

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE STUDY
"The Gospel of John"
Pastor Jim Otte
2019-2020

Lesson 62: John 16:12-20 "Live in the Truth not 'Your' truth"

¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When ^(W)the Spirit of truth comes, ^(X)he will ^(Y)guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but ^(Z)whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will ^(AA)glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ ^(AB)All that the Father has is mine; ^(AC)therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

- a. "but you cannot bear them now." – Jesus knows their limits of understanding. Because they are still in "sorrow," they aren't ready to hear or see through the lens of His resurrection (joy).
- b. "When the Spirit of truth comes" – at Pentecost... the Spirit will fill them with courage to overcome their spiritual fear to bear public witness of Jesus' resurrection, in the face of persecution.
- a. "guide you into all the truth" – the foundation for bearing witness, in the Spirit, is with "all the truth." This is an increasingly difficult challenge, as we live in a "post-truth" era. The world is promoting a dismissive attitude toward "truth."
 - i. There is no absolute truth; truth is relative to your experience. Truth is subservient to your feelings.
 - ii. If you feel something is truth, and you experience it, it must be truth.
 - iii. To "live your truth" is the ultimate goal and source of joy.
 - iv. Because there is no one, trustworthy, spiritual truth, wise people should glean positive "truths" from diverse sources: Christianity, New Ageism, Eastern Religions, internet opinion, personal experience, etc. to create own spiritual traditions.

1. **Worth noting is this practice in Generation Z (born after 1996) (Pew Research Center)**

- a. 33% report no religious affiliation
- b. Church attendance is unimportant (Barna).
- c. Secular appreciation for rituals: celebrate holidays as cultural events, but don't attend services.
- d. Mostly not raised in a home, which practiced church attendance, Bible Study, and living a consistent faith.
- e. Christianity is part of the oppressive system against marginalized peoples.
- f. See 'organized religion' as intolerant and abusive, because of the Bible's injunctions against sin.

- g. Strive in life to fight for a culture of choice, freedom of expression, and the celebration of fluidity, i.e. gender, racial justice, diversity, LGBTQ+ rights, and saving the planet..
- h. Most attracted to faiths, which teach faith as a community of caring adults. "Caring" is defined as non-judgmental embracing, tolerance, setting no behavioral boundaries, encouraging people to "live their own truth."
- v. Compassionate feelings for others is the litmus test for the validity of truth (How one "feels" about the truth is what determines the validity of it and the willingness to believe it).
- vi. How can we respond, as followers of Jesus?
 1. Recognize we aren't the only 'voice' in their minds: friends, social media, internet, science, the news, peers, school, etc. is how people get their information.
 2. Share what you know: How following Jesus gives you hope, especially in life's struggles.
 3. Respond to objections: "I can see how you might feel that way, and I've struggled with -----, too."
 4. Redirect "whataboutisms," which can distract the conversations into unanswerable situations, etc.
 5. Link a Bible story or parable to the topic at hand.
 6. Don't let your compassion water down God's Truth.
 7. Stay humble; don't get preachy; this is a marathon, not a sprint!

- b. **"will not speak on His own authority"** – the Helper speaks through the Word, the origins of which comes from God the Father.
- c. **"declare to you things that are to come"** – future events, both in plain literal language, as well as figurative imagery.
- d. **"glorify Me"** – the ultimate purpose, of what the Spirit says, is to make it all about Jesus – as the Christian's life is to be!
- e. **"declare it to you."** – so that, in declaring it to you, you can share it with the world!

¹⁶ (AD) "A little while, and you will see me no longer; and (AE) again a little while, and you will see me." ¹⁷ So (AF) some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, (AG) 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and, (AH) 'because I am going to the Father'?" ¹⁸ So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? (AI) We do not know what he is talking about."

- a. "a little while" – Jesus' disciples were confused! Not the first time!

¹⁹ (AJ) Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, '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, ^(AK)you will weep and lament, but ^(AL)the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but ^(AM)your sorrow will turn into joy.

a. "you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice." – How the world would react to Jesus' death – is with rejoicing!

b. "your sorrow will turn to joy." – Christians live in the reality of the resurrection of the dead. This gives joy, even in the midst of hardship and death. Jesus' resurrection is the new lens through which joy flows to a believer! The resurrection is what gives the new perspective: death happens; but death is not the final end!

a. **1 Corinthians 15:53-58.** ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."^[a]

⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"^[b]

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

b. **Romans 8:18.** I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

c. This reminds us, that when we address tragedies, we should not only offer accurate information, but also the faithful worldview about it, too.

a. Help people see that thriving through tragedy is dependent on "**hope**," not "optimism." ("The Stockdale Paradox" – POW during war – Tim Elmore)

i. **Optimism** – a superficial wish that the hardship will be over "soon," and everything will return to the "way it was."

ii. **Hope** – facing the harsh realities of how things are, while never letting go of the belief that God:

1. Knows

2. Is in charge, and

3. Calls us to be His own, in the midst of the hardships, and as His own, we are His beloved.

b. Always end your conversations, about the tragedies, with: "God knows; He's in charge; and He calls us to be His own – His beloved."