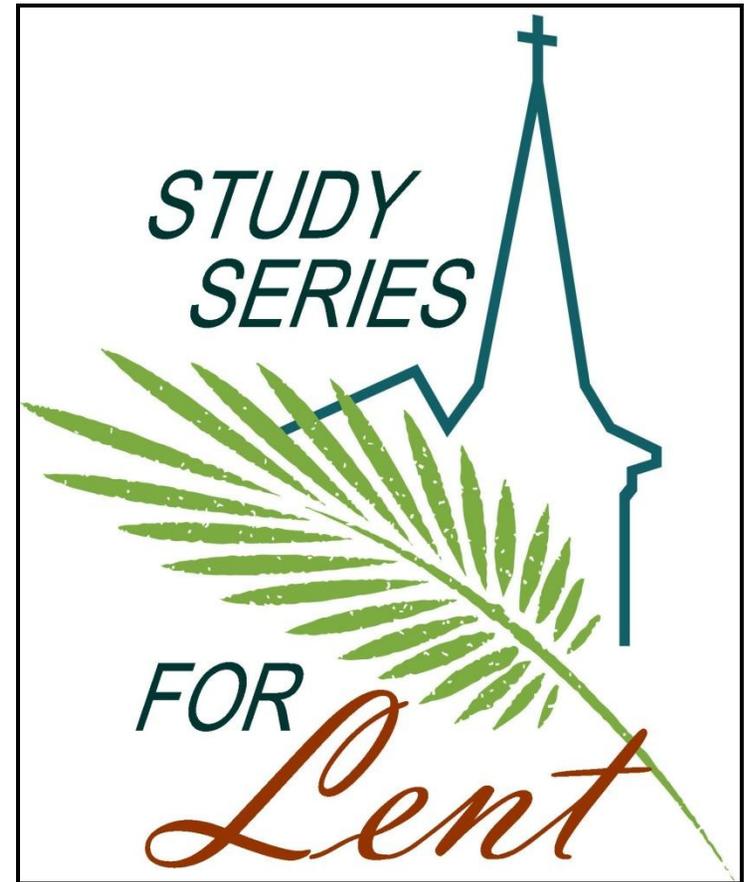


In answering the following questions, I hope to help clear up any confusion you might have over the reading. And I hope to be the conduit through which the Holy Spirit can bring comfort and hope into your life by deepening your understanding of the meaning of the text:

1. What is the warning from Jesus all about? Does His explanation for why our enemies do this make any sense? Do people do this to us today?
2. Why is the Holy Spirit going to come? What three things is the Holy Spirit going to convict the world of?
3. What is the importance of those three things and why does the world need to be convicted of them?
4. What is the primary mission of the Holy Spirit? What is the Holy Spirit going to speak (v. 14), bring (v.15) and take (v.16)?

What word of comfort does Jesus give to the disciples in their confusion over the phrase, "*a little while*"? Does that same word give you any explanation or comfort over things that have happened in your spiritual journey? What things might it be a help with in the future?



Session Number One

China Baptist Church

March 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Written and led by Pastor David Gorton

Pastor Ron Morrell, Facilitator

John 16: 1 - 22

This is the first of three Lenten studies for us here in 2019. I am starting the series with this reading from John 16:1-22 because Jesus expresses some sentiments and reassurances with the disciples that should reverberate in our hearing today. The other two studies are going to deal with Jesus' prayer in John 17 and then the interaction of Jesus with Pontius Pilate during His trial with him in John 18: 28 - 19: 16.

An analysis of these sentiments expressed by Jesus seems to me to be perfectly in line with what the Lenten season is all about. In my mind, I often link Advent together with Lent. Both seasons contain an element of setting time aside specifically to focus on the Lord and what He means to us. Yet these two seasons are actually quite different. Advent is a time to anticipate the joy of the Lord entering into history as a human presence in order to bring us everlasting peace. Lent is a time that we approach the Lord's sacrifice of Himself on the cross. We give up something of our own in emulation of His sacrifice and contemplate what else we might need to give up to further our own development in His character.

In light of that thinking the opening words of our reading, "*All of this I have told you, that you will not go astray*" should have some strong impact on our thinking for this study. For further study in the weeks ahead, you might want to go back and look at what Jesus says in John 14 and 15. Here in chapter 16 He is going to put a cap on those sentiments by

summing them up, and leaving His disciples a final idea of all that He had been trying to tell them for three years.

An important saying in the business world is the famous phrase, "Location, location, location." This emphasizes the point that one of the most important keys to business success is to be at the right spot relative to your clientele and their pattern of daily movement. For very different reasons than the business world, the term "location" is very pertinent to our understanding of this reading. What Jesus is doing here is trying to "locate" the disciples relative to what is going to happen to them and how that fits in with the events of His ministry with them. That ministry includes the upcoming crucifixion, resurrection, and beyond. He is trying to help the disciples get a handle on all these matters.

Our reading starts with words towards what might happen with the disciples, (and prophetically with us, the future disciples) and why people are doing that to them. He then moves into a discussion of what His leaving is all about and why it is important. Verse 12 gives us another transition turning point similar to chapter 16: 1 where it says "*I have much more to say to you...*" He explains that His speaking to us is going to be intense and done through the Holy Spirit, whose coming He had just spoken of. We then leave off the reading with a comforting word/story/example that helps the disciples with their confusion and apprehension over His use of the phrase, "*In a little while.*" (Continued on back)