

## John 55 - The Flesh *Always* Misses the Truth of Christ

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John 16:16-33

### Winding Down the Dialogue

- Christ is ending His dialogue with the Apostles
  - He has reached the saturation point at which they can not absorb additional information
  - He planned for this earlier and told them the Spirit will recall all things to them when He comes (Jn 16:12-13)
  - He still needs to prepare Himself for the ordeal to come through prayer with the Father

### Gone and Come Again

- Christ now prepares them for what is to come
  - He has already told them He will be leaving them (Jn 14:18-20)
  - He seeks to give them hope by telling them
    - They will not see Him (Death)
    - They will see Him (Resurrection)
  - Apostles still confused about this Death thing and certainly cannot yet grasp resurrection - New Covenant

## Apostles Openly Confused

- Apostles discuss among themselves the meaning of His statement in *front of Christ*
  - Christ asks them if they are confused
- He tells them through metaphors
  - When He leaves they will lament and mourn
  - However, the World will rejoice; doing God's will (Jn 16:2)
  - Then their sorrow will be turned to joy - Resurrection

## Metaphor of Childbirth

- Christ uses the childbirth imagery He had given to Isaiah; John will hear this again on Patmos (Rev 12:1-6)
  - God looks to one who is humble, trembles at His word yet rejected by His brethren; i.e., the Son (Is 66:2, 5)
  - Before Jerusalem knew she was in childbirth she gave birth to the Redeemer via His death and resurrection (Is 66:7)
    - Luke writes of Christ, He wept over Jerusalem because they did not accept His visitation - Unbelief (Lk 19:41-44)

## Again, Apostles Comforted

- Christ reiterates yet again: Now you have sorrow but when you see Me again you shall rejoice (Jn 16:22)
  - Their faith will be nearly destroyed seeing God die on the stauros
  - When they see Him again their joy will be complete
  - No one will be able to take their joy from them
- They struggle to grasp an understanding of resurrection

## Christ Changes Their Prayers

- This subtle change is easily missed with a quick reading
  - Previously they prayed to the Father apart from Christ's name; i.e., in His name (Usual Jewish prayer) (Mt 6:9-13)
  - Post resurrection prayers will be via the Spirit to the Father because of the Son in our New Nature
  - This is blasphemy to Jews (False Jews) and Muslims (Fake Jews) and nonsense to Gnosticistic paganisms

## God Will Answer Prayers

- Christ cannot be *physically* present here and give prayers to the Father – Another reason to ascend
- Father delights to answer prayers according to His will based on the completed work of the Son
  - The implication is that their prayers, under the guidance of the Spirit, will be according to His will
  - This is not *carte blanche* to satisfy the fleshly desires

## Again, Change in Relationship

- Christ had previously spoken to them in metaphors and parables, as He had to the Jewish nation (Mt 13:10-18)
  - Jewish mind mired in fleshly desires and philosophies even for those whom God had saved
  - The use of these devices kept the Sanhedrin from condemning Him too early
  - His relationship to the Apostles is changing: New Covenant

## Metaphors for the Immature

- Christ not referring to this time since they remain confused about His simplest statements
- Christ referring to the time of Pentecost when the Spirit will come and begin the New Covenant (Je 31:31-34)
  - Writer of Hebrews said believers who are not grounded in the Scriptures can only grasp at the *elemental* understandings; not ready for *meat* of the truth (He 5:11-14)

## Apostles Get it Wrong, Again

- Apostles only hear what they want and ignore Christ's teaching on the ministry of the Spirit
  - Apostles state they believe He knows all things, that He is God [again] and they do not need to question Him for they *know* He comes from God
- They are thinking present tense but Christ spoke in future tense thus displaying missing His *plain* teaching

## Christ Can Only Sigh

- Christ challenges their statement of belief
  - He informs them that however strong they think they believe now, it will vanish as the morning mist (Mt 14:30)
  - They will scatter to each their own place of *safety* in fear of being arrested, prosecuted and murdered, like Jesus
  - Apostles, rely on their natural understanding displaying their ignorance, much as Christians do today (1Co 2:14)

## No Loneliness in Faith

- They will run and hide in fear displaying that they do not have faith in the Father nor know how to pray to Him for guidance in this period of travail
  - In accordance with Scripture which said that the *sheep* will be scattered when the Shepherd is struck with the Sword by the Lord (Paschal Lamb) (2e 13.7)
  - Shows how corrupted Jewish hermeneutics was; and is

## Christ Says I Have the Father

- Christ informs them that He has the Father; thus, He is never alone
  - Throughout this dialogue Christ has emphasized the role and need of the Father in all things
  - Christ always taught that He did not come in His own authority for His own power
  - He was sent by the Father and told exactly what to say

## In Me: Peace – In World: Thlipsis

- Christ summarizes the truth He has been emphasizing for three chapters:
  - In Me (Christ) - You will have peace (Peace in Turmoil)
  - In the Flesh, World and Lucifer - You will have constant unyielding downward pressure (tribulation)
  - Law of Excluded Middle - There is NO third option, no gray area where you can reject Christ and the World to find your own way to peace and serenity: False choice

## I Have Overcome the World

- This is a bold statement made in full awareness of what is to come and knowing He has already accomplished it (Jn 4:3-17)
  - Christ saw all time simultaneously in Heaven
  - He knew the agony of the stauros
  - He knew He achieved the Father's will: Resurrection
  - Thus, His statement is factual, not boastful
  - Harkens back to the Opening Hymn (Ps 1:5)

## Summation

Chapters Fourteen-Sixteen summarized the Opening Hymn as it summarized the Gospel

## Light Shines in the Darkness

- Christ {Light} shines in the Darkness {World} which rages against the truth of God, trying to destroy Light
  - By killing Christ, in the flesh, the World sealed its own doom; their victory was short-lived by the Resurrection
  - Darkness did not overcome Light; it enabled its victory
  - By His death and resurrection He put to open shame those elemental powers of the world (Col 2:8-15)

## Marching to Their Doom

- As the arresting party drew ever nearer to this small huddled band in the darkness they were sealing their own doom in the self-illusion of victory
  - Every event that would occur would be to destroy the Light that revealed their Darkness
  - In the end, their religion(s) will testify against them proving Christ righteous (Mt 20:11-15)

## Though Assured...

- Let us not confuse assurance with supposing Christ had no anxiety over coming events
  - He had factual assurance He would attain the victory
  - The process of examination with its physical brutality caused anguish in the flesh that had to be controlled
  - Christ could not do this alone as He did nothing alone, He relied on the Spirit and the Father

## Thus, the Final Prayer

- Our study will advance into what many call the "High Priestly Prayer" of Christ
  - That which many call the "Lord's Prayer" I call the "Jewish Prayer of Faith"; i.e., to Old Covenant believers
  - Mount on the Sermon was to Jews informing them how they did not understand God's Word (Law)
  - This coming prayer is to New Covenant believers, "Our Prayer of Faith" emphasizing our relationship to Father