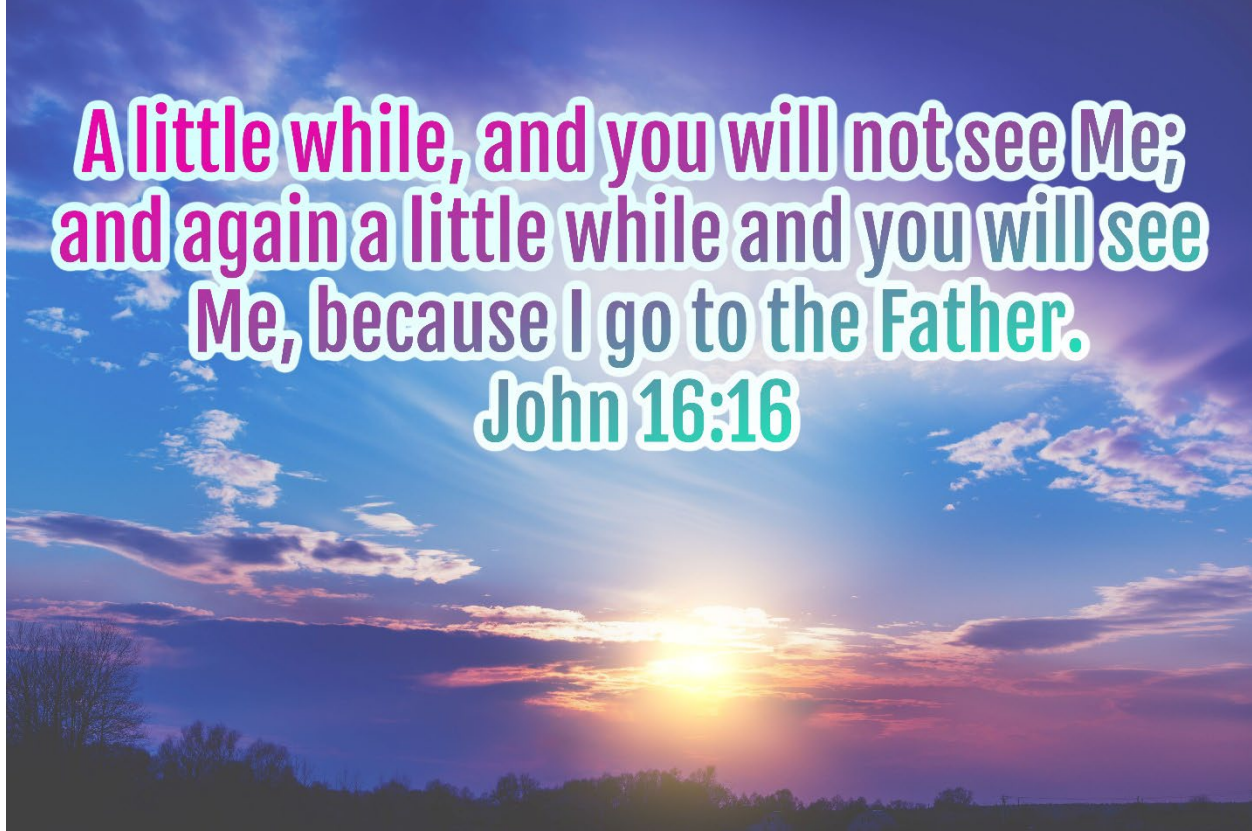


“A Little While” John 16:16-33



**<sup>16</sup> “A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.” <sup>17</sup> Then some of His disciples said among themselves, “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 go to the Father’?” <sup>18</sup> They said therefore, “What is this that He says, ‘A little while’? We do not know what He is saying.” <sup>19</sup> Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, “Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me’? <sup>20</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. <sup>21</sup> A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup> Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. <sup>23</sup> “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. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.**

**<sup>25</sup> “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. <sup>26</sup> In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; <sup>27</sup> for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. <sup>28</sup> I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.”**

**<sup>29</sup> His disciples said to Him, “See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! <sup>30</sup> 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.”**

**<sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” John 16:16–33 (NKJV)**

*This passage has a hard-to-understand aspect to it. It is the REASON Jesus' disciples were talking among themselves, and why Jesus re-explains Himself!*

*If you are not listening closely ... you might misunderstand what is said here too!*

*I. What is meant by Jesus' teaching about a little while?*

**<sup>16</sup> “A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.”**

**<sup>17</sup> Then some of His disciples said among themselves, “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 go to the Father’?”**

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world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. <sup>21</sup> A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup> Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. **John 16:16–22 (NKJV)**

1. Notice how often the phrase, “a little while” is used in just FOUR verses –
  - A. **Twice** by Jesus in His teaching in verse **:16**
  - B. **Three times** by the disciples in their questioning among themselves, what does Jesus mean? In verses **:17-18**
  - C. **Two more times** by Jesus as He starts explaining what He meant, verse **:19**
  - D. Note the phrase “a little while” is used **SEVEN TIMES**, in **John 16:16-19**, as I have told you before, seven is a symbolic number in Scripture and here we see this phrase exactly **SEVEN TIMES!**

*I believe God, Jesus Christ, and John are aiming for our special attention with the repetition of this phrase / word.*

2. In the Greek the phrase “a little while” is just one word that is repeated **SEVEN TIMES** μικρόν micron which means “little” very small! We get our word “microscopic” from this word.
3. Why, is this “little while” phrase so often repeated? I believe because what Jesus is teaching is beyond what **SEEMS** obvious if we are not reading / listening **CAREFULLY** –
  - A. How these words, this communication can be misinterpreted -

*Jesus is going to die and be buried; in the tomb they will not see Him. When He resurrects, they will see Him again and rejoice! Certainly, there is **TRUTH** in this interpretation, but it is not the fulness of what Jesus is saying ...*

- B. The correct interpretation has to take into account why in **:16** Jesus says they will see Him, **you will see Me, because I go to the Father.**”

c. Note He does not say, you will see me, because I will resurrect from the dead, NO, NO, NO – He says, you will see Me –

**... and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.**”

d. Note, this is where the teaching seems a little tricky or difficult, but it is NOT, obviously from verses :17 & :18 the disciples were listening carefully to Jesus, but they were NOT understanding, that is why Jesus restates things:

- They did see Him when He resurrected. Physically He stood before them!
- But they would not really see Him, as the eternal, invisible Word made flesh, Son of the Living God, until He went away from them and back to the Father

-

- He says –

**... and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.**”

He says, you will see Me, because I go to the Father, not despite the FACT I go to the Father and will be no longer physically among you, BECAUSE I go to the Father, You will see ME for Whom and What I really am –

**14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 (NKJV)**

Note, as I have said before, it is NOT stated we beheld His glory, “he was 6’7” tall and had piercing brown eyes, and acne free skin ...

No, they saw Him with spiritual EYES, they beheld His MORAL EXCELLENCE, not His physical face or body!

4. Seeing like this means being able like God, through the power of God’s Spirit, to see beyond the physical appearance –

**7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7 (NKJV)**

5. This is why the Apostle Paul says, we know Him no longer after the flesh –

**<sup>16</sup> Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer. 2 Corinthians 5:16 (NKJV)**

A. *Paul preached within a few years after Christ's resurrection. Many had SEEN Jesus at that time, either before or after His resurrection, they knew Him as a Jewish man, they knew His physical appearance.*

B. *Flesh too, was important for a while, because salvation was of the Jews –*  
**<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. John 4:21–22 (NKJV)**

C. *But Paul communicates flesh no longer has this importance –*  
**<sup>16</sup> Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer. 2 Corinthians 5:16 (NKJV)**

D. *This is at least partially why we (or at least I) oppose pictures of Jesus Christ, they DISTORT the true Spiritual Vision of God and Jesus Christ, Jesus wants us to have –*  
**<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. Matthew 5:8 (NKJV)**

*Because Jesus goes to the Father, because He is in Heaven, because we do not SEE HIM physically, we now can see Him better, because what is IMPORTANT about Jesus Christ is not His physical body, or His facial appearance, which we do NOT KNOW, but His spiritual, moral qualities that we read about in God's Word!*

6. *All this being said, His resurrection, and the disciples observing Him alive, their watching Him ascend into HEAVEN were certainly at least part of their joy –*  
**<sup>20</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. <sup>21</sup> A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child,**

**she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup> Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. John 16:16–22 (NKJV)**

A. *Their SORROW was seeing Jesus die on the cross! :20*

B. *In this sad occasion an ungodly world, persecuting Christ, rejoices - :20*

C. *The trouble was necessary because of sin, just like a woman's pain in child-bearing - :21*

D. *Yet, seeing Christ alive, like the birth of a baby, causes rejoicing - :22*

E. *True, Christian joy is unstoppable, because we know Jesus has beaten death and sin - :22*

**... and your joy no one will take from you. John 16: 22 (NKJV)**

7. *Ultimately, the mikron, "little while" statements Jesus makes apply to ALL of our struggles and difficulties in this world, compared to ETERNITY in HEAVEN, they are NOTHING, microscopic, less than microscopic ... –*

**<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, <sup>18</sup> while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NKJV)**

II. *The beginning of "in Jesus' Name" Praying -*

**<sup>23</sup> "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. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. John 16:23–24 (NKJV)**



1. *Before Jesus had died, resurrected, and ascended to the right hand of the Father, praying to the Father “in Jesus’ Name” would have not made sense like it does now.*

A. *The LACK of access to God was symbolized by the veil guarding the Holy of Holies in the Temple, but when Jesus DIED that veil was torn –*

**<sup>50</sup> And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. <sup>51</sup> Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, Matthew 27:50–51 (NKJV)**

B. *We now rejoice in our access to God that we have in Jesus Christ –*

**<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, <sup>21</sup> and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Hebrews 10:19–22 (NKJV)**

2. *Asking in “Jesus’ Name” does not mean getting whatever our sinful heart’s desire, but rather what we really NEED for following Jesus Christ –*

**4 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do *they* not come from your *desires for pleasure* that war in your members? <sup>2</sup> You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. <sup>4</sup> Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup> Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”? <sup>6</sup> But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “*God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.*” <sup>7</sup> Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. James 4:1–8 (NKJV)**

### III. *Knowing, understanding, but still needing to grow*

—

**<sup>25</sup> “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. <sup>26</sup> In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; <sup>27</sup> for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. <sup>28</sup> I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.” <sup>29</sup> His disciples said to Him, “See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! <sup>30</sup> 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.” <sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” John 16:25–33 (NKJV)**

1. *I think there was truth to the disciples saying they believed at this point, but*

...

*I think they really UNDERSTOOD Jesus was going to the Father (head knowledge)*

2. *But Jesus was about to DIE, and their FEARS would overwhelm their faith, “for a little while” (head knowledge had to grow to be heart knowledge...)*

3. *But Jesus overcomes, and so do all His true followers –*

**<sup>11</sup> And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Revelation 12:11 (NKJV)**

*Arnold A. Brevick*