

**“Jesus’ Final Message”
John 16:25 – 32**

Big Idea – Jesus said we can know the Father’s love as He did.

People today are desperate for love, for something to believe in, for something to live for, for someone to love them, to help give their life purpose. People need to know they have value, they must be worth something to somebody, and that’s what love is. Love says I value you, I care about you and I believe in you.

That’s what God says to us all. He says, I created you, I gave you your talents, abilities and skills and I have wonderful things in store for you.

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

In verse 27 Jesus said, “The Father Himself loves you...”

1. Love

John 16:25 “I have spoken of these matters in figures of speech, but soon I will stop speaking figuratively and will tell you plainly all about the Father.

The figurative speech of Jesus

In Jesus’ old way of dealing with His disciples he spoke to them in parables, in metaphors, in figures of speech. The Greek word literally means “veiled statements”

Good example is John 2:19 “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” He was talking about His body, but they thought He meant the literal Jewish temple which they said took 46 years to build.

The phrase “these things” refers to things He had said about the Father and Jesus’ own relationship to Him.

So Jesus was prevented from speaking plainly to them, first of course, by His own design, but second, because of their ignorance. They just did not get much of what Jesus was talking about.

Here He promises them though that the Holy Spirit would come and guide them into all the truth.

John 16:13a “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.”

The “time is coming” refers to the Day of Pentecost. Jesus is saying that on the Day of Pentecost all the mystery will be cleared up. That’s what happened – if you read, Paul, and Peter and James none of the New Testament writers spoke in parables – the only exception is the book of Revelation and that’s because John was writing on this side of the events prophesied, much like Jesus and the disciples before Pentecost – the predictions in Revelation have not happened yet so they seem mysterious to us.

God gave us the epistles, the letters of the Apostles to unfold the teachings of Christ to us – to explain the mysteries of God and speak plainly.

The Old Testament, the old covenant, was a veiled covenant – it was a covenant of parables and types, pictures and symbols. It did not have plain speech but was veiled. Sadly, the Jews today still have that same veil on for as they read the Old Testament, they can’t untangle the parables, the types, or the meaning of the prophecies. What Paul was talking about in his letter to Corinth.

2 Corinthians 3:14 “But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the *veil* is taken away in Christ.

15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart.

16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.”

So when believers read the New Testament you understand it because the veil was taken away when you received Christ. And listen to what else happens:

2 Corinthians 3:17 “For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

18 So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.”

The valued Son – vs. 25, 26

John 16:26-27 26 In that day you will ask the Father for things in my name. I mean, I will not need to ask the Father for you.

He shows us plainly “of the Father” – you may not know yet, or understand a lot of doctrine in the Bible, but you know who your Father is – 1 John 2:13 says that even “little children know who their Father is” The first thing a Christian learns is that God loves Him and cares for him

He is saying here in vs. 26 “in that day” they will go directly to the Father in Jesus’ name.

Now, when Jesus says “I do not pray for you” He is not saying He never intercedes for us as that would contradict Hebrews 7:25 and Romans 8:26 & 34. In the new age believers can pray directly to the Father saying “Jesus sent me”

Why? – The Father loves the Son with a infinite love and anyone who comes to the Father in the Son’s name is going to get what He asks. We have instant and total access to the Father through the Son as a believer in Jesus Christ. This is important because the Roman Catholic Church for years has taught that access to the Father and Christ comes through Mary. And access to Mary and Christ comes through angels or certain saints, which sets up a barrier between people and God. Here in John 16 the Bible says we have direct access to the Father.

Vss. 23 & 26

When is it that Jesus prays for us?

-When we don’t know how to pray about something. Romans 8:26, 34

Romans 8:26 Also, the Spirit helps us with our weakness. We do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself speaks to God for us, even begs God for us with deep feelings that words cannot explain.

Romans 8:34 “... Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God’s right hand, praying for us.”

-When we sin. 1 John 2:1

1 John 2:1 “My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the righteous One.”

The valued believer

27 The Father himself loves you. He loves you because you loved me and believed that I came from God.

Why God loves the believer? Jesus says in vs. 27 that the Father loves believers because believers love His Son. When you love Jesus Christ God the Father loves you with a unique kind of love that prompts a bounty of blessing and answered prayer on your behalf. Think of that for a moment – the God who created the universe loves you – that ought to give you a little self-value! He loves you so much that He came to earth in Jesus to die for you.

How does God love the believer? – just as a Father loves a Son.
That's why when a believer prays he doesn't go in fear to God – Rom. 8:15

Romans 8:15 "So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." Papa God

Hebrews 4:16 "So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious Father God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."

Jesus said "...you have loved me" vs. 27b
Important question is how do you show your love for Jesus?

John 14:21 "Those who know my commands and obey them are the ones who love me, and my Father will love those who love me. I will love them and will show myself to them."

2. Faith

As we talk about faith, think of this question: What is there to believe in?

The basis of our faith – Christ's deity – Jesus is God

This is one big truth so many are willing to give up on today. Why Peter classified as a heretic someone who denies the Lord

2 Peter 2:1 "But ... there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction."

Why Paul condemned in Galatians 1 those who preach another Gospel which he said is not the Gospel because it perverts the message of Jesus Christ.

And John in 2 John speaks against those who come to your door and don't believe in the deity of Christ – he said not to receive them into your house or even bid them God speed – good day!

We must commit ourself to the doctrine that Jesus is God! Jesus is definitive! We don't just believe in religion, in a church, in love, or God the Father up in the sky loving everybody. We believe in God revealing Himself in Christ to redeem the lost, sinful world.

The beginning of their faith

John 16:29-30 29 Then the followers of Jesus said, “You are speaking clearly to us now and are not using stories that are hard to understand.

30 We can see now that you know all things. You can answer a person's question even before it is asked. This makes us believe you came from God.”

They begin to understand (vs. 29). They think vs. 25 is fulfilled in vs. 29, but the total fulfillment wouldn't be until Pentecost, 50 days later.

How were people saved in the Old Testament? - they were saved by believing the revelation of God at whatever point it was revealed to them. In other words, if they were born during the times Genesis was written they don't have to believe the whole New Testament – they just have to believe what God has told them up to then.

Vs. 30 – They believe what they understand. They're beginning to see who Jesus is.

Vs. 31 – John 16:31 Jesus answered, “So now you believe?”

Jesus accepted their childlike baby faith – Mark 9:24 “Lord I believe, help my unbelief”. There are no question marks or punctuation marks in the Greek, so it's likely not a question but a statement as in “You believe?” Great I'll take you where you are now.

The good news of the Gospel is that Jesus will take us right where we are

The buffeting of their faith

John 16:32 Listen to me; a time is coming when you will be scattered, each to his own home. That time is now here. You will leave me alone, but I am never really alone, because the Father is with me.

Jesus knew they would overestimate their infant faith, He knew they would desert Him and scatter in fear like sheep, as it was predicted in Zechariah 13:7 "...strike the Shepherd and the sheep will be scattered..." Jesus warned them about this.

Here's a key to the secret of spiritual strength – deep humility and self distrust.

Paul said, "when I am weak (in myself) then I am strong (in the Lord)."

The blessed faith of the blessed Son – vs. 32

He bet His life on the Father's word – "the Father is with me"

We can bet our lives on Him because faith is believing that Jesus is all He claimed to be. We can believe in God's unending love and trust our eternity on it because God revealed it in His Son Jesus Christ – "the wages of our sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord"