



## Portrait of Christ

*Sketches in the Gospel of John*

Inductive Discovery Lesson 17  
**John 16:1-33**

### Jesus: The Overcoming One

That night in the upper room, Jesus told the disciples He was going away. It was troubling to hear Him speak of betrayal, suffering, and death. He talked about the world hating Him and how they would be hated too. Their hearts were so heavy they couldn't grasp all that Jesus was telling them...especially when He said it was good for them that He was going away. Though it all felt painfully unclear at the time, the Lord promised they would not be left on their own.

*“There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth.”*

Jesus went on to explain that the sorrow they would experience would be very real, but it would also be temporary. Think of what the Lord was facing, and yet His tender concern is for His disciples who were confused, bewildered and afraid. In a matter of hours, Jesus will endure all the hatred and misery of the world unleashed. He will take upon Himself the punishment for sin. For the scattered disciples, it will seem like defeat. But Jesus knows it is the path to victory.

**Working Text for John 16:1-33**  
English Standard Version (ESV)

1 "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. 2 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. 3 And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor Me. 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. 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.

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.

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.

**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. **26** In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; **27** for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God. **28** I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

**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. **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."









**INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?***

**Look for a spiritual lesson.** Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

**APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?***

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

**John 16:1-15**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

**John 16:16-22**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

**John 16:23-33**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

**Summary**

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Give a simple title to the chapter to help you remember what it says.  
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## Take A Closer Look

**“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.”**

John 16:33 ESV

### ***Memorize God’s Word***

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

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### ***Meditate on God’s Word***

While you memorize this verse, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like a good cup of tea—the longer it steeps, the richer the flavor. So give yourself permission to slowly savor God’s Word! Use the questions below (like a tea bag) to keep dipping into this verse.

(Challenge alert: You won’t always see an obvious answer directly from the verse.)

**Look up.** What does this verse show you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, or His promises.)

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**Look around.** What does this teach you about life or people in general?

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**Look within.** What does this teach you about yourself?

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**Look ahead.** Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

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**Look alive!** Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

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## ***Make God's Word Your Prayer***

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.

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## **God's Word Bearing Fruit**

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter?  
How will you put what you have learned into practice?

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## **Something to Think About . . .**

In Jesus, we have peace. It certainly is not ours unless we follow the conditions He lays down. First, abiding in Him; and second, meditating on His words. If these be observed, we will have a center of safety in the midst of the sweeping whirlwind. Oh child of God, abide there!

F.B. Meyer

**Message Notes:**

A large rectangular area with horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or message template. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the area. The edges of the rectangle are irregular and jagged, giving it the appearance of a piece of torn paper. The background of the area is a light gray color.

