

# The Story-Arc of Forever

Pastor-Teacher Grant Castleberry

John 16:16-33

April 14, 2024

The DISCIPLES are filled with PAIN and SORROW because JESUS has told them HE is GOING AWAY. And this has caused their hearts

- John 16:6 – [6] *Rather, you are filled with sorrow because I said these things.*
- 16:20 – [20] *“Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful,*
  - The word for Sorrow [pain of mind or spirit; sorrow and affliction]

JESUS doesn't REMOVE what is CAUSING them the PAIN. RATHER HE PROVIDES them with PERSPECTIVE!

- He EXPLAINS to them the STORY-ARC of REDEMPTION.

**Christians should be comforted by remembering the Story-ARC of Redemption.**

**JESUS teaches His DISCIPLES to deal with sorrow by teaching them three major acts of redemptive history.**

## **ACT 1: Christ's Redemption (Our Joy)**

16:16 – [16] *“A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.”*

- Somewhat of a cryptic saying... Of course we know and understand he's talking...
  - The Little while refers to not even the next 24 hours will be arrested, crucified and buried.
  - And then a little while... three days in the ground... they will see Him.
  - Westcott – “The fulfillment of this promise must not be limited to any one special event, as the Resurrection, or Pentecost, or the Return. The beginning of the new vision was at the Resurrection; the potential

16:17 – [17] *So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?”*

- Matt: 16:21 – [21] *From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.*

16:18 – [18] *So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.*

16:19 – [19] *Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him [question him NASB], so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’?”*

16:20 – [20] *“Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.*

16:21 – [21] *“When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.*

- JESUS’s POINT is NOT just that JOY follows after the PAIN.
- JESUS’s POINT is that JOY comes through the PAIN.

16:22 – [22] *“So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.*

- The PAIN will be there NOW... But when you see JESUS again, no one will be able to take your JOY from you.
- 1 Corinthians 15:22 – [22] *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.*
- They will have that SORROW now.
- But JESUS promises to see them again... and then they will rejoice.

SPURGEON – “The disciples’ particular sorrow was the death and absence of their Lord. And it was turned into joy when he rose from the dead and showed himself to them. All the sorrow of saints will be transformed in this way—even the worst of them that look as they must remain fountains of bitterness forever.”

APPLICATION: Philippians 4:4 – [4] *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice.*

## **ACT 2: Christ’s Session (Our Fellowship)**

16:23 – [23] *In that day you will ask nothing of me.*

- In that day – refers to the “last days” – the period after Jesus’s resurrection.
- After the RESURRECTION, the STORY-ARC will make sense.

16:23b – [23b] *Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.*

- A near repeat of John 14:13, 14 – [13] *“Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. [14] “If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.*
- What does this mean??? - John 15:7 – [7] *“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”*
  - Asking in JESUS’s name means asking God according to the CHARACTER of JESUS, according to the WILL of JESUS, in the POWER of JESUS.
  - James 4:3 – [3] *You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.*
  - JESUS, says you need to know that what you will experience is that type of FELLOWSHIP with the FATHER where you can ask ANYTHING of HIM.
  - Just a few verses later: John 17:3 – [3] *And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true*

HEBREWS 10:12 – [12] *But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, [13] waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. [14] For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.*

- Christ has purchased access to the FATHER through His priestly ministry.
- Romans 5:1 – [1] *Having been justified by faith we have peace with God.*
- Not only is CHRIST our MEDIATOR, He’s our advocate...
  - 17:9 – [9] *I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.*
  - Romans 8:34 – [34] *Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that one was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*

16:24 – [24] *Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*

- PUSH into this FELLOWSHIP.
- God desires us to have JOY.

16:25 – [25] *“I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father.*

16:26 – [26] *“In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf;*

- We will have direct access to the FATHER through Christ’s completed work.

16:27 – [27] *for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.*

- The FATHER loves the believers. Because He loves the Son. And He loves those in fellowship with the Son.

16:28 – [28] *“I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”*

- The FULL PICTURE OF THE PLOTLINE.
- This is what enables and completes the PRIESTLY SESSION.

16:29 – [29] *His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech!*

16:30 – [30] *“now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.*

16:31 – [31] *Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe?”*

16:32 – [32] *“Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.*

### **Act 3: Christ's Victory (Our Peace)**

16:33 – [33] *“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace.*

- John 20:29 – “Peace be with you.”
- You may have PEACE at anytime...

*In the world you will have tribulation.*

*But take heart; I have overcome the world.*