

John 16: The Midwife

Lesson Theme: Jesus is in Full Control of Delivering Us to Himself

Psalm 22:9-10—

But You *are* He who took Me out of the womb;
You made Me trust *while* on My mother's breasts.
I was cast upon You from birth.
From My mother's womb
You have been My God.

John 16:1-15: The Helper

1. Jesus told his disciples ahead of time what they will experience and why so they would not stumble in their faith. (John 16:1-4)

1 Thessalonians 2:2-4—

But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict. For our exhortation *did not come* from error or uncleanness, nor *was it* in deceit. But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

2. Jesus explained to His disciples that it was to their advantage for Him to go away so that the Holy Spirit could come. The Holy Spirit goes before Jesus' disciples to prepare hearts to receive the Lord. (John 16:5-11).

Acts 16:6-10

3. The role of the Holy Spirit is to convict the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. (John 16:8-11)

Deuteronomy 32:4—

He is the Rock, His work is perfect;
For all His ways are justice,
A God of truth and without injustice;
Righteous and upright is He.

4. The Holy Spirit speaks in perfect unison with the Father and the Son, who are sitting on the throne in heaven. (John 16:12-15)

Acts 18:9-11—

Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city." And he continued *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

John 16:16-33: Sorrow to Joy

5. The disciples had a difficult time understanding what Jesus was telling them. (John 16:16-19)
6. Past: Jesus would go to the cross and die. They would bury Him in the tomb. But He would rise again from the dead on the third day, just like He said. (John 16:20-22)
7. Future: Jesus will come again to take us to heaven in the rapture of the church. (John 16:20-22)

John 14:1-3—

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

8. The process of waiting for Jesus’ resurrection (past) and Jesus’ coming in the rapture (future) will be a painful process, likened to childbirth, for followers of Christ. But our sorrow will turn to joy the moment we see Him face-to-face! (John 16:20-22)
9. Like a midwife, Jesus will deliver us to our perfect, sanctified, glorified state—Him in us! (John 16:20-22)

Romans 8:28-30

10. Jesus tells us to ask and receive, that our joy may be full! (John 16:23-24)

1 John 5:14-15

11. Jesus told them plainly He is the Son of God. (John 16:25-28)
12. Jesus’ disciples were starting to understand, but they had to go through the process of Jesus’ death, burial, resurrection, then the receiving of the Holy Spirit until they could understand Him more fully. (John 16:25-32)
13. Jesus promised His disciples that He has overcome the world. (John 16:33)

Conclusions:

- Following the lead of the Holy Spirit is crucial in obeying the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). We do well to wait for the Holy Spirit to prepare their heart ahead of time before we arrive. God give us His peace when it is time to go.
- Confusion about what God is telling us is a part of the learning process. We can take comfort that even the 11 disciples struggled to understand Jesus’ message at times. But we keep seeking the Lord through His Word to gain understanding and peace.
- We can trust the character of God in that He will do what He says. We’ve seen 100% accuracy in God fulfilling His Word in the past. We will see 100% accuracy in Him fulfilling His Word in the future.