

Date: March 17th, 2026

John Section: John 16:1-33

Key Text: John 16:33

Main Idea: Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit for His glory and our good.

Genre: Theological Narrative

Author: John

Audience: Primarily second-generation believers, Jews, and Gentiles, needing encouragement and clarity about Jesus' identity.

Setting: Likely written from Ephesus, AD 85-95, in a context of synagogue opposition and emerging false teachings.

Quotes of the Week: "We are secure, not because we hold tightly to Jesus, but because He holds tightly to us." - **R. C. Sproul (1939–2017)**

"When there's something in the Word of God that I don't like, the problem is not with the Word of God. It's with me." - **R. C. Sproul (1939–2017)**



John Preview:

Highlight:

The Gospel of John is a unique New Testament account of Jesus' life, written by the Apostle John, the beloved disciple. John's Gospel is not merely a biography but a theological portrait, revealing Jesus as the eternal Son of God who became flesh to bring life and light to the world. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, John emphasizes signs and discourses that unveil Jesus' divine identity and mission. From the opening words—"In the beginning was the Word"—to the climactic resurrection appearances, John presents Jesus as the one in whom God's glory is revealed, calling all to believe in Him for eternal life. This Gospel is rich with imagery (light, life, bread, water, shepherd, vine) and repeatedly centers on the theme of belief.

Focus of John:

- **Purpose of John:**
 - John tells us his purpose plainly: "But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:31).
- **Themes in John:**
 - Jesus is the Word made flesh
 - Jesus reveals God's glory
 - Belief is the way to life
 - Life flows only from union with Christ
- **Our Response to this Truth:**
 - Believe in Him – Abide in Him – Live by His Word – Trust in His promises – Love as He loved

Recap:

Noble → John 16:1-15

- We are still in the upper room as the story continues. This chapter is full of Jesus telling His disciples what is going to happen.
 - When Jesus starts off by telling them a purpose statement for why He is saying what He is saying, then we really should pay attention to what He is saying to them. He does not want them to miss the point here. Whenever He pulls back the curtain, it is important for us to pay attention to this because it is about to be very important.
 - **Have we seen this anywhere else in the Bible?**
-
- And this is why we shouldn't take it too personally when we do not fit into this world. It is because we don't fit in, and we weren't made to! The world is blind and does not know God; that is why they hated the disciples, and that is why they will hate us too.
 - This is exactly why Jesus tells them these things: He wants them to know that when they do face these trials and pressures, they are not to give up. They are not to lose heart because of His love for them. They belong to Him, so there is nothing to fear. (Josiah will cover a really good verse about this in 16:33) Their faith will not be shaken by their suffering.
 - He didn't tell them these things yet because He was still with them. Now that He is going away, He wants them to be assured. And the same principles hold true for us. We should not lose hope in our eager awaiting for the return of Christ.
 - Jesus goes on to tell them that He is about to go to the Father, and that none of the disciples asks where he is going. And you might be like, I think they already have asked him that a couple of times throughout the book.
 - And what He is saying here is that they should be asking more questions about where he is going and what that would mean for them, for Him, and for the rest of the world. But they don't because they are filled with sorrow.
 - Their sorrow is all that they can see. But Jesus wants them to see more than that and to see beyond that. And this is why He tells them that it is better for them that it happens this way, and that He goes and the Helper comes.
 - This is how this was always designed to be. Jesus Christ would come down, be born as a baby, live a perfect life, die a sacrificial death, and be raised again, and that He would pour out His Holy Spirit into the hearts of His people. This was always their plan. He would pour out His Spirit into our hearts to guide us, to protect us, to give us assurance, to seal us, and to sustain us until he returns to gather His people.

- **Galatians 3:13-14** *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— 14 so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.*
- And when He comes, he will convict the world concerning a few things. **8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.**
 - I want us to see that a powerful connection can be made when we look at Peter’s sermon in Acts 2. These three things that Jesus spoke of are all addressed. We just covered this in church a couple of months ago.
 - In John 16:8-11, Jesus Christ tells His disciples that when the Holy Spirit comes, He will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment. When we look later at Acts 2:14-41, we can actually see this promise being fulfilled during the sermon preached by Peter the Apostle at Pentecost. Peter’s sermon demonstrates how the Holy Spirit brings conviction through the proclamation of the gospel.
 - **First:** Jesus said the Spirit would convict the world concerning **sin** because people do not believe in Him. In Peter’s sermon, he directly confronts the crowd with their rejection of Jesus. In Acts 2:23, he says that Jesus was handed over according to God’s plan, yet the people were responsible because they crucified Him through lawless men.
 - Later in Acts 2:36, Peter declares that God has made Jesus both Lord and Messiah, the very one whom they crucified. Through this message, the Spirit exposes the core issue of **sin**: rejecting God’s chosen Messiah. The evidence that the Spirit is convicting them is seen in Acts 2:37, which says that when the people heard Peter’s words, they were “cut to the heart.” This deep conviction is exactly what Jesus described when He said the Spirit would convict the world of **sin**.
 - **Second:** Jesus said the Spirit would convict the world concerning righteousness because He was going to the Father. This means that although the world condemned Jesus as a criminal, God would vindicate Him by raising Him from the dead and exalting Him to His right hand. Peter proclaims this truth clearly in his sermon.
 - In Acts 2:24, he declares that God raised Jesus from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death. Peter then explains that this resurrection fulfilled a prophecy spoken by King David. In Acts 2:32, he testifies that the apostles are witnesses to the resurrection, and in Acts 2:33, he explains that Jesus has been exalted to the right hand of God.
 - Through these statements, Peter is declaring that **Jesus is righteous** and vindicated by God. This fulfills Jesus’ words that the Spirit would reveal His true righteousness after He returned to the Father.
 - **Third:** Jesus said the Spirit would convict the world concerning judgment because the ruler of this world is judged. The ruler of this world refers to Satan, whose power is ultimately defeated through Jesus’ death and resurrection.

- In Peter’s sermon, we see this theme when he proclaims the authority and kingship of Jesus. In Acts 2:34-35, Peter again quotes David and says that God has invited Jesus to sit at His right hand until His enemies are made His footstool.
 - This declaration shows that Jesus now reigns in authority and that all opposition to Him will ultimately be judged. Because Christ has been exalted as Lord, Peter urges the people in Acts 2:40 to save themselves from the current corrupt generation, warning them of the coming judgment.
 - When we look at the entire sermon, we see that Peter’s message follows the exact pattern Jesus described in John 16. The Spirit convicts the crowd of sin by exposing their rejection of Jesus, reveals righteousness by proclaiming that God raised and exalted Him, and announces judgment by declaring that Jesus now reigns as Lord over all. The result of this Spirit-led conviction is powerful. The people ask Peter what they should do, and he calls them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. As a result, about three thousand people respond in faith.
- (vv. 12-15) Jesus then goes on to talk to them about how He knows that they cannot bear the things that He is telling them. They are very troubled by what they are hearing, but Jesus does not want their suffering to shake their faith.
 - **Question: In this context, what does it mean when Jesus says the Spirit will guide you in all truth, not speak on His own authority, and will declare the things that are to come?**

- “He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:14-15)
 - The Spirit does not have a new mission that is someone focused on drawing all the attention to Himself, but rather He exalts Christ and reveals Him to those around us. And this is very cool when we see that the Spirit is the one who is opening the hearts of people and regenerating them. (Take a look back to John 3 - that which is born of the Flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit).
 - This gives us so much more confidence when talking about the Holy Spirit. He is no longer this mystical being that we don’t know what He is there for. Jesus tells us what He is there for and how He will guide His people.
 - And if the Spirit is the one convicting people and changing hearts, that gives us so much more confidence to go and proclaim the good news of Jesus. What is this good news? We’ve hit on it plenty, but Josiah’s section will explain even further.

Josiah → John 16:16-33

- In this passage, Jesus addresses concern over His departure, the implications of His departure, and His role as peace and joy-giver even after His departure.
 - Jesus mentions that “after a little while,” He will depart from them and then “again a little while,” they will see Him again. The disciples do not understand this and ponder this statement among themselves. Jesus, knowing everything, confronts their confusion and does not entertain their curiosity; He simply restates what He said the first time.
 - **In these verses, the first “little while” clearly represents His death. What does Jesus mean when He says that “again a little while, and you will see me”?**

- Jesus continues to talk cryptically about His resurrection, saying that soon the disciples will lament while the world rejoices, but their sorrow will turn into joy.
 - Jesus then uses an analogy of a Mother giving birth, saying that during the birth of a child, the pain is excruciating, but afterward the pain goes away in light of the overwhelming joy of having a child.
- Jesus then reveals a profound statement. He addresses their sorrow in light of His looming departure, saying that when they see Him again, they will rejoice and their joy will never be taken away from them.
 - Just a verse before, there was a bleak reality: the world celebrates while the followers of Jesus are mourning, yet He says that their sorrow will turn into joy and that when they see him again, their joy will never end. He is not only declaring His victory, but He is declaring the victory of everyone who follows Jesus in faith. They are blessed with Him, all of Him, and that is enough to turn their sorrow into joy when they merely look at Him.
- In the following verses, Jesus reveals a profound shift between the old covenant and the covenant that He brings through his departure (crucifixion) concerning how they relate and interact with God the Father.
 - Jesus reveals that He will not merely speak to the Father on their behalf, but they will also have direct access to the Father through prayer.
 - **Why might this shift be profound to the disciples, or people in general, at this time?**

- In response, the disciples respond with efficacy, amazement, and reverence, even though it is clear that they have only grasped a small portion of what Jesus was saying.
 - “The same thing falls within our own experience in the present day; for he who has only tasted a little of the doctrine of the Gospel is more inflamed, and feels much greater energy in that small measure of faith, than if he had been acquainted with all the writings of Plato.” - John Calvin
 - This response also sheds light on the truth about the Spirit. It is no coincidence that Jesus talks about turning sorrow into joy after a chapter and a half of revealing truths about the Spirit. In this section, the disciples are amazed and encouraged by the little amount of information they understood concerning Jesus, but when Jesus departs, the Spirit continues to reveal further truths about who he is to everyone that the Spirit resides in. Rest in these truths, as they are the only truths in a world full of lies and half-truths that are reliable and relevant.
- Yet, Jesus brings them back down to earth, saying, “Do you now believe?”, and reminding them they will be scattered, will suffer, and will forsake(leave) Jesus. He addresses their sin and their sorrow, yet before He goes into prayer, He finishes with encouragement and a hope that cannot falter.
 - “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation. But take heart; **I have overcome the world.**” John 16:31
 - Jesus addresses the reality of our sorrow; while we mourn, the world rejoices. We will experience great pain and sorrow; the world inflicts tribulation upon us, and we are not greater than the world. Yet, He is greater than the world! Hallelujah! Amen! This is our greatest and only lasting hope in a dark world full of hurt and evil, in that we have a Savior who is greater and has already overcome the world. Even before His death, He declares victory over it.
- **How does Jesus respond to the disciples’ sorrow in this passage, and how does he transform it into joy? How might this relate to each person of the Trinity?**

- **How can these truths given to the disciples affect believers even today, especially in light of deep sorrow? What are some practical ways that we can experience this joy spoken of in this text?**

Upcoming Events:

- **March 22: March Madness Event @ WBC**
- **March 26: Main Lawn Event @ Carroll University Main Lawn (weather permitting)**

Other Helpful Resources:

- He Must Increase Podcast by Connor Shady & Adam Tredeau (Official Podcast of 3:30!)
- Waukesha Bible Church John 16 Sermons on YouTube

Other Reminders:

- Get involved with a church - **Specifically WBC!**
 - Please contact any leader if you have any questions, want recommendations, or **need a ride!** We all have vehicles and time to pick anyone up.
 - **Connor and Adam are teaching: 9 AM Class on the Book of Romans at WBC prior to service.**
 - WBC service is at 10:00 AM every Sunday!
 - Check out our Website: Threethirtyministry.com
 - Join the 3:30 GroupMe chat to stay up to date on everything 3:30 Ministry.
 - Also check us out on Instagram: @three.thirty.ministries and @three.thirty.mens.ministry
-

The Gospel: *We Can't, God Can, Jesus Did!*

- **Sin.** None of us can escape it. Because of it, we are spiritually dead and in need of life. Our debt before God is insurmountable. It is the biggest problem any of us has, since there is nothing we can do ourselves to pay that debt. God's standard is perfection, so no amount of good works or religious activities is enough.
 - 1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience - 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.
(Ephesians 2:1-3)
- **But God...** These two words are some of the most powerful words in the Bible. God is merciful and loving. He did what we could never do in and of ourselves. He saved us by grace alone and gave us new life in Christ.
 - 4 **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
(Ephesians 2:4-7)
- **Jesus saves.** He is God's gift to us. He paid our debt before the Father. And through his death and resurrection, we are raised to eternal life. There is nothing we can do to earn it. It is only through Christ that we live a life pleasing to God.
 - 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10)