

# “Gospel of John: Overcoming Tribulation”

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## Scripture

### John 16:25-33

“These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language but will tell you plainly of the Father.”

“In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.”

“I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again and going to the Father.”

“His disciples said, “Lo, now You are speaking plainly and are not using a figure of speech. “Now we know that You know all things and have no need for anyone to question You; by this we believe that You came from God.”

“Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.”

“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

## Last Week

Jesus prophesied to the disciples about their future

They would have momentary but painful grief at His crucifixion -> it would turn to joy at His resurrection

We learned about being joyful in all circumstances -> abundant life in Christ -> **John 10:10**

## This Week

Jesus completes His private education of the disciples before the real Lord’s Prayer

He discusses what their relationship will be like with the Father

Then He speaks about their coming tribulation

## Figurative Language and Parables

### John 16:25

“These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; **an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language** but will tell you plainly of the Father.”

Pregnant woman -> **Grief turned to joy?** -> **How can they understand Holy Spirit?** -> **Jesus spoke in parables**

Why did He do that?

He answered that question from the disciples:

**Matthew 13:10-13** (after the Parable of the Sower)

“The disciples came and said to Him, **“Why do You speak to them in parables?”** Jesus answered them, **“To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.** “For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. **“Therefore, I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.”**”

The disciples heard that they were chosen to be able to understand but others would not understand

**This is a condition for understanding truth -> the chosen will eventually be able to grasp truth**

But explanation is still needed -> Jesus will explain the parable to them in **Matthew 13:18-23**

Jesus has taught them while He was on the earth

**“...an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you”**

**He will be leaving the earth, so how will the disciples comprehend truth? -> Who will explain it to them?**

As Jesus taught them earlier in this passage, the Holy Spirit will come

**“...will tell you plainly of the Father”** – the Spirit will reveal truth to them directly, internally, with no parables

As we have discussed, the Holy Spirit is the teacher within -> He will “guide us into all truth”

**How do we know that?**

Jesus told us that was one of His ministries:

**John 16:13**

**“When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth.”**

I’m sure you have seen this in your life before

**When you reach a difficult passage in the Bible and the Spirit gives you enlightenment**

You realize that it’s not the Pastor or the Sunday School teacher -> it’s the Holy Spirit

But others that do not have the Spirit, though they may be in church often, cannot understand difficult passages

Many will struggle without the Holy Spirit’s guidance

Jesus then tells the disciples about the access they have to the Father:

**Direct Access**

**John 16:26-27**

**“In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.”**

Even though Jesus is leaving, He says “in that day” you will ask in His name

## In what day?

In the day when the Holy Spirit comes to them

The disciples will then have direct access to the Father through the Spirit

Jesus says you will not pray to Me, and I will refer your prayer to the Father

You will pray directly to the Father on your own

We have a relationship with the Father -> Peter heard directly from the Father announcing Jesus as Christ

Even though we ask "in His name" -> it is not some incantation we utter like rubbing the genie's bottle

"In My name" -> We pray in His character, on His merit, with His glory in mind, and for His will to be done

We do not pray based on our will, but for His will

The Father loves us -> He knows our name -> and He longs to hear from us

We are His and He gave us to Jesus as a gift to the beloved Son to worship Him -> and we are still the Father's

Some Catholics believe that they should pray to Mary and that Mary will refer those prayers to Jesus

Jesus says the opposite here -> We pray to the Father directly -> there is no prayer referral

Jesus then reminds His disciples of His departure:

## Once Again, I'm Leaving

### John 16:28

"I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; **I am leaving the world again and going to the Father.**"

In this case, Jesus gives His immediate destination -> He is going to Heaven and His Father

I came from there and I'm returning there

Jesus had mentioned this to the disciples many times, but now the time is very near – within a day

John eventually had that understanding sink into him – long after the Holy Spirit showed up in his life

### John 13:1

"Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end."

Written 60+ years after the crucifixion, John now understands Jesus's ministry to them better

How did he understand Jesus's ministry better?

Because the Holy Spirit gave him that understanding

Do you know about Jesus's ministry much better now than when you first believed?

I would hope so...

The disciples are starting to grasp Jesus's words:

## We Believe

### John 16:29-30

"His disciples said, "Lo, now You are speaking plainly and are not using a figure of speech. "Now we know that You know all things and have no need for anyone to question You; **by this we believe that You came from God.**"

There is time when reality begins to set in -> "Lo" means "Behold" or "Wow!"

The disciples are getting closer to that point of understanding -> they've had moments of getting it

No longer are they looking for the hidden meaning in Jesus's words -> they want the straight truth

They know He is from Heaven and bound to return there

Jesus told the Jews He came from God, but they did not believe Him -> **John 8:39-47**

The disciples have believed Jesus -> that is a gift from the Father -> true belief in the Son

We cannot make people believe in Jesus, as much as we might try

Only the Father can do that

Only the Spirit can do that

What should we do?

We need to speak the truth plainly

We do not need to use complicated parables or pursue hidden meaning

We just need to tell them about Jesus and His work on our behalf

## You Will Be Scattered

### John 16:31-32

"Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? Behold, an hour is coming, **and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone;** and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me."

Not only will Jesus leave for the Father, but before that, the disciples will desert Him

Jesus prophesies that they will all fall away -> even the great boasting of Peter will not keep him from straying

“an hour is coming, **and has already come, for you to be scattered**” -> they will leave Jesus’s side

Jesus told them this would happen during the Lord’s Supper:

### **Matthew 26:31**

“Jesus said to them, **“You will all fall away because of Me this night**, for it is written, I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE SCATTERED.”

This was an Old Testament prophecy from **Zechariah 13:7**

That passage in Zechariah says that two parts will be cut off and perish -> only a third will be redeemed

Some read that as only 33% of the Jews will ever believe in the true Messiah

**Peter denies the Lord, yes, but who else is even there when Jesus is arrested and tried?**

We don’t hear about Matthew or Nathaniel, Andrew or Simon the Zealot

We know that John is there for Jesus’s arrest and first trial in front of Annas

“yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me” -> Not to worry, Jesus says, “I have the Father with Me”

The Father will be with His beloved Son

He will be there to encourage Him throughout the coming ordeal of the cross

Until the very end, when Jesus exclaims “Why have thou forsaken Me?”

It’s only a moment of wrath and then the beloved Son returns to the Father forever

**How should this affect the disciples?**

### **Overcoming Tribulation**

#### **John 16:33**

“**These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace.** In the world you have tribulation but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

The disciples will face their own times of tribulation

The Father will be there for Jesus

Jesus will be there for the disciples

Why?

Because He is faithful and true -> as we have sung today

**“in Me you may have peace”**

Jesus said “My peace I leave with you” to them earlier -> **John 14:27**

He said not as the world gives peace -> we’re not talking about physical peace or earthly avoidance of conflict

Quite the contrary -> He wants the disciples to know they are going to get the full wrath of the world

He was talking about the peace that enables them to endure persecution and trials

“In the world you have tribulation but take courage; I have overcome the world”

That Greek word for tribulation is *thlipsis* -> meaning “extreme pressure”

What pressure are they going to receive?

They will be persecuted for their faith – but Jesus has overcome the worst that can happen to them -> death

The entire group of the Apostles were preaching in the temple and they were hauled before the Council:

**Acts 5:40-42**

“They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them. So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, **rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.** And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”

This is the effect of the peace of Jesus

Are we willing to do the same?

Do we love Jesus enough to risk persecution?

Do we trust that His peace will be with us?

He is faithful to us all the time -> we need to be faithful to Him

**Communion Prayer**

**Benediction**