

SRMBC Family Bible Study
Faith – Depending on God
February 12th, 2020
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Lesson 3: In Jesus Name: Faith That Asks John 16:16 – 28

The text we are about to read reminds us that, when we pray with faith in the name of Jesus, the authority rests not in us but in the one who is in charge. This discussion takes place just after Jesus and the disciples have eaten the Last Supper. Jesus has encouraged the disciples with several promises: that he was going away to prepare a place for them, that he would send another Counselor to stay with them, and even that he and the Father would live within them. But not all his words were comforting.

Group Discussion. Would you say it is easier for you to ask the Lord for small things or big things? Why?

Courageous: “God Helps Javier”



Javier Martinez is an immigrant struggling to provide for his family. After being laid off and asking God what do, The Lord answers in an unusual way.

Questions

- How Does Javier’s description of his day help him to see that God is working in His life?
- How does the unexpected job and money bring hope – even though there are still “unknowns”
- What is the role of faith in this experience? How do you think Javier’s children will respond when they hear this story?
- When have you seen God answer prayers in an unexpected way?

Read John 16:16 – 28.

1. What is the primary theme of Jesus’ words? Why were the disciples confused (vv. 16 – 18)?

The Focus of Jesus Word’s

- He would shortly be leaving them but would come back
- They would be sad and sorrowful when Jesus leaves.
- He would be come back to them on His way to the Father.
- Jesus had already told them that He would die on the Cross and rise again.

The Confusion of the Disciples

- They were confused about Him leaving in “a little while”
- They were confused about Him returning in “a little while”
- They were confused about Him going back “To The Father”
- Although Jesus had told repeatedly that He would be arrested, killed and rise again from the grave – their lack of faith caused confusion.

2. How did Jesus respond to their apprehension (vv. 19 – 24)?

How Jesus Responds To His Troubled Disciples

- He Responds With Perception And Compassion (vv. 19 – 20). – Jesus sees our need and knows our thoughts and fears.
 - He Responds With A Parable For Clarity (vv. 21 - 22) – Jesus' Word will teach us in a way that we can understand when we take time to listen.
 - He Responds With A Promise For Comfort (vv. 23 – 24) - When we are troubled, Jesus has a Promise that fits our situation.
3. Childbirth seems an unusual illustration for Jesus to use when talking to an all-male group of disciples (vv. 20-22). How does childbirth illustrate what they were going to experience?
- In a culture where children were born at home in small houses, childbirth was a familiar event.
 - The disciples would experience suffering when Jesus left, but they would come through their suffering and would see its purpose.
 - Like a woman experiencing childbirth, their pain would be fruitful, resulting in life and joy. The disciples' past experiences with Jesus (along with his constant reassurances) gave them something to "have faith in" for the uncertain future.
4. What experiences in your past enable you to confidently pray with faith?



Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit. James 5:17-18 (NKJV)

5. Jesus made it clear that asking in his name does not mean he asks the Father on our behalf (vv. 26 – 27). It also means more than just ending a prayer with the words “in Jesus’ name, amen.” What do you think he means by “ask in my name”?

What It Does Not Mean:

- That’s “in Jesus’ name” is a spiritual lever by which we can move God to do what we want.
- “In Jesus’ name” is a magical formula that we use to conjure up worldly possessions.
- It is the blanket “Stamp of Approval” for any prayer request.

What It Does Mean:

- Our intent to ask only what the Son of God would ask.
- Jesus’ Name has power. Prayer in His Name brings results.
- A need met via answered prayer in Jesus Name - glorifies the Father in Heaven.

6. What are the implications of verses 23 – 28 for a Christian’s prayer life?

- **Pray Specifically** – We are to ask the Father for whatever we need.
- **Pray Confidently/Consistently** – Asking in Jesus Name gives us the confidence that our prayer is heard.
- **Pray Faithfully** – Believing In The Authority of Jesus Name – that He can and that He will.
- **Pray Expectantly** – Praising and Thanking God with Joy in advance for the Answer to our request.
- **Pray Relationally** – Understanding that we are praying to Our Heavenly Father that **personally loves and cares for us.**

7. Why is joy a logical result of asking in Jesus’ name (v. 24)?

- The Joy Of Bringing Our Requests To A Father Who Loves You And Wants To Be Good To You.
- The Joy Of Being Sure That The Father Is More Than Able To Do What We Asked.
- The Joy Of Knowing – Being Confidently Assured That Our Father Will Give Us What We Asked For And Even More.
- The Joy Of Being In Close Relationship With An Awesome And Loving God/Father.

If you, then, even though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him (Matt. 7:11)

8. How can we avoid misusing the privilege of asking in Jesus' name?

- By Having A Good Knowledge Of The Truth Of The Word Of God.
- Having A Desire To Do And Have The Will Of God In Our Lives As The Highest Priority.
- Having The Faith To Accept Anyway That God Chooses To Answer Our Prayers.
- Asking For Things That Are In Accordance With God's Will.
- Maintaining A Joyful And Thankful Attitude Regardless Of The Current Circumstances.
- Trusting That The Father Loves Me And Will Always Do What Is Best For Me.
- *Thank the Lord that he allows us to freely approach him in prayer.*

The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever... (Psalm 138)

Pray that your intentions will fit with his, so you can always pray "in Jesus' name."

Keys for Living



While it is true that we will face difficulties in this life, Jesus has promised that He will make a way for us to experience true and lasting joy.



Because of the Person and Work of Christ, we have the privilege and authority to appeal directly to God's heavenly throne for the things we need.



Because of God love for us (that is expressed in Jesus Christ) we can ask for whatever we need – great or small, in Jesus' Name.