**I Am Leaving the World and**

**Going to My Father**

**Jn. 16:16-22**

Introduction:

1. Beginning in Jn. 13:31 Jesus had been trying to comfort His disciples.

2. He had indicated that was going away. In 13:33 he said, “I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me. Where I am going you cannot come.” In verse 36 he had told Peter, “Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you shall follow later.”

3. He had promised them the Holy Spirit as a Comforter.

4. And set things in the context of the Jewish wedding tradition of a bridegroom going away and then returning later (14:1-6).

5. What He says here in 16:16ff is a continuation of the discourse he began back in 13:33.

6. Even now the disciples still seem confused about what He means.

7. I can appreciate their confusion. “A little while, and you will no longer behold Me; and again a little while, and you will see me.”

 a. Is He talking about His death and resurrection?

 b. Is He talking about His leaving the earth at His ascension and His return at the second

 coming?

Discussion:

I. Obviously what He says here is set in this greater context of the prediction of His death and His leaving them.

 A. In 16:5 He said, “I am going to Him who sent Me.” He had said He would send the Holy

 Spirit.

 B. This would make us think that He was referring to His going away following His

 resurrection and ascension.

 C. But this would seem not to satisfy the idea of His going away for “a little while” and in “a

 little while” seeing them again. This might make us think He was talking of His death

 and subsequent resurrection 3 days later.

 D. “Again in a little while, You will see Me.” The idea of seeing Him is used repeatedly after

 His resurrection.

 1. Mary saw Jesus (Jn. 20:18).

 2. The disciples saw the Lord (Jn. 20:20, 25a).

 3. Thomas saw the Lord (Jn. 20:25b, 27, 29).

 E. Then there is the contrast with those who believe, but have not seen (Jn. 20:29).

II. More immediately the disciples are going to experience His death and resurrection.

 A. They would not see Him and the world would not see Him after His death (Jn. 14:19).

 1. The world would rejoice at His death (16:20).

 2. They would grieve (16:20).

 B. But then when He was resurrected they did see Him again.

 1. Their sorrow turned into joy (16:20).

 2. Then He gives this analogy of a woman giving birth (16:21-22).

 3. “Now you have sorrow; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice.”

III. But while His death and resurrection are immediate there seems to be something bigger going on here (16:23-33).

 A. “In that day.” What day is this? After His resurrection?

 B. After His ascension?

 C. When could they ask in His name and their joy be made full? Cf. 14:13-14.

 1. They could ask “in His name” after He ascended to the right hand of His Father.

 2. After He is crowned as King He would send the Holy Spirit and grant

 them whatever they needed to accomplish their purpose.

 D. He says, He is going to the Father.

 1. Did He go to His Father after His death before the resurrection and ascension?

 2. Did He go to His Father only after the ascension?

 3. To what does He refer?

 E. His disciples confess that they believe (16:29-30).

 F. But Jesus questions their belief (16:31-33).

 1. They will be scattered.

 2. They will abandon Him.

 3. He acknowledges their tribulation, but calls for their courage in light of His having

 overcome the world.

IV. What do I take away from this?

 A. There can be comfort even when we don’t understanding everything.

 B. Christ understands something of our thinking we believe when in fact we are being

 scattered, even abandoning the Him. He wants us to take courage and overcome the

 world through Him.

 C. This is comforting to me when I am confused and when I don’t understand. It is

 comforting to me when I think I understand and then gain more understanding later, that

 the Lord is still there for me, overcoming the world and assuring me of peace.

 D. While Jesus was taken away from the disciples at His death, and again after His

 ascension, His leaving did not mean that He was abandoning them.

Conclusion:

1. Jesus’ concern about His disciples is remarkable.

2. And His concern for you is just as remarkable.

3. Be assured that even in your confusion He wishes to comfort you. And when you think you understand and really don’t. He would comfort you.

4. He rescues you from the world.