

John 16:4b-33

A much loved friend's departure doesn't seem like good news, but that is what Jesus is telling his grieving disciples in v5-7a. In the rest of the chapter he will explain why that is.

Verses 7b-15

1. According to v7b, why is it good that Jesus is going away?
2. What does this mean:
 - a) For the world, v8-11?
 - b) For the disciples, v12-15?
3. What, therefore, is the Holy Spirit's role in evangelism? What implications does that have for us as we seek to make Jesus known?

Verses 16-33

Jesus promises his confused and grieving disciples that because he is going away they will gain lasting joy and peace.

4. Look first at v20-28. How and why will their mourning turn to joy? What will this mean for their relationship with the Father?
5. Now look at v29-33. What is the context in which they will gain peace? How will they gain it?

Thinking it through

As we reflect on the whole of the passage, why is Jesus' going away (his death, resurrection and ascension) good news for us? What can you thank God for?

What is life like for Spirit filled believers according to Jesus here? How far can we relate to what he promises here? How do you think what Jesus says here might help us as we continue to walk with him day by day?