

Bible Study – John 16
(Sunday April 5th, 2020)

First, read John 16:25-33. Reflect on this passage. What does it mean to you?
What points particularly strike you? What elements of it puzzle you?

1. This passage forms part of what is often called the “Farewell Discourse” in John’s Gospel, in chapters 14-17. To understand why, look back at what immediately precedes this, at the end of chapter 13 (verses 36-38).
 - a. Where was Jesus going?
 - b. What is Peter’s immediate response? What do you know about how he *actually* responded, when the time came?
 - c. Look at 14:1. What is Jesus’ concern about how the disciples will respond to what is coming? And what is Jesus’ response?
2. Back in chapter 16 now, in verse 25 Jesus speaks of an “hour” that is coming when he will no longer speak in figures of speech, but plainly.
 - a. What do you think he means by this?
 - b. What hour do you think he is speaking of?
3. In verse 32 he again speaks of an “hour,” when they will be scattered and will leave him.
 - a. What hour is he talking about here?
 - b. Do you think this is the same hour as in verse 25?
4. Still in verse 32, Jesus says that even in that hour, he will not be alone because the Father is with him.
 - a. What does that tell us about the relationship between the Father and the Son?
 - b. How do you think this fits with what Jesus says on the cross, as recorded in both Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34?
 - c. In those words on the cross, Jesus is quoting Psalm 22, verse 1. Often when Jesus quotes from the Old Testament, it’s not just those few words that are important, but the context they come from. Have a look at Psalm 22, and particularly note what comes after verse 1, in verses 3-5. What light does this shed on Jesus’ thinking at this moment?
5. In verse 33, Jesus tells his disciples two key things. They will have trouble (“tribulation”) in this world. And they can have peace in the midst of it.
 - a. Why can we expect trouble in this world? And why doesn’t God preserve us from it? [some relevant verses are Matthew 16:24; 24:9; 2 Timothy 2:3; Philippians 1:29; 1 Peter 5:10]
 - b. What would you say to someone who [quoting such passages as Jeremiah 29:11; Malachi 3:10; John 10:10; Philippians 4:19; and 3 John 1:2] suggests that suffering is not a part of God’s plan for us, but rather that he wants us to prosper and be happy?
 - c. What does Jesus promise he will give us in our times of tribulation?
 - d. On what truth is this promised based?
6. How does what we read in this passage apply to the current situation we find ourselves in? How can we pray, based on this passage?