

Gospel According to John 16:21 – 33

New American Standard Version

1 ²¹ Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her
2 hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no
3 longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a
4 child has been born into the world. ²² Therefore you too
5 have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will
6 rejoice, and no one *will* take your joy away from you. ²³ In
7 that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly,
8 truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My
9 name, He will give it to you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked
10 for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that
11 your joy may be made full. ²⁵ These things I have spoken to
12 you in figurative language; an hour is coming when I will
13 no longer speak to you in figurative language, but will tell
14 you plainly of the Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in My
15 name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the
16 Father on your behalf;²⁷ for the Father Himself loves you,
17 because you have loved Me and have believed that I came
18 forth from the Father. ²⁸ I came forth from the Father and
19 have come into the world; I am leaving the world again and
20 going to the Father.” ²⁹ His disciples *said, “Lo, now You
21 are speaking plainly and are not using a figure of speech.
22 ³⁰ Now we know that You know all things, and have no
23 need for anyone to question You; by this we believe that
24 You came from God.” ³¹ Jesus answered them, “Do you
25 now believe? ³² Behold, an hour is coming, and has *already*
26 come, for you to be scattered, each to his own *home*, and to
27 leave Me alone; and *yet* I am not alone, because the Father
28 is with Me. ³³ These things I have spoken to you, so that in
29 Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation,
30 but take courage; I have overcome the world.

*Use the suggestions on the back page as a starting point for your own **Observation, Interpretation, and Application.***

Observation (What does it say?):

What do you notice in this passage?

- Repeated words or ideas?
- Comparisons or contrasts?
- Purpose or explanation?
- Unusual or symbolic language?
- Commands or instructions?
- Conditional (if–then) statements?
- Other observations?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- What parts seem clear and straightforward?
- What parts seem unclear or confusing?
- What parts challenge your previous thinking?
- What questions come to mind as you read?
- How would you title this passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- What parts of this passage fit your current life situation?
- What parts seem unrelated to your circumstances?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?
- What part of this passage would be the most challenging for you to apply?
- What would be different (attitudes, behavior) if God used this passage to change you?

Questions for further thought and discussion:

- In verse 22, why does Jesus say “I will see you again” instead of “You will see Me again” as His words of encouragement to them (“and your heart will rejoice”)?
- When is “the hour coming” (v. 25b) when He will speak plainly of the Father? Before His arrest? After the resurrection? In Paradise?
- What is the turning point for the disciples (“now You are speaking plainly” v. 29)? What has changed in Jesus conversation with them that makes a difference in their understanding?
- What do the disciples mean that “You have no need for anyone to question You” (v. 30)? What does this have to do with their sudden clarity in understanding Him?
- How do Jesus’ words “I have overcome the world” (v. 33) just before He dies by torture affect you? What does overcoming the world look like in your circumstances? How does Jesus react to the imminent abandonment by His closest friends (v. 32)?

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,
but draw everything from them,
and suffer nothing to remain hidden
that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**