

## John 16:16-17:26

I just can't find much to say about the first section of today's lesson because Jesus is talking to his disciples and not to us.

He has already warned them that they will be facing persecution and trials in the near and more distant future.

In 16:16-33, he is telling them that they are going to be going through a time of suffering and anguish when it appears that the world (the system, the Devil, their enemies) have won and they have lost. He reassures them that appearances are deceiving and that they will soon rejoice again after mourning.

They just don't quite get it. Our commentators say that this is a clue that these are likely close to the original words of Jesus. In other places John switches from Jesus speaking to John's commentary on what has been said; a commentary that John has picked up after preaching, praying, and being led by the Spirit for more than fifty years. Here John limits himself to just using the words as they were originally heard and misunderstood without any clarification, explanation or amplification. The only place where you might see the words of John creeping in is where Jesus refers to himself as "Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." Jesus tended to avoid such titles (Christ is the Greek word for the Hebrew Messiah) and I can only find one other place where he does use it and that's to warn others not to tell that he was "Jesus the Christ." - Matthew 16:20

He also warns them that they will desert him. The two terms he uses are that they will be "scattered," and "each to his own home."

These are two clear Old Testament references to two different types of leaving him alone. That they will be scattered is a reference to His impending death as a fulfillment of Zechariah 13:7.

"Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, Against the Man who is My Companion," Says the LORD of hosts. "Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered; Then I will turn My hand against the little ones.

Perhaps they're being told that they will be scattered out of fear at seeing Jesus arrested and killed. Notice the second half of the verse also includes a prediction of the persecution they've been warned about.

The term "each to his own home" implies that they will also abandon him not only out of fear and shock but also out of their own ongoing stubborn and rebellious nature and their lack of willingness to follow obediently as they have stated they would do before (Thomas inviting the others to return to Bethany with Jesus so that they might all die with him and Peter's declaration that he would never abandon him and would die for him.)

As we've said before when the same phrase was used after Jesus' forgiving the woman caught in adultery, when the Old Testament speaks of "each" fleeing (as opposed to returning or going) to his own home or tent, it is often a reference to the people rebelling.

People reject God and demand that Samuel appoint them a king

(1 Samuel 10:25) Then Samuel explained to the people the behavior of royalty, and wrote it in a book and laid it up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house. (NKJV)

After Absalom had led Israel in rebellion against David and had been killed, the people of Israel had fled in fear and confusion:

(2 Samuel 19:8) Then the king arose and sat in the gate. And they told all the people, saying, "There is the king, sitting in the gate." So all the people came before the king. For everyone of Israel had fled to his tent. (NKJV)

Sheba leads a rebellion against David:

(2 Samuel 20:1) And there happened to be there a rebel, whose name was Sheba the son of Bichri, a Benjamite. And he blew a trumpet, and said: "We have no share in David, Nor do we have inheritance in the son of Jesse; Every man to his tents, O Israel!" (NKJV)

## Chapter 17 - Jesus' High Priestly Prayer

As you'll recall from your OT studies and the background info on the Festival of Booths or Tabernacles (John 7-8), the High Priest's prayers and sacrifices were three-fold: he was to pray and sacrifice for himself, for the people, and also for the rest of the world (Gentiles).

Although Jesus doesn't have to pray for forgiveness for His sins like the High Priest did he still prays for himself;

*1) that He be glorified in order that God might be glorified;*

*2) He acknowledges that God has given him certain people whom he will grant eternal life that he defines as knowing Himself and God.*

(Isaiah 53:10-12) Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors. (NKJV)

*3) He states that this glory has been brought by completing the work He was sent to do (going to the cross)*

*4) He requests that he be given back the Godly glory that he has lain aside to come to earth.*

(Philippians 2:5-11) Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (NKJV)

*Jesus then prays for the eleven remaining disciples* and I'm going to continue to steal this from a website because it's already after 11:00 pm <http://bible.org/seriespage/high-priestly-prayer-jesus-john-17> - the parts I got from here are in italics

*The prayer was founded on the following factors:*

*First, He accomplished His earthly task of revealing the father to the disciples*

*Second, He assumed the consummation of His ministry in the work of the cross*

*Third, His prayer was based upon those he prayed for being true believers.*

*1) The keeping for which Jesus prayed involved the eternal security of His followers (must be a Baptist site)*

*2) The keeping of the disciples involved giving them joy in the midst of the world's opposition*

*3) The keeping of the Father included protection against the attacks of Satan*

*4) The keeping of the Father includes the sanctification of the believer.*

*Jesus' prayer for all the future believers (that's you and me and the people we know, even the ones we don't like) primarily involved that we be unified. We will share in this glory he's been talking about by being unified (unity is to be found in union, not uniformity) I Corinthians 12:4-30*

He concludes his prayer by praying for both the disciples and us:

He wants us to be with Him

He wants us to see His glory that he's had since before the creation of the world.

He wants us to know, as the disciples did, that He was sent by God;

He wants us to know God through Him;

He wants the love that God has for Him to be in us;

and He wants to be in us (part of us) as well.