

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE STUDY

“The Gospel of John”

Pastor Jim Otte

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Lesson 60: John 16:1 – 11 “When a Loss is Your Gain”

16 “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ² (A) They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, (B) the hour is coming when (C) whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³ And they will do these things (D) because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴ But (E) I have said these things to you, that when (F) their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

- a. “to keep you from falling away.” – (“skandalidso”) – “in order that you may not be entrapped.” (the crooked stick which holds the bait and springs the trap when touched). In other words, Jesus’ concern is that, when hateful persecution occurs, His disciples do NOT give in to such spiritual fear, which easily entraps:
 - a. The spiritual fear that rejection by friends, family, and society, is a cost too high to bear. (It is rooted in an idolatry which values people’s love over God’s love.)
 - b. The spiritual fear, that God has abandoned them. (It is rooted in an idolatry which believes personal feelings over God’s promises: “I am with you always.”)
 - c. The spiritual fear, that God’s Word is obsolete and cannot be trusted in our modern time (It is rooted in an idolatry, which values human experience over God’s enduring Truth).
- b. “when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.” – perhaps a foretelling of the acts of Saul, prior to becoming Paul.
 - a. **Acts 8:1.** *And Saul approved of their killing him. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.*
 - b. Ignorance or mistaken motives may be reasons for persecution, but they are not excusable before God.
- c. “because they have not known the Father, nor me.” – Jesus repeats the fact, that if someone refuses to believe in Him, then they do not “know” God the Father!
- d. “I have said these things...you may remember” – Jesus is reassuring them, that even though bad things will happen to them, they still stand in the arms of Jesus. Reassurance, in troubling times, comes from remembering:
 - a. God knows.
 - b. God is in charge.
 - c. The God who knows, and is in charge, calls you His own.

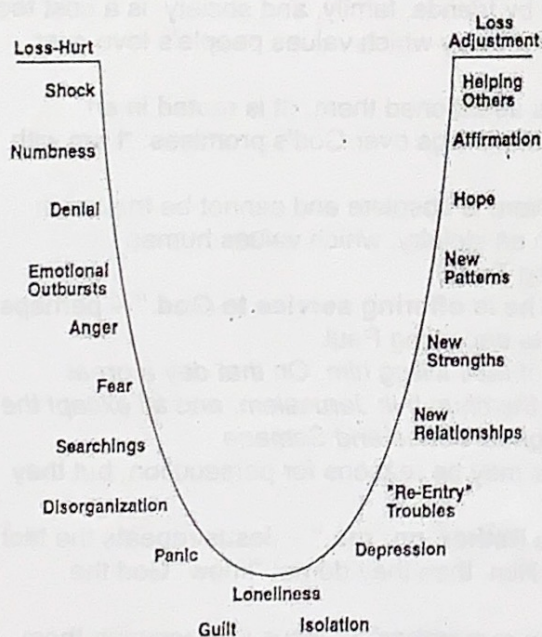
“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, (G) because I was with you.

⁵ But now (H) I am going to him who sent me, and (I) none of you asks me, ‘Where

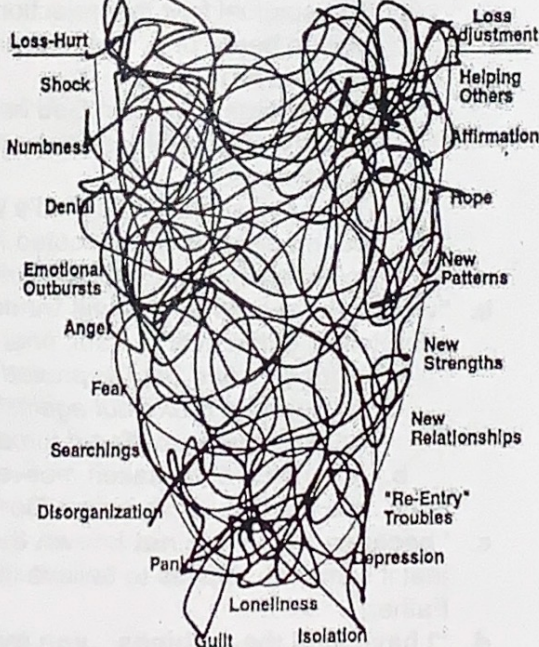
are you going?’⁶ But because I have said these things to you, (J)sorrow has filled your heart.

- a. “But now I am going, and none of you asks...” – By this time, the disciples know He’s leaving them...
- b. “because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.” – every time Jesus reminded His disciples, of His true mission to suffer, die, rise again, and leave them, they struggled!
 - i. **Matthew 16:21-22.**²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.
²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”
- d. Grief is a natural reaction to anticipatory or actual loss.

STAGES OF GRIEF



My experience



⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for (K)if I do not go away, (L)the Helper will not come to you. But (M)if (N)I go, (O)I will send him to you. ⁸ (P)And when he comes, he will (Q)convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, (R)because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ (S)concerning righteousness, (T)because I go to the Father, and you will see

me no longer; ¹¹ (U) concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world (U) is judged.

- a. "if I do not go away, the Helper will not come" – the work of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is sequential. Our catechism's teaching reflects this reality:
 - a. **Father:** Creator
 - b. **Son:** Redeemer (Savior)
 - c. **Holy Spirit:** Teacher & Sanctifier by working faith in the heart
- b. "He will convict the world" – the Holy Spirit uses God's Word (a means of grace) to face the truth of their brokenness & bring people to repentance.
- c. "concerning sin, because they do not believe" – with respect to the "sin" of idolatry and the rejection of God's grace in Jesus, the Holy Spirit's message (through the Word) is that "sin" separates people from God, and that this "sin" dooms the sinner to damnation. Two human reactions are common:
 - a. Proud hearts are crushed and fear of damnation takes over.
 - i. **Acts 2:37-41.** ⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ Peter replied, "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. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." ⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.
 - b. Proud hearts resist and are hardened in their resolve to reject grace.
 - i. **John 8:23-24.** ²³ But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins."
- d. "concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father" – righteousness is the state of the sinner whom God acquits, coming only when the sinner is covered with the forgiveness that Jesus earned on the cross/resurrection.
 - a. Jesus died for all sinners; forgiveness is available to all sinner.
 - b. Trusting in Jesus, as Savior and Lord, receives the gift He has earned!
 - i. **Acts 4:12.** *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*"
- e. "concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged." – the eternal destiny of Satan is secured. He is "judged." The sinner, who clings to his own delusion of "righteousness" by works, refuses God's gift of forgiveness through Christ. He (perhaps out of ignorance) is choosing the destiny God only intended for Satan.
 - a. **Matthew 25:41.** ⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."