

# STORMY WEATHER AHEAD (JOHN 16) OR...SUCK IT UP BUTTERCUP...FOLLOWING JESUS WON'T BE EASY

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**OPEN:** Mama said there would be days like this.

- The plot is thickening, trouble is brewing, Judas is conspiring, Temple guards are gathering, the sun is setting...

## 1) **PERSECUTION** IS PROMISED (JOHN 16:1-4) (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

- Jesus had invested three years into these men and He doesn't want them to stumble or abandon their faith.
  - ✓ The word stumble is "skandalon" – to crush one's faith, to offend.
  - ✓ Jesus doesn't hide from them the difficult days ahead.
    - You got too appreciate that Jesus wasn't trying to downplay things so He might gather a crowd (man often measures success in numbers).
    - He didn't want these men to be uninformed or misinformed.
- a) They will kick you out of the synagogue (vs. 20).
  - ✓ In each community where 10 Jewish men were found, a center for worship and religious instruction was started.
  - ✓ Here the O.T. Scriptures were read (folks didn't have a personal copy in their homes).
  - ✓ It became the place where children receive an education.
  - ✓ Here people gathered to socialize, fellowship, make friends, weddings and village meetings were conducted.

- ✓ To be barred from the synagogue meant that you would be treated like a pagan...people would boycott your business and you would be refused an honorable burial.
- ✓ By the time John writes, the synagogues had become hostile to the Gospel.
- ✓ The Sanhedrin had pronounced a curse: “let the Nazarenes and heretics perish...let them be blotted out of the book of life and not enrolled with the righteous.”

b) They will kill you and think they are doing God a service (vs. 2b).

- ✓ Like Saul of Tarsus they will hunt you down.
- ✓ It wouldn't be long (**Acts 7**) and we see the first martyr of the church...Stephen.
- ✓ In time, all the disciples would have their lives taken from them (except John and they boiled him in oil).
- ✓ There is a saying... “the blood of the Martyrs become the seed of the church.” They wouldn't be silenced for they would soon experience the resurrected Savior.

❖ Because of our identity in Christ (association with Christ) not everyone is going to like us...expect persecution.

## 2) **THE HELPER IS ON THE WAY (JOHN 16:5-15).** *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- Consumed by their own sorrow, absorbed in self-pity (Jesus is leaving) no one asked... “what will this mean for you Jesus?”
- ✓ Their focus was on what His departure meant to them...how would it impact them...Jesus was heading home and would soon take His seat again by the Father.
- ✓ His departure meant Heaven's helper could come.
- ✓ How was this to their advantage?

- Illustration: had Jesus stayed after the resurrection in bodily form He would have limited who could see Him.
- Imagine this scenario: Jesus says to Peter: “I am going to set up my headquarters in Jerusalem. The upper room will do for the time being. You are in charge of setting up 15 minute appointments with people who want to see me. From time to time I will arrange trips to other lands but Jerusalem will be my permanent residence. No favoritism will be shown and each person will be allowed a private audience with me but only for 15 minutes.
  - For those who could make the trip the waiting list would be long.
  - What if Jesus could be made accessible to everyone, anytime, any place? This is what the coming of the Holy Spirit made possible.
- The Holy Spirit is called our Helper, Advocate, Comforter.
  - ✓ The Greek word is parakletos...para=beside, alongside. Kaleo=to call...He is going to come alongside of you, walk by your side...He will indwell you.
- Notice His three-fold work:
  - a) He grapples (wrestles) with the sinner – convicts (**vs. 8**).
    - ✓ No person can be saved until they are convinced they are lost.
    - ✓ He makes us aware of our sin and shortcomings.
    - ✓ Like a lawyer, He displays the evidence until we acknowledge our guilt.
    - ✓ Realizing we are lost and in need of the Savior, He shows us how we can be made right with God.

**2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT) – For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so we could be made right with God through Christ.**

- ✓ The sin that will send a person to hell, the unpardonable, unforgiveable sin is refusing to believe (put your trust) in Jesus Christ.

- Illustration: It's like a man who has a deadly, but curable disease. He goes to the doctor, who prescribes a remedy, but the man refuses to take it (doesn't like the doctor, hypocrites take that medicine, afraid of the side effects). He dies of the disease, not because there is no cure but because he refused to take it.

- When you reject Christ, you seal your eternal doom.

b) He guides the believer (vs. 13).

- He leads the way...He is your personal coach, tutor, mentor.

- ✓ Jesus knew the disciples couldn't handle anymore truth (information)...that's okay, the Holy Spirit would be their teacher.

- ✓ The Holy Spirit helps us understand the word of God and directs our steps.

c) He glorifies Jesus Christ (vs. 14).

- The Son makes known the Father and the Holy Spirit makes known the Son.

❖ Just as it is the job of the Holy Spirit to glorify (exalt) Jesus Christ...so it is ours.

1) Persecution is promised.

2) The Helper is coming.

### 3) **SORROW** IS ONLY TEMPORARY (JOHN 16:16-22). (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

- John does a play on words: vs. 16 in a little while you won't see me (a word that gives us our word theater)...to be a spectator, to look, see...

- But a little while after that, you will see me again (to comprehend...to see in a new way).

- For three year's they had been observing Him but a change would occur and they would know Him in a deeper way).

- Was this the work of the Holy Spirit?
  - Perhaps it speaks of the resurrection appearances?
  - Or some say...when in eternity we see Him face-to-face.
- ❖ I believe the thought here is keep growing...the troubles of this life may limit your vision but hang in there, one day you will know.
- John takes us into the labor and delivery room.
    - ✓ Childbirth is painful, but the end result is joyful.
    - ✓ Sorrow is temporary...the Psalmist said: **Psalm 30:5b (NLT)** - ...weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with (in) the morning.
- ❖ Joy is the benefit (fruit, result) of the Spirit's control. We need a fresh glimpse of Jesus...get our eyes on Jesus.
- ❖ This chapter closes with Jesus telling them:

4) **PRAYER IS YOUR LIFE LINE (JOHN 16:23-24).** (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

- Take your request to the Father, you need not go through a Priest, but because of your faith in Christ you can approach God's throne boldly (confidently).
- ✓ **Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)** – So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.
  - Most ancient rulers were unapproachable by anyone but their highest advisers.
  - We are invited to God's throne...He welcomes our presence.

5) SHOW SOME **COURAGE (JOHN 16:32-33).** (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

- Jesus knew He wouldn't be able to count on them...He took comfort in knowing the Father was with Him.

❖ Find your peace and courage in Christ...He would defeat the enemy; sin, Satan and death. He would and overcome!

- Example of courage: Looking for the right story.

**CLOSE:**

- Sorrow can cause you to stumble but it can also help you mature. Will you stay true to God in the stormy times?
- Heaven's helper, the Holy Spirit, lives in you. Are you allowing Him to lead you?
- Difficult days come and go so keep your eyes on Jesus. Are you looking at your problems or your Savior?
- Prayer is our lifeline, stay connected. When is the last time you asked God for help?
- Don't lose heart, show some courage. How might you show some boldness for Christ this week?

**Pastor Ralph Schneck  
First Baptist Church of Lexington  
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