

Jesus-Centered Questions

- How does this passage reveal aspects of Jesus' character or mission?
- In what ways does this passage align with or challenge Jesus' teachings, actions, or mission?
- How does this passage inspire me to embody Jesus' love more fully?
- What next steps can I take to better align my life with Jesus' way?



a study of

The Gospel According to John

Summer/Fall/Winter 2025-2026

Lesson 19

John 16

"Love, Joy, Peace –Reprise"

^[1] *John, A Commentary*, Marianne Meye Thompson, Westminster John Knox Press, © 2015 p. 337

REVIEW: John 15

1. Abiding in the Vine~

Jesus is the Vine; provides nourishment

We are the Branches; bearing fruit

God is the Vinedresser; prunes those things in us that are harmful or do not serve us

2. Abiding: remain in God's Word, let God's Word abide in you

3. Love, Joy, and Peace are results of 'abiding,' the fruits of the Spirit are results of abiding

4. We are commanded to love

5. Because it hates Jesus, the world will also hate us.

BRIEF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT:

"Far more believers in Jesus were put to death by the Romans, [vs. Jews]. Roman historians and early Christian authors recount the torture and killing of "an immense multitude" of Christians in the mid 60s under the emperor Nero and possibly later, under Domitian. In the early second century, Pliny, governor of Bithynia, asked the emperor Trajan how to treat those who had been denounced to him as Christians. Trajan counseled Pliny that while Christians were not to be sought out, if they were denounced to him and did not recant their Christian faith and return to proper worship of the Roman deities, then they were to be punished, even executed. Somewhat later, Justin Martyr also speaks of the torture and killing of the "worshippers of God through the name of Jesus" who were crucified, beheaded, and thrown to wild beasts. At least in some of these cases, the explicit justification for putting Christians to death was their failure to worship as Rome required. If the Christians would not sacrifice to the Roman deities, then their lives would be forfeit: offered as sacrifice, as it were.

(continued)

If those who had Jesus' followers put to death, whether Jews or Gentiles, thought they were "offering worship" to God by sacrificing these believers in Jesus, then Jesus counters that they "know neither the Father nor me." If they had known the Father, they would not have pursued Jesus even to death; if they had known Jesus, they would not hate and harass his followers. Hostility toward the followers of Jesus arises not from knowledge but from ignorance of God. The world's "hatred" may manifest as dismissal of or indifference toward the disciples; yet it may entail suffering and even death for them, even as it will do for Jesus."^[1]

Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-13; Review John 15:18-27; Read John 16:1-3

1. Discuss the phrase: "this world" and "spirit of the world" in context of understanding Jesus' teachings.
2. Why does Jesus say he is warning us of the dangers of following him?

Read John 16:4-15

1. Why does Jesus need to go away in order for the Spirit to come?
2. What does the world have wrong about sin, righteousness and judgement?
3. What do these comparisons mean:
Sin–Unbelief
Righteousness–Ascension
Judgment–Satan's condemnation
4. How does Jesus infer that we will be aware of his presence, or that we can discern his will?

Read John 16:16-33

1. Which three fruits of the Holy Spirit are mentioned in these verses?
2. When the Spirit comes, why will we not ask anything of Jesus?
3. Who will we make our requests known, and in whose authority?
4. Why would Jesus connect the state of "joy" for asking and receiving?
5. Compare verse 33 with verses 18-19