

Verse 16 Jesus is referring to His death (in a little while you will no longer see me) and His resurrection (and again in a little while you will see Me). His death is imminent but will be closely followed (3 days) by His resurrection in which they will see Him again. This can also have in view the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in which Christ would forever be with His people and be seen (**Romans 8:9**)(**Phil 1:29**)(**1 Peter 1:11**).

Verses 17-19 The disciples had come confusion and difficulty understanding what Jesus had just said and they began to talk amongst themselves concerning the meaning of His words. Jesus knew they wanted to question Him concerning these words and informed them that He knew what was in their hearts and minds.

Verse 20 The significance of this verse is demonstrated with Jesus beginning His answer with “truly, truly.” His death will bring great weeping and lamenting. The Greek word for lament is thrēnéō (from threō, "cry out loud") – sing a funeral dirge, mourn, lament (especially audibly); wail. This is a great contrast between the reaction of the world to the death of Christ. The disciples and those who loved God will weep and lament, but those of the world (those who don't know or don't love God) will rejoice. They will rejoice as they see Jesus hanging, dying, and having His lifeless body taken from a cross to be put in a grave. To the world the death of Christ means they had won, and He was not who He claimed to be. The world was rejoicing and the disciples were mourning. However, the disciples mourning would only be temporary as resurrection day is coming and they would rejoice and have joy! The same death that the world rejoiced in would bring them eternal sorrow and judgment (not rejoicing) if there was no repentance. We see examples of sadness turned to joy and rejoicing in Luke 24 (Cleopas and the other disciple)(rejoicing after ascension). There are also verses that indicate Jesus was seen by the disciples and other brethren after His resurrection.

- **1 Cor 15:1-8** Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ²by which also you are saved, if you hold fast ³the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you ⁴as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷then He appeared to ⁸James, then to all the apostles; ⁸and last of all, as ⁹to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

Verse 21 Jesus then uses an analogy of a woman in labor and the pain associated with childbirth to further His explanation. There is great pain in childbirth, but all the pain is worth it because the joy of the birth of the child is worth it! Christ endured the suffering and the pain of the cross for the joy set before Him. The suffering and pain are worth it as He had full obedience to the Father and as result of the agony of the cross, His sheep would be redeemed and there would be joy in bringing many sons to glory. The short-lived weeping, lamenting, and the pains of His death would be worth the result of what it accomplished for them and all who believe as the results would be eternal. Believers can be assured the pain and agony of the suffering of this life are worth it as they are producing an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.

- **Romans 8:18-25** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, ²¹in hope ²²that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. ²³And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

- **2 Corinthians 4:16-18** Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, ¹⁸while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Verse 22 Their grief will be short lived after His death as they would see Him soon after His resurrection and they would also be filled with His Spirit at Pentecost. As a result of these things there will be great joy given and no one will take that joy away.

- **Psalms 30:5** For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning.
- **Acts 13:52** And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.
- **Psalms 16:11** You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

The sorrow, weeping, and lamenting of the disciples as a result of the death of Christ was for a little while and then they were made to rejoice with great joy in what Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension meant and accomplished. They rejoiced and had great joy in seeing Him after His resurrection and in His ascension as it demonstrated His victory, His authority, and validated all He had said and who He is. They would also see Him and as the Spirit of Christ would indwell them via the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and reveal Christ to them. The suffering, sorrow, and weeping we have in this world may not seem for a "little while" but in comparison to eternity it is a mist. Let the words of Christ bring true joy and comfort to us as we walk through this life filled with suffering and sorrows knowing this is only for a little while. All the lamenting and weeping we have in this world will one day cease as He will wipe away every tear from our eyes (Rev 21:1-4) and in His presence there is fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11). We have never seen Him, but one day we will see Him as He is (Matthew 5:8) and that will happen in just a little while!

Verses 23-24 As a result of the finished work of Christ and His ascension to the Father, He is our mediator between us and God. As a result, believers can pray directly to the Father in the name of Jesus. This speaks to the Triune economy in prayer. We are instructed to pray to the Father in the name of Jesus, and by the guiding, direction, and with the help of the Holy Spirit after He is sent. As a result of the believer's union with the sonship of Christ via adoption, we can prayer directly to God the Father as Father. When we pray in Jesus' name in accordance with the will of God He hears us (1 John 5:14). The more we grow in sanctification, the more conformed and desiring of God's will we become which is seen in our prayers. Joy is made full when our prayers are answered as we pray in accordance to His will.

Verse 25 Jesus had spoken to them in figurative language but will speak more plainly concerning the things of the Father. This will occur with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of truth will reveal more clearly and deeply the things concerning God.

Verses 26-27 This verse is not meaning Jesus is not going to be interceding for His people (Rom 8:34)(Heb 7:25)(1 Tim 2:5), but rather as a result of the work of Christ, the veil of the temple was torn down and we now have access to God the Father. We can now approach the throne of God in the name of Jesus as He has made a way to the Father. All three persons of the Godhead have a union in the love upon the elect in a special salvific way as our salvation is the working of the Triune Godhead. The Father loves the elect, even with the same love He shown upon His only begotten Son (John 17:23) which is why He hears our prayers and grants us access to the throne.

Verse 28 Jesus, the Son of Man (Dan 7:13-14) was sent by the Father and is now returning to rule, reign, and intercede for His people. He is soon to leave the world and return to the glory He had with the Father before the world was (John 17:4-5).

Verses 29-32 After hearing these words, the disciples confirm Jesus' omniscience and state they believe He came from God. The tone of Jesus question is unknown, but asks them if they now believe. He then makes a statement similar to the one He made to Peter in **John 13:37-38**. Peter tells Him that He would lay His life down for Jesus in that moment, but Jesus tells Him that He would soon deny Him. Here the disciples say they now believe to which Jesus quotes Old Testament scripture (**Zech 13:7**) as to what is about to happen.

- **Zechariah 13:7** "Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, And against the man, My Associate," Declares the Lord of hosts. "Strike the Shepherd that the sheep may be scattered; And I will turn My hand ^[a]against the little ones.

The disciples(sheep) will soon scatter when the Shepherd is struck. The disciples would soon scatter and leave Him alone, but He was never truly alone as the Father is with Him. There was a time where touching His human nature, Jesus felt separation from the Father while on the cross as our sin bearer cried out about the ninth hour with a loud voice saying "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

This is the comfort and peace we have as believers that even if every person, family member, or friend we know abandons us, we are never alone as God is always with us and will never leave and forsake us (**Hebrews 13:5**)(**Deut 31:8**) We see a real life example of this at the end of Paul's life while in prison in Rome.

- **2 Timothy 4:9-18** Make every effort to come to me soon; ¹⁰for Demas, having loved this present ^[b]world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens *has gone* to ^[c]Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service. ¹²But Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. ¹³When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments. ¹⁴Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. ¹⁵Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our ^[d]teaching.¹⁶ At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. ¹⁷But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might ^[e]be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will ^[f]bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to ^[g]Him *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Verse 33 Jesus has spoken the previous words to His disciples so that they may have peace. The peace that He gives surpasses all comprehension even in the middle of tribulation and persecution (**Phil 4:7**) He assures them that in this world they will have tribulation, but to take courage because He has overcome the world. Through His death on the cross He will conquer and triumph over the world and this will be validated by His resurrection and ascension. The world hates Christ and as a result will hate His believers as tribulation will come. The believers' comfort rests in that we are victorious as a result of our union with the One who has overcome the world, evil, and the enemy.

On the day of His resurrection as He was hanging in agony, the world thought they had won. When Jesus took His final breath, the world thought they had won. When they carried Jesus lifeless body from the cross and was placed in the tomb, the world thought they had won. What the world did not realize was the very act that they believed was the moment of weakness and defeat for Christ was the very act in which the greatest show of love, power, victory, and triumph was on display. Through His death in the cross, Christ had overcome the world, sin, and the enemy which was validated in the resurrection and ascension. The fact that Christ has overcome the world would be the peace and comfort that the disciples would have as they faced tribulation in the world and is to be the same for all believers who face tribulation in this world. In this world you will have tribulation, but take courage, Christ has overcome the world!