

Standing By His side

John 16:16-33

INTRODUCTION:

I want you to listen to this message this morning with the words that were spoken by our Lord Jesus himself.

Our Lord always spoke direct to people and said it as it was. The truth was never sheltered and never distorted.

These were words that even today we struggle with, and sometimes we find hard to believe.

But yet it was the words of comfort that our Lord spoke, he knew that they needed to come to a point of understanding of who God really is, and for them to understand that he came to them and to us so that we might believe also.

- Picture yourself for a moment being there on that day that the disciples were asking him all those questions.

They found it hard to believe and could not understand, and so questioned the Lord several times after he had witnessed to them of what was to take place.

Yet the disciples could not understand at first. (Maybe some did.)

But later we see our Lord asking them that same question do you believe?

1. What will your answer be? Would it be that of the disciples or would it be without question of that I do believe Lord?
2. It is the difficulty of life itself that we face that makes us waver.
3. This difficulty we face in life is because we see our life as living only in this world now, and can't see our self in the life after here.
4. It is only when we really come to see that our life is not only here, but our true life is to be with our Lord in his kingdom that we can truly believe.

So today on this Lords day, we take the time to dwell on His word, to try to understand what His will is for our lives.

It is not that we need to find out the Lords will for other people's lives, but it is our Lords will that **WE** find out what His will is for **OUR** own lives.

1. What would be the point if we just studied scripture to see how God acted upon other people's lives all through scripture, but never once turning to the point of seeing what Gods will is for our lives.
2. This would merely convert the pages of the bible to a history lesson without us being involved and it would not convict us in any way to turn to the Lord from our sin.

- The bible was written for our admonition which means it was written that "we might know" and come to the saving knowledge and grace of our Lord.

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our **admonition**, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

- Let's not view the bible as a history lesson, but let us know the Word of God as a lesson to change our wicked ways to his saving mercy.

John 16:16-33

- Jesus had just finished telling his disciples that it was time for him to return to his father in verse v5.

⁵ But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou?

- He had explained to them the necessity for him to return to his father in heaven.

⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

- This was a time that the disciples became very sorrowful to see their new found king seemingly deserting them.
1. The disciples could not understand the significance of what the Lord had just told them. For that reason perhaps.....
 2. We see the Lord holding off on other disclosures that he wanted to make to them but because they were not ready to accept it or to be able to understand the greater significance of it he held back what he wanted to say.

¹² I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

- The Lord had decided for them to wait for the comforter to come who would then be able to guide and show the disciples the things of the Lord more clearly.

¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

1. So here we see the disciples again in turmoil. Not understanding the significance of the occasion and what was yet to come.
2. It left them speechless, but the Lord knew what they had in mind, and therefore the Lord told them to wait for the comforter to come. (Holy Spirit).

- The Lord told them that it was necessary for him to go so that the Holy Spirit would come and remain in His place for the following reasons we see in our text beginning in John 16 verse 8 to verse 11.

⁸ **And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:**

⁹ **Of sin,** because they believe not on me;

¹⁰ **Of righteousness,** because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

¹¹ **Of judgment,** because the prince of this world is judged.

- Even up to this point the disciples were still asking many questions and that is where we pick up the message today in John 16 verse 16.

John 16:16

¹⁶ **A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.**

1. Here the Lord was referring to his death, which was now only a few hours away, and his resurrection would be three days later.
2. But they still did not understand the significance.
3. The disciples had been discussing it amongst themselves, not daring to ask the meaning of it all.
4. Sometimes we have questions but are too embarrassed or too proud to ask the meaning of it all in case we show our ignorance to others.

¹⁷ **Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father?**

¹⁸ **They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith.**

¹⁹ **Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me?**

5. It does not matter whether we ask the Lord about something or not he is aware of it anyway. Nothing can be kept back from the Lord.

In verse 20 the Lord sums it all up for the disciples.

²⁰ **Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.**

1. He reminds them that as they would weep and become sorrowful at his departure, the world would rejoice as they see him put to death.

2. In contrast the values of the world are not the values of God.
3. The world hates righteousness but embraces evil.
4. But upon the resurrection of the Lord, all those that sorrow in the Lord, their sorrow will be turned to joy.
5. So as Christians we need to remember that this life is not for us. This world is not our home, we just passing through.

The Lord uses a proverb to answer the disciples questions.

²¹ A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.

²² And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

1. Like a woman who is baring a child in pain, when the hour for her is come there is nothing she can do about it, but just go through it and bare it, knowing that after the birth of a great son, the pain of giving birth is soon overcome by the glorious outcome of having a child in the world.
2. So to it is for a season when we bare the pain of this world, it soon to will come to an end whereupon we shall see our glorious Lord again.
3. In verse 22 the Lord was speaking of his resurrection in the three days to come after his crucifixion.

In the O.T. the believer did not have right of access to God direct. He had to go through the high priest in the holy of holies.

So here now after the resurrection of Christ our Lord just like the disciples they would; and we have direct access to God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 10:19-23

¹⁹ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

²⁰ By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

²¹ And having an high priest over the house of God;

²² Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

²³ Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

1. The veil we now enter through is Jesus Christ our Lord.
2. The veil is now our high priest.

²³ And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

4. When we come to ask the Lord he directs us to the Father.
5. For anything in that day which would be the day of His resurrection when he has paid for our sin, and cleared our debt, with the father.
6. In that day, that would be the day that we can start approaching the father in heaven by asking him anything in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ our Lord.
7. That would be the day when the veil of the temple would be torn so that it would no longer be in use by the high priest as being the access to God, because Jesus our Lord is the high priest now.
8. From this very it is clearly taught that we need to ask God the Father for our petitions but in Jesus Christ His Sons name.

Mark 15:37-39

³⁷ And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.³⁸ And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.³⁹ And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

1. The torn temple veil is a sure reminder that Jesus is our high priest and that he has replaced that veil as it was torn from top to bottom and discarded.
2. The disciples were reminded that even up to this point of his departure they have never asked Him for anything.

²⁴ Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

1. But the Lord is quick to remind them, to ask and you shall receive that your joy may be full.
2. The Lord at no time was ever slack in His promises.

The reminder of the scriptures here in verses 25-28 is a clear indication of the promises our Lord Jesus has given us even today.

²⁵ These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

²⁶ At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

²⁷ For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

²⁸ I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.

1. It is not necessary for us to pray and ask Jesus to ask his father to action our requests.
2. The Lord tells us here plainly as he told the disciples. You do not have to ask me to pray to the father for you. You can pray directly to him in my name.
3. What a contrast to the OT.
4. The NT event of Jesus Christ brought with it a new covenant whereby we can approach the throne room of mercy directly through our Lord Jesus.
5. These versus are a direct testimony from our Lord as to His deity and position with God our Father.
6. His testimony is true even as we read in the book of Acts as Stephen was being stoned he saw the Lord Jesus standing on the right hand of His Father.
7. This is not to be confused when Jesus said in John 14:16 that he would pray to the Father to send the comforter. That was the Lords own prayer request to His Father. It was not a request asked by anyone else.

Acts 7:56

⁵⁶ And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

- Remember that this occurred long after the Lord had ascended.

The disciples had their answer ready.

²⁹ His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb.

³⁰ Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.

1. As the Lord spoke in proverbs to begin with they seemed to be confused.
2. But the Lord then turned to plain speech to satisfy their understanding.
3. The result was that they answered v29. "**now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb.**"
4. Just like us today we need to hear the scriptures over and over again to remind us of our Lords wisdom.

The confirmation by our Lord was and still is the same today.

³¹ Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?

1. Do you now believe who Jesus is?
2. This is an age old question, and yet still continues to go unanswered by many people today?
3. It is such a simple question, but is a stumbling block for many.
4. Why you may ask?
5. The answer is because they love their sin more than the Savior.

In conclusion to the matter

1. In conclusion to the matter at hand our Lord was very specific that because of him and those that follow him, the world would turn against them and make it very difficult for them.
2. This is also seen more and more today as the world turns its back on Christianity because of the Lord.
3. The world cannot tolerate righteousness and loathes it with a passion.

³² Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. (Matthew 26:31)

1. This was indeed a sad time in the scriptures when the disciples fled from his side.
2. Every man was for himself.
3. Or as the scriptures puts it “every man to his own”
4. Mark 14:50 confirms for us that they did in fact flee from Jesus side.
5. **Mark 14:50 And they all forsook him, and fled.**

³³ These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

1. They greatest of all the statements from our Lord lie here in verse 33.
2. He tells us to be of good cheer. Because he has overcome the world.
3. His works are greater than the world, because he will one day come to judge the world and rule and rein over it.

➤ It is our Lord who has brought peace.

Ephesians 2:14

¹⁴ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

1 Corinthians 15:27

²⁷ For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.

Prayer.....