

Do you believe?

Question 1

- a) What is the riddle that this section begins with? (Jn 16:16) What are the questions this raises in the disciples' minds?
 - a. Jn 16:17
 - b. Jn 16:18There are two points of time being described by Jesus. (Jn 16:19)
 - i. When they will not see him.
 - ii. When they will see him.
 - a. What event is between these two points of time? (Jn 16:10;17c)
 - b. What does it mean to "see" Jesus
 - i. At the first point of time?
 - ii. At the second point of time?
 1. If it's a physical seeing, then what 'soon to happen' events fill the bill?
 2. If it's about understanding, then when does that happen? When will the disciples stopped being confused about who Jesus is?
- b) This long and convoluted series of questions is meant to arrive at Pentecost. It is then that the disciples see Jesus.
 1. How does Pentecost speak of the unity of purpose of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? (cf Acts 2:29-36)
 2. How important is Pentecost in God's plan?

Question 2

- a) How does Jesus describe the disciple's immediate future? (Jn 16:20-21) What is the point of the woman in travail (childbirth) illustration?
- b) After the sorrow there is joy. Joy is mentioned 4 times in Jn 16:20-24. How do these verses expand our understanding of Christian joy?
 - a. by saying sorrow precedes joy? (20)
 - b. by comparing to the joy after a child is born? (21)
 - c. by telling us that it cannot be taken away? (22)
 - d. by linking it to answered prayer? (24)
- c) The world rejoices in verse 20. Why did the world rejoice? How long did it last for? Did it have the same confusion as the disciples?

Question 3

The "hour is coming" (Jn 16:25). Read Jn 2:4 . When Jesus was asked to turn water into wine why was he reluctant? Now the hour is near.

- a) What is associated with the hour?
 - a. V25
 - b. V26
- b) What does this imply about the relationship between Jesus and his Father? How does this affect our relationship to the Father and Son?

The disciples think that they can now understand Jesus. (Jn 16:29). They believe that he came from God and that he is going to God. (Jn 16:30).

- c) Does Jesus believe that they have arrived at the final point of understanding? (Jn 16:31,32) Why can't they understand? What's missing? (Note: they say he "came from God" – true but is it enough?)

Question 4

In John 16:33 Jesus says why he has had this long and confusing conversation with them. What is the source of peace in the life of the disciples?

Question 5

Christians were reading this Gospel for the first time about 60 years later. How were Jesus' words going to be helpful to them at that time?

- a) Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-3:4. The early church faced many issues and on occasions strayed a long way from the teaching that Jesus had given the disciples. What could be expected of the Holy Spirit's coming and the difference it had made to the life of believers in reality?
 - i. Are:
 - 1. love and obedience
 - 2. joy
 - 3. peace
 - 4. "seeing" Jesus
 - 5. meaningful prayer
 - the daily experience of believers?
- b) Do we need occasional encouragement/kicks in the pants from passages such as this one in John and 1 Corinthians 2?