

Do You Now Believe?

Introduction

I. Opening Thoughts

1. These last few hours of freedom in Jesus' life are not the first times that he has spoken of his looming death, and yet I wonder if his apostles are beginning to notice that this time is different. He now speaks in the present when he says that his hour has come (John 12:23) that he is going to the father (John 14:3) that they will see him no more (John 14:19).
2. As John writes the last moments of Jesus with his apostles we are given some of the most wonderful examples and lessons of who our savior is and who we are called to be. Difficult times are at hand, but Jesus is not going to let his disciples go into battle without warning them and preparing them first.

II. Context

1. When we get to John 16 we see Jesus in the last conversation with his apostles that is recorded on the night that he was betrayed. When you look back at this conversation as we do this evening you see the great comfort that Jesus is bestowing upon his apostles and even ourselves today, because the things that are about to transpire were for their good and for our good and have always been the plan of God.

III. Purpose

1. As we come to a close in John 16 his apostles are wrestling with the words that Jesus is speaking and they are trying their utmost to believe to the point that they think that they do.
 - a) John 16:29–31 - [29] His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! [30] Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” [31] Jesus answered them, “**Do you now believe?** (ESV)
2. When we look back at this event and the events that follow, Jesus ask each and everyone of us, “Do you now believe?” Do you truly believe? In John 16 Jesus tells his apostles why he must die, will you believe what he has to say?

Lesson

I. The Advantage of Jesus Dying

1. Why did Jesus have to die? This is the does not make sense. This is not what we expected.
 - a) John 16:4–7 - [4] But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. “I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. [5] But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ [6] But because I have said these things to you, **sorrow has filled your heart.** [7] 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. (ESV)
2. The disciples had time and time again asked Jesus, “Where are you going?” But Jesus says they do not ask for they can't see the answer because of the physical limitations of their faith. They hear that Jesus is leaving. They hear that he is going to die. These are words of sorrow and misery.
3. And yet Jesus says this is to be advantageous to them. Why is Jesus' death going to be advantageous? The helper would come when Jesus leaves.
 - a) John 16:12–15 - [12] “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. [13] When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. [14] He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. [15] All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. (ESV)

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4. There are so many questions but the time hasn't come for all of the answers. The answers lie in the future. These apostles are living this before all truth was revealed, before the entirety of the plan of God was completed, but this is the plan and this is what is best for all men.

II. How Can This Be Advantageous?

1. How can death and departure be good news? I just can't see the advantage and Jesus even tells them they can't understand yet, so when will this plan come to fruition, when will they get answers?
 - a) John 16:16–24 - [16] **"A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me."** [17] So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" [18] So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'?" We do not know what he is talking about." [19] Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'?" [20] **Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.** [21] When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. [22] So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. [23] In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. [24] Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. (ESV)
2. Joy is just around the bend. We are so close but I can't touch it yet, I can't see it. This Spirit will be here in "a little while." Rejoicing and joy follows lament and sorrow, how can this be? It's going to be difficult to watch. It is going to be painful to endure. But new life will be brought into the world through Jesus and this Helper.
 - a) John 16:25 - [25] "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. (ESV)
3. A little while and the mystery will be revealed. Are you ready to see what this has all been about? Are you ready to have your eyes opened? Why is the death of Jesus so important? Why are we in need of this helper?

III. Do You See The Advantage Yet?

1. All of this is the plan of God. The hour has been approaching and has now come for Jesus to leave. Can you see it yet? Do you understand what Jesus is talking about?
 - a) John 16:29–33 - [29] His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech!" [30] Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." [31] Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? [32] Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. (ESV)
2. Do you now believe? His disciples are trying. They say they believe but Jesus tells them they will scatter. As badly as they are wanting to see and understand, the advantage of Jesus sacrifice hasn't resonated with them yet. This Jesus obviously came from God, he lived perfectly and died sinlessly. Where is the joy? Where is the advantage?
3. When did the apostles finally see what had been in front of this for so long? When they saw the resurrected Jesus then they believed. Look at the confession of Thomas on seeing Jesus risen from dead.

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(1) John 20:27–29 - [27] Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. **Do not disbelieve, but believe.**” [28] **Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”** [29] **Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”** (ESV)

4. Though we all scattered, though all hope seemed to be lost, Jesus is raised, hope is brought forth through sorrow, life is made available through Jesus. Though they did not see him for three days they now see him again and they truly believe. But what about this Helper that is to be so advantageous? What happens next?

IV. The Gospel Is Made Available

1. How long is a little while before the full advantage of the blood of Jesus is manifested? These three years have been building to this. The past 33 years have been building to this. All of time has been building to this since Eve took the first bite of forbidden fruit. All of eternity has been building to this since before the foundations of the earth were laid. A little while and God's scheme of redemption will have been fulfilled. All has been finished and Jesus has now returned to the father as he had said he would.

(1) Acts 2:1–4 - [1] When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. [2] And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. [3] And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. [4] **And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. (ESV)

2. What's the big deal about this Spirit that is to come? 50 days after this conversation on the night that Jesus was betrayed the spirit comes but what will he do?
 - a) John 16:8–11 - [8] And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: [9] concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; [10] concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; [11] concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. (ESV)
3. Jesus told his apostles on the night that he was betrayed what the first gospel sermon ever preached would be. And the same gospel that the spirit brought forth then is the same gospel that he had men record and wrote down and it is the same gospel that we can read and obey today
4. The spirit will come and guide you into all truth, both for yourselves and your hearers. The eternal scheme of redemption can finally be preached and salvation in Jesus can come to all that obey

A. The Gospel is Preached and it Convicts Men of Sin

(1) Acts 2:36 - [36] Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” (ESV)

5. Jesus was killed because of their sins and because of my sins. When we sin we are the cause of the death of Jesus. We did not choose Jesus but rather ourselves. The spirit reveals this to all men

B. The Gospel is Preached and Men have Righteousness Made Available Through Jesus

(1) Acts 2:37–38 - [37] Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” [38] And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

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6. You can be made right in the sight of God only because the blood of Jesus. If there is no death then there can be no resurrection. But because Jesus has died, been buried and raised we too can participate in this and be made righteous once again
- C. The Gospel is Preached to Prepare all for Judgement
- (1) Acts 2:39–41 - [39] For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” [40] And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” [41] So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (ESV)
7. Save yourself from this wicked generation. Judgement is coming and Satan has been defeated. Receive his word that the spirit spoke forth and have victory in Jesus

Invitation

- I. Are you convicted of sin? Do you long for righteousness? Are you ready for judgement?
 - A. Victory awaits in Jesus. Jesus has overcome the world and offers each of us the same opportunity
 - a) John 16:33 - [33] I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (ESV)
 - B. Jesus died to make salvation and victory possible. The Spirit came to tell each and every one of us this wonderful news. Looking back on these events that occurred on the night that Jesus was betrayed and the events that followed 50 days later Jesus asks you, “Do you now believe?”