

¹ “I have told you these things to keep you from stumbling. ²They will ban you from the synagogues. In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³They will do these things because they haven’t known the Father or Me. ⁴But I have told you these things so that when their time comes you may remember I told them to you. I didn’t tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you.

Jesus has already stated that He told them about Judas’ betrayal “so that when it happens you will believe that I am [who I am].”

- Now He warns them of trials yet to come “to keep you from stumbling.”
 - In this case, the stumbling block is Jewish persecution on two fronts (16:2):
 - Excommunication (cf 9:22, 34) – cut off from all ties: religious, social and familial
 - Death (cf 12:10) – “righteous” judgement for blasphemy/heresy
 - cf Lev. 24:16; Acts 9:1,2; 26:9-11
 - “Jesus attributed the action of His foes to ignorance - not the ignorance of intellectual knowledge, but the lack of a personal experience of God and Christ. Their attitude was determined by who they thought Jesus was, and consequently by who they thought God was, rather than by actual contact with either. So warped had that attitude become that their contact with Jesus had generated hate for both himself and the Father (John 15:24).”
- Gaebelein, *Expositor’s Bible Commentary*

⁵ “But now I am going away to Him who sent Me, and not one of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ ⁶Yet, because I have spoken these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don’t go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸When He comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: ⁹About sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see Me; ¹¹and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

Side note: How to reconcile 15:5 with 13:36? – “Simon Peter asked Him, ‘Lord, where are you going?’”

- It’s possible Peter was asking in a worldly, geographical sense.
- Also often surmised that Peter’s original question wasn’t asked more from grief at Jesus’ departure, rather than as an inquiry of His motives or what He hoped to accomplish.
- Jesus makes this statement to point out that they need to broaden their perspective and see that something greater is in play here...

...which is that it had always been the plan for Jesus to return to the Father and the Holy Spirit to continue Jesus’ work

- His purpose will be to convict (pronounce a verdict based on overwhelming evidence) the world on three fronts:
 - Sin – Specifically, unbelief (cf 15:22-24).
 - Sin is a function of unbelief, equating to a rejection of God’s message and messengers.
 - Righteousness – No man can claim to be sinless, except Jesus.
 - His resurrection and ascension will be undeniable proof that He is accepted by the Father, which will completely vindicate Him from all charges by which man condemned Him to death.
 - This aspect in particular will weigh heavy on the Jews who hear the Spirit’s message in Acts 2 (2:33).
 - Judgment – Jesus’ sacrifice will “cast out the ruler of this world” (12:31).
 - If the ruler of this world is condemned, so are those who conform to his image (ie children of the Devil, 8:44).

¹² “I still have many things to tell you, but you can’t bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. ¹⁴He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵Everything the Father has is Mine. This is why I told you that He takes from what is Mine and will declare it to you.

The disciples “can’t bear” some teaching now because they aren’t yet mature enough to understand them.

- There are some things they will only be able to comprehend through the lens of the cross.
- Some things to keep in mind:
 - The declaration of truth foretold here is the special revelation given to the disciples to dispense the gospel (Acts 1:2, 8a; Eph 3:2).
 - It is not meant to refer to “ongoing revelation” throughout the existence of the church.
 - Jesus validates the Spirit’s message by affirming that:
 - He will not present an independent message: it will be consistent with everything that Jesus said and did, and will confirm everything Jesus said and did.
 - It will be truth because truth the Spirit “proceeds from the Father” (15:26).
 - Truth is the Spirit’s nature, just as it is God’s nature.

¹⁶ “A little while and you will no longer see Me; again a little while and you will see Me.”

This statement refers to Jesus’ death and resurrection.

- He has already alluded to the fact that He will be “going away” and “coming back” (14:2, 28).

¹⁷ Therefore some of His disciples said to one another, “What is this He tells us: ‘A little while and you will not see Me; again a little while and you will see Me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father?’” ¹⁸ They said, “What is this He is saying, ‘A little while’? We don’t know what He’s talking about!”

Note that the disciples’ questions put together two statements that aren’t necessarily intended to go together.

- The time between Jesus’ death and resurrection doesn’t include His return to the Father; that will come at His ascension.
- The point here is to show the inner turmoil and confusion of the disciples concerning Jesus’ disappearance and reappearance and about the concept of Jesus “going to the Father”.

¹⁹ Jesus knew they wanted to question Him, so He said to them, “Are you asking one another about what I said, ‘A little while and you will not see Me; again a little while and you will see Me’?”

...and of Jesus’ ability to perceive their hearts.

²⁰ “I assure you: You will weep and wail, but the world will rejoice. You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. ²¹ When a woman is in labor she has pain because her time has come. But when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the suffering because of the joy that a person has been born into the world. ²² So you also have sorrow now. But I will see you again. Your hearts will rejoice, and no one will rob you of your joy. ²³ In that day you will not ask Me anything.

“I assure you: Anything you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked for nothing in My name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

²⁵ “I have spoken these things to you in figures of speech. A time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in My name. I am not telling you that I will make requests to 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. Again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

²⁹ “Ah!” His disciples said. “Now You’re speaking plainly and not using any figurative language. ³⁰ Now we know that You know everything and don’t need anyone to question You. By this we believe that You came from God.”

³¹ Jesus responded to them, “Do you now believe? ³² Look: An hour is coming, and has come, when each of you will be scattered to his own home, and you will leave Me alone. Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. ³³ I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”