

“HE DWELT AMONG US”

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
LESSON 17
Chapter 16

“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 depart, I will send Him to you.” John 16:7

In our last lesson, we read in **John 15:18-25** that Jesus openly warned His disciples that persecution would come. Remember, He knew that in just a few hours soldiers would come and take Him, beat and mock Him and then hang Him on a cruel cross. He used these last few hours before His departure to warn them and thus prepare them for what lay ahead.

DAY #1 *Pray before you start your lesson each day.*

Read **John 16:1-15**. Read through again, recording the important facts. Remember, you may want to state some facts by grouping several verses together. In seven words or less, state the main theme or topic. Give a title to this section.

Theme:

Title:

DAYS #2 and #3

- 1) Jesus warned “If the world hates you, you will know that it hated Me before it hated you.” **John 15:18**
The term “*the world*” is used in scripture several different ways. Sometimes it refers to the physical world created by God. Other times it refers to the world of humanity (“for God so loved the world” **John 3:16**). But in **John 16**, *the world* refers to the world system which is opposed to and in rebellion to God. Review **John 15:18-25** along with **John 16:1-4**. What stands out to you as important to remember and why?

- 2) How can the knowledge that we should expect persecution help us to avoid stumbling when it comes into our lives (**John 16:1**)?

- 3) We as Christians live in this present world, but we are not to be influenced by the standards we see practiced around us. What do you learn from the following scriptures about how we are to live in relation to the “*world system*?” How can you apply them to your own life?
 - A. **I John 2:15-17** *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”*

 - B. **Romans 12:2** *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

 - C. **Philippians 3:13-14** *“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”*

- 4) In **John 16:2-3**, we learn that those who attack God’s work and people sometimes feel they are doing God a service.
 - A. What does Jesus have to say about these people in **verse 3**?

 - B. There was a man named Saul who was zealous for God but didn’t know Him. From **Acts 8:3** and **Acts 9:1-20** describe what impresses you about what happened to this man who persecuted the church.

5) What comfort and encouragement do you find in **Matthew 5:10-12**? Along with the comfort, explain what instruction you see on how we as Christians are to respond to persecution?

A. Comfort and Encouragement:

B. Instruction:

DAY #4 Read John 16:5-15 THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- 1) Jesus' timing is always perfect. He chose to introduce to His disciples the ministry of the Holy Spirit after He had informed them about troubles to come. Review day #6, question 3 of last week's lesson and explain how the Holy Spirit's in-filling power can make a difference in the effect that persecution will have on us.

- 2) We may think that it would have been easier to serve the Lord if we had actually lived during the time that Jesus was on the earth physically. How wonderful it would have been to walk by His side and listen to Him teach. But in **John 16:7**, Jesus says there is an advantage for Him to go away and no longer physically be with us. Explain what He meant and why you think this is true.

- 3) In **John 16:8-11**, we learn that the Holy Spirit has an additional ministry to fulfill in the world. He is the 'advocate' or helper of those who believe in Jesus. But in relation to the unbelieving, godless world, He acts as counsel for the prosecution. In **verse 9**, we discover the primary sin that the Spirit desires to convict the world of. What is it and why is it the greatest sin of all?

- 4) After reading **John 16:12-15**, describe three additional functions that the Spirit will fulfill in the life of the believer. Also share how these functions can benefit you personally.
 - A.

 - B.

 - C.

DAY #5 Read John 16:16-33

Read through again and record the important facts. State in seven words or less what you see as the main theme. State a brief title.

Theme:

Title:

DAY #6 SORROW TURNED TO JOY

1) Hope is a very important part of life. Without hope it is very difficult to endure the challenging times.

A. What is taught in **John 16:16-22** about the promise that joy would follow sorrow?

B. **Isaiah 61:1-3** is a prophecy of the coming of Christ. *“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”* How does this minister and encourage you personally? How can you apply this concept to a hard situation in your life now?

*Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Psalm 51:12*

Read **John 16:23-27**

- 2) In last week's lesson, we learned that 'abiding in Jesus' is an important condition for answered prayer. Our deep dependent relationship with Him will affect the things that we desire and therefore ask for in prayer. When we are communing daily and close to the Savior, we start to desire the same things that He desires. Some people use **John 16:23-24** as a sure fire formula for successful prayers, no matter what the request. They feel that as long as they ask 'in Jesus' name they can ask for riches, fame or perfect health and God is required to give it.
- A. What do you think Jesus really meant when He instructed us to pray in the name (authority) of Jesus?
- B. Reviewing again the context in which this promise is made, what kind of requests will we be making of the Father?
- C. Pause and pray now, making requests that reflect what the Lord has spoken to your heart about in this lesson. Pray to your Father who loves you in the name of Jesus our Lord.

*“Prayer is not a monologue, but a dialogue;
God’s voice in response to mine is its most
essential part. Listening to God’s voice is the
secret of the assurance that He will listen to mine.”*
Andrew Murray

- 3) Often times we neglect the great privilege that we have to go before God's throne to ask for the help for ourselves and others. "Ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be full." Share the encouragement you receive and additional things you learn about prayer as you ponder the following:
- A. **Matthew 6:6** "“But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”"
- B. **Luke 11:9-13** "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

- C. **Ephesians 3:20** “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,”
- 4) Read **John 16:26-27**. How do you think the knowledge that the Father loves us should affect your prayers?
- 5) Jesus knew that in just a few hours His friends would desert Him in His greatest time of need. What do you learn from **John 16:32** that will help when you feel alone?
- 6) Our defeats in this world are temporary. It has been said that “we realize the strength of the anchor when we feel the stress of the storm.” Share how Jesus’ comforting words in **verse 33** and in this entire chapter give you courage and hope that our victory is sure.

“Be of good cheer I have overcome the world.” John 16:33