

STUDY QUESTIONS FROM 27TH OCTOBER – JOHN 16

vv1-4 “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

Verses 1-4 of this passage were also included in the sermon of 20th October and the questions and notes from that day apply to those verses again. In addition, consider

- i) When talking to someone who is considering the Christian faith, how would you raise the potential cost of becoming a Christian?
- ii) The Pilgrim’s Progress allegory describes many hazards that Christian had to overcome or avoid. In our context, what is the attraction of the advice of Mr Worldly Wiseman who would urge us to the option of living a happy existence without religion in the village of Morality with people named Legality and Civility?
- iii) How can we stay faithful to the true gospel?

vv 5-6 I did not say these things from the beginning, because I was with you, but now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me “where are you going?” But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

The disciples seem to have been gently reprimanded for being so preoccupied by their fear of Jesus’ leaving them that they failed to recognise Jesus’ (human) emotional needs. Two practical questions: -

- i) How can we be sure to support each other without allowing our own needs to dominate the conversation?
- ii) I have two ears and one mouth - is there a need for me to listen twice as much as I talk?

vv7-11 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgement: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgement, because the ruler of this world is judged.

- i) The Holy Spirit’s role is to convince ‘the world’ (by which Jesus means non-believers) of their sin and of their need for forgiveness. How can we play our part in that work?
- ii) Righteousness is being made right with God through forgiveness of our sin. Try to work out a very brief explanation (‘elevator pitch’) explaining how Jesus’ death and resurrection was the only way that our righteousness could be achieved.