



Chapter 16

Jesus the Encourager and the Comforter

Introduction:

- Jesus makes His followers aware of the coming persecution, including rejection, suffering, and even martyrdom.
- Jesus tells them to hold on: even in trouble they will have His peace, and that peace is eternal.
- Opposition will come — but the Helper will come.

The Coming Persecution

- Christians are still persecuted physically and even mentally around the world

Why should Christians not be surprised when faithfulness to Christ brings opposition?

- We must be “ready always to give an answer” (1 Peter 3:15). How should we respond when unbelievers challenge or attack us because of our faith?

The ministry of the Spirit

- “And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning **sin** and **righteousness** and **judgment**” (John 16:8-11).
- What does Jesus mean by the Spirit’s work of conviction?
- He will guide you in all Truth (16:13)
- He will glorify Me (16:13-15)

Sorrow Will Turn to Joy

- ‘A little while and you will not see me’? (16:16-18)
- ‘Your sorrow will turn into joy (19-20)
On Friday: sorrow.
On Sunday: joy.
- The cross appeared to be a catastrophic defeat. The resurrection revealed victory.
- Let there be joy – v.24, 33

Direct Line to God

- 'Whatever you ask the Father in my name, He will give it to you' ... Ask, and you will receive ... (16:23-24)
- What does it mean to pray in Jesus' name, according to his will and character?
- The Father Himself loves those who love the Son.

Jesus prepares His followers for a sudden test

- '... you will be scattered, each to his own ...' (16:31-32)
- 'In the world you will have tribulation; but take heart, I have overcome the world' (16:33)
- We are overcomers because Jesus has first overcome for us.

Questions

1. Which of the three promises speaks most strongly to you today – and why?
2. Why can people who believe in Jesus expect to be persecuted?
3. What will the Helper do for unbelievers?
4. What will the Holy Spirit do for believers?
5. Why can Jesus' followers be sure of having peace?