

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 25TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

STUMBLING (JOHN 16:1-4) TOLD YOU THESE THINGS...

Jesus is about to finish His last teaching before His betrayal. It has been an information overload for His disciples. But remember that every word Jesus says is directly from the Father and has a specific purpose.

- **As we read God's Word, we must take the time necessary to let it serve its purpose in us. It's here for a reason.**

PERSECUTION AND PERSEVERANCE

The disciples may not understand all that Jesus is telling them, but they will remember and it will strengthen them at the right time. They will be excommunicated and even killed for sharing the truth with a lost world.

- **It will be hard to live for Christ. If we are IN Christ, then Christ is IN us, and we don't do it alone.**

COUNSELOR (JOHN 16:5-15) GOING AWAY

Jesus has been telling His disciples that He is going away, and they have asked where and if they could go with Him. But they didn't ask Him this time. They were silenced in sorrow. Their cups were half empty.

- **When we only see the hard part and feel alone, Jesus reminds us our glasses are half full, and He will fill them again.**

FOR YOUR BENEFIT...

They had only known Jesus' presence, and He had protected them from the world. Now, He was getting ready to send them into the world and they would need Him more than ever.

- **Soon, these men would share the gospel with a lost world. The Holy Spirit would prepare the world to hear it.**

SIN, RIGHTEOUSNESS, JUDGMENT

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of the sin of unbelief, the ineffectiveness of self-righteousness, and the error of judgment.

- **These convictions aren't created by the church. They come from our God, who seeks to save the lost. The first step to being set free is always an admission of guilt.**

SPIRIT OF TRUTH

Jesus had more to say, but they were not ready. When the Spirit of Truth came, He would continue to teach the disciples and even show them the future (Revelation).

- **Knowing that the Holy Spirit is speaking before us, to us, and through us, we should live confidently in Him and His message.**

JOY (JOHN 16:16-24) IN A LITTLE WHILE

Jesus reveals that He will leave and come back. The disciples don't understand (again) and begin to talk among themselves, about Jesus. Jesus was IN THE ROOM.

- **Sometimes, we spend too much time discussing a problem when Jesus has the solution. He is STILL IN THE ROOM.**

WEEP AND MOURN

He was in the room at that moment, but He knew that He was about to be betrayed, judged, and crucified. These men who had left everything to follow Jesus would be alone, without a leader, and without hope.

- Then Jesus says that the very thing that has caused their sorrow will turn to joy.

HOW?

TRANSFORMATION

His crucifixion would end their hopes, but it would be their (our) only hope for a restored relationship with God and a joy that no one could take away from them.

- **Transformation brings the joy of relationship, the joy of understanding, and the joy of effective prayer.**

VICTORY (JOHN 16:25-33) IN JESUS' NAME

Jesus says they will pray in His name, directly to the Father, and they will receive.

- **Praying in Jesus' name is not a mantra or tagline. It means doing something that Jesus commanded to be done. It means that our prayers will align with His mission. Prayer should establish His Kingdom, not advance our own.**

"DO YOU NOW BELIEVE?"

The disciples were sure they finally understood...everything. They did not.

- **Just about the time that WE think that WE have it all figured out, WE understand everything, WE fall. Strength isn't standing alone. The only way we stay strong is to stay close to Christ.**

SUFFERING AND PEACE

After Jesus reminds the disciples that they have access to the Father, He says that each one will leave His side, but He will still have the Father with Him.

- **The power of God isn't dependent on us. It doesn't fail just because we do. Jesus is the one who conquered death. Our peace and courage are in HIM.**

STRONG

- Living for Christ is counter-cultural.
- **Our position in our community should reflect our position in Christ.**
- **As followers of Christ, we should EXPECT persecution. As the culture pushes against Christ, it will push against us. This is our opportunity to have a Christ-like response!**

JOYFUL

- Persecution and failure can make us grieve.
- **God has sent His Holy Spirit to prepare our community for His message.**
- **We may think our efforts are small, our failures have destroyed our effectiveness, or our misunderstanding defeated our mission. But the Spirit of Truth is in the transformation business. It's HIS MISSION!**

COURAGEOUS

- We will make mistakes.
- **The world will see us and try to discourage and defeat us.**
- **As they wait for our response, will we be courageous and admit our mistakes, point to OUR need for a Savior and share what He has done to free us from our sin, guilt, and shame?**