

Do you believe?

This last teaching of Jesus can appear to be laboring certain points and repetitive. What **is** it that Jesus wants his immediate disciples to know?

John is writing to people 60 years later. What **is** it that he wants them to know? Why is he writing about the pre-crucifixion confusion of the disciples? What is it saying to us?

There is an old game of "What's the time Mr Wolf?" Only the wolf knows when dinner time is.

- a) What's the time Mr Wolf? In God's timetable for salvation what time is it?
- b) Dinner time? What do we expect after God's timetable comes to a climax?

What time is it in God's timetable for his creation?

Here is an outline from the night before Jesus' death until now.

- a) Confusion The disciples are in a state of confusion during this discussion (Jn 16:16)
 - That will be followed by Jesus' death.
- b) Jesus' death - Glorification (Jn 16:20-23) – We know this is Jesus' glorification, but the disciples are confused because they think Jesus (the Christ) was defeated. ²⁰***Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice;*** (Jn 16:20)
I have overcome the world. (Jn 16:33)

The disciples may think they understand but they will not when it comes to the test

³¹ *Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe?"* ³² ***The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, every man to his home, and will leave me alone; yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.***

- Next in God's timetable is the resurrection
- c) Vindication – Jesus' resurrection – the disciples still do not get it.
 - Finally Jesus is exalted
- d) Exaltation – Jesus' ascension to the right hand of the Father

²⁸ ***I came from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father.*** (John 16:26-28)

- THEN a promised clarity
- e) NON confusion
²⁵ ***"I have said this to you in figures; the hour is coming when I shall no longer speak to you in figures but tell you plainly of the Father.*** (John 16:25)

²² ***So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you*** (John 16:22)

If Jesus is the message and he is going, then how is Jesus to be known/seen after his departure.

When did or will Jesus stop speaking in figures?

The disciples will know that when the answer to the riddle occurs. They will rejoice!

The riddle is "what is a little while" after which you will see me?? (Jn 16:17-19). Is the answer:

- a) Until the resurrection
- b) Until the second coming
- c) Until the coming of the paraclete
 - a. The answer seems to be that it is Pentecost. With the coming of "ANOTHER counsellor" (Jn 14:16) who "repeats what he hears from Jesus" (cf Jn 16:15) the disciples and their successors will know what it is all about.
 - b. From our perspective, post Pentecost, only Jesus' return is left.

This means the benefits of a new age have kicked in

Each of Jesus' statements to the disciples has long term implications.

1. The world is overcome – they are right, they are at peace with the winning side.

³³ *I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*" (Jn 16:33)

2. Jesus has 'seen' us again – we have joy

²² *So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.* ²³ *In that day you will ask nothing of me* (Jn 16:22)

a. Now we can ask in Jesus' name

Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you in my name. ²⁴ *Hitherto you have asked nothing in my name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.* (Jn 16:23,24)

b. The Father loves us directly not via an intermediary

²⁷ *for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from the Father.* (Jn 16:27)

Knowledge

²⁵ *"I have said this to you in figures; the hour is coming when I shall no longer speak to you in figures but tell you plainly of the Father.* (Jn 16:25)

This does not mean the influence of the world has ceased

- There was confusion in the early church. It took 300 vigorous years before the church agreed on our creeds. Confusion??
- In my life various issues have been "hot topics" – Infant Baptism, the work of the Holy Spirit in the church, women's ministry etc. Confusion??

Jesus is not denying the effects of living in a fallen world. The "benefits" are bigger.

1. What is being offered is a transformed relationship.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit have an eternal unity.

That unity involves love and obedience.

We get the benefits as God's love is extended to his creation.

Jesus' love (for us) and his obedience (to the Father – with whom he is one) bring about the possibility of being included in the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are unified in will. They want us to have joy.

2. What we get is relationship with God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

We are to love and obey.

We have an unmediated relationship with the Godhead.

The relationship is direct.

We can know Jesus.

And live in his truth.

you can ask for whatever you will, directly.

Knowing and understanding Jesus – means you have joy.

Joy is not a fleeting emotion.

BUT a deep sense of knowing God and being known by him.

¹¹ *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.* (Jn 15:10,11)