

64. Jesus Said He Taught the Disciples So They Would Have Peace

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children understand that Jesus warned the disciples that they would have great sorrow for a short period of time but that then their sorrow would be turned to joy. We are going to see in our topic today that Jesus went on to explain to the disciples that He had come from the Father and would soon return to the Father.

Jesus had told the disciples that they would not see Him for a little while and then they would see Him again. Then, Jesus said He would return to the Father. Jesus wanted the disciples to know that they could pray to the Father in His name when He returned to the Father. John 16:23-24 says, ““And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”” When Jesus returned to heaven, the disciples could no longer make a direct request to Jesus. However, Jesus did want them to know that they would be able to pray to the Father in His name. Jesus also wanted the disciples to know that the Father would answer the prayers they asked in the name of Jesus.

Romans 8:26-27 explains in more detail how the whole Trinity is involved in the answer of our prayers. Those verses say, “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.” We pray to the Father in the name of Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us because we often do not know how to pray according to the will of God. Christ and the Holy Spirit then take our prayers and make intercession for us according to the will of God. The Father who searches the hearts knows the mind of the Spirit. As a result, the Father then answers our prayers according to the will of God.

Jesus said that the disciples had asked the Father nothing in His name. There had been no need for the disciples to ask anything of the Father in the name of Jesus up to that point because Jesus was with the disciples and they were able to ask Him directly. Jesus had told them that He was returning to the Father so that was why He was now telling them to ask the Father in His name. Jesus gave the disciples a wonderful promise. Jesus said to ask and they would receive. This would cause their joy to be full. Many years later John wrote and told us how this promise applies to all Christians in 1 John 5:14-15 where we read, “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” We can trust the Lord to hear and answer our prayers when we pray according to the will of God.

Jesus went on to say in John 16:25-28, ““These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. I came forth from the Father and have come into the world.

Growing Godly Family Series – Helping Our Children Present Jesus as the Son of God 64. “Jesus Said He Taught the Disciples So They Would Have Peace”

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Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.” Some of the things that Jesus had just spoken to the disciples would not be clear until after the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus said that the time was coming when He would speak to them plainly.

The night of the resurrection Luke 24:44-48 says, “Then He said to them, ‘These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.’ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things.’” Both the Father and Jesus loved the disciples and wanted them to have a clear understanding of all things. However, many things could not be understood clearly until after the resurrection. Other things could not be understood until after the return of Jesus to heaven and Jesus had promised that the Holy Spirit would make those things clear to the disciples also.

We also see that Jesus assured the disciples of both the love of the Father for them and His love for them. Then, Jesus explained to the disciples two very important reasons why the Father had a special love for the disciples. First, the Father had a special love for the disciples because they had loved Jesus. John wrote many years later in 1 John 4:19, “We love Him because He first loved us.” In this verse, we see that John said that the disciples had responded to the love of Jesus for them. Earlier in the book of 1 John, John had spoken about the love of the Father for them. 1 John 3:1-2 says, “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

Second, the Father had a special love for the disciples because they believed that Jesus came forth from the Father. Peter had said back in John 6:68-69, “But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!’” Earlier that evening, Jesus had told the disciples in John 14:23, “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.’” Here, we see that the Father has a special love for all those who obey the Word that Jesus has spoken.

Jesus then told the disciples that He had come from the Father and that He would soon leave the world to return to the Father. Then, the disciples told Jesus that He was speaking plainly and that they understood Him. John 16:29-33 says, “His disciples said to Him, ‘See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God.’ Jesus answered them, ‘Do you now believe? Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world

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you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” This time, the disciples said that they understood what Jesus was saying.

The disciples recognized that Jesus knew all things. That was additional evidence to the disciples that Jesus came from the Father. John wrote in 1 John 1:1-2, “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—.” The disciples had heard Jesus; they had seen Him with their eyes, they had gazed upon Him; and they had even touched Him. In addition, they recognized that He knew all things because He had spoken of the thoughts of people many times before those people had spoken. Jesus now spoke plainly about the fact that He would soon return to the Father and Jesus verified this fact by His return to heaven as the disciples watched in Acts 1:9

Jesus showed that He knew what was going to happen that night. As a result, Jesus also warned the disciples in advance what they would do that very night. Jesus said that they would be scattered. Mark 14:27 says, “Then Jesus said to them, ‘All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: “I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.””” This quote was taken from Zechariah 13:7. Then, Mark 14:50 says, “Then they all forsook Him and fled.” As these verses show, it was only a very few hours later that the disciples did forsake Jesus and flee. Jesus assured the disciples that He would not be alone because the Father would be with Him.

Jesus finished the walk to the Garden of Gethsemane by telling the disciples that He had told them these things so that they could have peace. Jesus had shared many things that could have caused the disciples to become very troubled and fearful. As a result, Jesus said that He had explained the things that would happen so that the disciples could have peace when they happened. The disciples could either have a godly reverence and fear of God or they would have a worldly fear of man. Jesus wanted the disciples to experience that godly reverence when these things came to pass. Ephesians 2:14-15 says, “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace.” Jesus made it possible for all of His followers to have peace with God. That is why we can be filled with peace because Jesus defeated the world and sin.

We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to experience the peace that Jesus provided through His death and resurrection. That will happen in their lives as they learn to yield to the Holy Spirit moment by moment and experience the peace of God guarding their hearts and minds. May the Lord richly bless you as you show your children how to experience the peace of God in their lives.