the Lord. The Holy Spirit is not man's advocate with the Father; that position is filled by the Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit is Christ's advocate to the lost world and that is the position the Holy Spirit will fill when Jesus sends Him to the world.

Misunderstanding by the Apostles

John 16:17 *Some of His disciples then said to one another, "What is this thing He is telling 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 So they were saying, "What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is talking about."

The apostles' questions to Jesus end and they begin to talk with each other, revealing their failure to understand that, where Jesus is going, "they will not see Him and then they will see Him." What Jesus means, they do not understand.

Jesus responds, lament and joy

John 16:19 Jesus knew that they wished to question Him, and He said to them, "Are you deliberating together about this, that I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me'?" ²⁰ "Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy." ²¹ "Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world."

The Lord is about to enter eternity through the portal of death. The apostles' hearts will be broken by this process. Their eyes will fill with tears and their souls will mourn as the world rejoices in the Lord's death. They will continue to grieve until the breaking of the dawn on Sunday morning when their immense pain from sorrow will be turned into the greatest joy imaginable. The closest experience on earth to their journey is the experience of a mother when she gives birth.

Charge to the apostles, ask the Father and He will give

John 16:22 "Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one *will* take your joy away from you." ²³ "In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you." ²⁴ "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full." ²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but will tell you plainly of the Father."

Again, the Lord promises to give to the eleven apostles what they seek, even after He has been glorified through death unto life. He will be with them as they continue His ministry. Yes, He has been speaking figuratively, but that language will change with His next words.

¹²⁷ Exodus 3:14

Charge to the apostles, a day when Jesus will not answer request

John 16:26 "In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf; ²⁷ for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father. ²⁸ "I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again and going to the Father."

The Lord promises the apostles that they can ask Him for anything in His name, but there is no promise that He will ask the Father to grant the request. Why is that the case? Jesus has promised to grant the petition to those who remain in the vine, drawing sustenance and strength from Him. If the apostles do not remain attached to Him, He will not ask that the request be granted. What do we have to do for the Lord to ask the Father to answer our prayers? Love is the key - His love for us and our love for Him.

The Father's love sent His Son to the world to provide a way for us to love Him in return. When the Son left the throne in heaven and took on the flesh of a child, the plan of salvation became visible in the eyes of everyone who lived in those days. Before that time, their only hope rested in the words that they had heard from the prophets of the past who spoke as the mouthpieces of the Father. But now, God the Son has come to earth as a living testimony to all that had been recorded. Even when He returns to heaven, His presence on earth to provide salvation can never be truly denied.

Apostles respond

John 16:29 His disciples said, "Lo, now You are speaking plainly and are not using a figure of speech. ³⁰ "Now we know that You know all things, and have no need for anyone to question You; by this we believe that You came from God."

The apostles respond as if they understand what Jesus is saying, but they really do not. However, they do understand that Jesus came from God. If they had truly understood the full meaning of the Lord's words, they would not have scattered as they did within hours of this conversation.

Do you believe?

John 16:31 Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? ³² "Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own *home*, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. ³³ "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Jesus knows what the Sanhedrin is about to do when they arrest Him.. He is speaking to them plainly so they will know when it happens that He is God. At this time, Jesus does not want them to be concerned about Him because the whole event has been planned from the beginning of time and the Father will not forsake Him at any time. Knowing the facts ahead of time should give them peace in their troubled lives.

Jesus' prayer

John 17:1 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, ² even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may

give eternal life. ³ "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. ⁶ "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷ "Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; ⁸ for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received *them* and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me. ⁹ "I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; ¹⁰ and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ "I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, *the name* which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. ¹² "While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.¹²⁸ ¹³ "But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. ¹⁴ "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*. ¹⁶ "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. ¹⁸ "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. ²⁰ "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they may all be one; even as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; ²³ I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. ²⁴ "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ "O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; ²⁶ and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

The Lord has not even reached the eastern gate to cross the Kidron Valley when He prays this prayer and all the apostles hear Him. Surely the Lord is remembering all the days of His earthly life as we would if we knew we were about to die, and yet, the Lord welcomes the hour and prays for His own glorification. By this time in the Lord's earthly life, He has faithfully accomplished everything He came to do; He will finish the course exactly as it was originally planned. He also declares His loyalty to His apostles, but He does not claim that they are perfect. These same men must hold on to the message of the Lord and proclaim it to the rest of the world. Their message will be one of love; the Lord gave His life for all the people in the world so they could believe in Him and have salvation. He prayed for the sinners; He died for the sinners. The apostles are sinners too, but in spite of all their

¹²⁸ Psalm 41:9; John 6:70

shortcomings, the Lord Himself is glorified in their presence because they are heirs to the message that will change the world and turn the hearts of the hurting and sinful to the only truth that can bring about eternal hope and peace. The apostles are the first to be set apart for the mission, but many others will follow because of their efforts prompted by the Lord's love for them and their love for Him.

Cross the Kidron valley

Matthew 26:36; Mark 14:32; Luke 22:39-40; John 18:1

John 18:1 When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden, in which He entered with His disciples.

The Kidron Valley runs north and south between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives where the Garden of Gethsemane is located. It is a ravine, but it is almost always dry except in times of heavy rain. However, even then it dries quickly once the rain has stopped falling. The apostles have been to the garden many times with the Lord and, most likely, it seems natural for them to go there that night. John does not tell us that Jesus prays in the garden as do the other gospel writers. Instead, John skips right to the arrest.

An event in the life of Jesus from the other Gospels not included in John's Gospel

EVENT	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE
Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane.	Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:40-46

Mob comes to arrest Jesus

Matthew 26:47; Mark 14:43; John 18:2-3

John 18:2 Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples. ³ Judas then, having received the *Roman* cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

Judas knows the habits of the Lord and it seems only natural for Him to go to the garden to pray that night; therefore, Judas leads a cohort of soldiers and officers of the Sanhedrin to arrest Him. We often miss the multitude of people that are involved with Jesus' arrest. Take the officers of the Sanhedrin out of the mix and there is still an enormous group with Judas that night because a cohort of soldiers is 1,000 men.

John does not disturb the story with the signal of Judas' kiss, but the other gospels tell of the event.

An event in the life of Jesus from the other Gospels not included in John's Gospel

EVENT	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE
Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss.	Matthew 26:48-50; Mark 14:44-45; Luke 22:47-48

Jesus answers the mob with authority

John 18:4-9

John 18:4 So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" ⁵ They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "I am *He*." And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. ⁶ So when He said to them, "I am *He*," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Therefore He again asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus the Nazarene." ⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am *He*; so if you seek Me,

let these go their way," ⁹ to fulfill the word which He spoke, "Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one."

The cohort of soldiers steps back when the Lord answers their question, a movement which causes the men to fall on themselves. But why do they step back? Is it by the supernatural power of God, or is it their shock that Jesus uses the words "I AM," meaning He is God. To the Roman cohort, His statement that He is God is a foreign thought because the expression of "I AM" is a Jewish concept not found in other religions. Therefore, it must be the supernatural power of God that causes them to step back.

Why do they need Judas to identify Jesus? Jesus is well-known among the Jewish leadership, but the Jews are not there; they have sent the Roman soldiers to arrest Him. Jesus has not had a run-in with the civil authorities so they are unable to identify the man they are to arrest.

Jesus is continuously looking after His flock, so He asks that His apostles be allowed to leave. Accordingly, they are allowed to scatter from the scene, but not yet.

Peter severs the ear of Malchus

Matthew 26:50-54; Mark 14:46-47; Luke 22:49-50; John 18:10-11

John ^{18:10} Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?"

Carrying a weapon on a feast day is unlawful but Peter has followed the Lord's instruction to bring a sword along. Peter misses the man's head and cuts off his ear; nevertheless, the Lord's healing of the ear allows Peter to go free so he can deny the Lord three times. John does not tell about the healing of the ear, but Luke includes it in his gospel.

An event in the life of Jesus from the other Gospels not included in John's Gospel

EVENT	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE
Jesus heals the high priest's servant	Luke 22:51

Jesus is arrested. The disciples flee.

Matthew 26:55-56; Mark 14:48-52; Luke 22:52-54; John 18:12

John ^{18:12} So the Roman cohort and the commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him ...

Even with the miracle, the cohort has a job to do; it must arrest Jesus and take Him to the high priest. Without reason to do so, the soldiers tie His hands and take Him back across the Kidron Valley to the house of Annas, the retired high priest.