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**Questions Jesus asked (Part 4)**  
**Now do you believe**  
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We are continuing a series on the Questions Jesus Asked. Today we are going to answer the question Do you now believe? We are looking at John 16 Verses 16-32. It's going to be a super relevant message this morning. We are actually honed in on a season of time where Jesus is trying to educate and ground his followers, knowing that he's about to be crucified, buried, and then raised again, and they are confused.

How many of you have been confused in seasons of life when life just seems hard, it's difficult, it's unexplainable, and you're asking why? Has anybody been there? Guess what? You're not alone. We're all there with you and that's what we are going to address today.

Speaking of spring break, Robbins were on spring break this week as well. This spring break, we ran the divide and conquer play. My wife and her parents took my two oldest daughters to New York City for a sweet sixteen trip. Doesn't that sound fun? I was so thankful to get to stay home with the youngest because the big city, I have like zero desire to go do that. If I want to go to the city, I would just drive down to Harrison for the afternoon.

They had a great time. I've got four kids and we've got to decide what to do, so I got on AI and asked Chatbot, "What's the best kid's RV Park in the Midwest." It sent us to Gore Oklahoma. Anybody been to Gore? We go to Gore Oklahoma at Marvel Resort. It's about three hours away. We load up the kids. We have a lot of snacks. We have music pumping and it's like a party going down the road.

Fun Dad. We went to Marvel Resort. We pull into this place and it's a sprawling campus. There are hundreds of camping sites and RV spots. It's along the Oklahoma River that runs through there. True to form, it is like a kid's paradise. You have the river, there are pools, there's pickle ball. There is a jumping pillow, there's put put. All kinds of stuff. There are kids dunning all over this place, Farrell. I don't know if you've been to many RV parts, but most of them you go to are kind of calm and quiet, and inhabited by older folks. If that's what you're looking for, you're not going to Marvel RV Resort. It was wild. It was like the Lost Boys were running this place. Every day, it was as if a lost and found bomb was exploding. There were literally like 300 socks every morning. In the trees, at the pool, floating down the river. You're thinking, if I was going to do this, I would probably put a sign out front before they can even drive in that says, "This is a no socks RV Resort. That would help clean up significantly

My wife and daughters are shopping in SOHO, which I don't actually know what that is. I heard it's a nice place. They are going to versa chi and Goche where they are not allowed to spend money. I wake the kids up and I say, "Go out and collect socks for the year.

I started off like fun dad, but having to wrangle all these children by myself, I was starting to get increasingly more stressed out every day that went by.

I decided that RV parks, by design, are designed for older people, not little tornadoes. It's like putting a little tornado in something with the durability of a christmas ornament. Everything is breaking.

I know and I believe that Jesus holds all things together, but with every day that went by, I felt like he was really needing my help. It was starting to stretch me to my max. We were going to stay there four days and on Friday night, we decided we wanted to go home. We packed up and came home a day early. Sage, my littlest comes up to me and says, "Daddy, when is Mommy coming home? I said, "she's coming home in a little while. Sure enough, the New York girls showed up and we had a great reunion. But I was truly tested this spring break.

That little phrase, *a little while* is a phrase we are going to camp out on a little bit today. In John 6:16 where our text picks up, Jesus says this to his disciples. **He said, "A little while you are no longer going to see me and again, a little while,**

***you will see me.*** The disciples didn't understand at the time, but they were about to go through an extremely difficult season where Jesus was going to be betrayed, beaten, crucified, died, and buried. What Jesus does in this specific passage is he lays groundwork, a theological ground work to steady them for the storm that is coming. This happens to be extremely relevant for us because this little while that they had was from Friday to Sunday when he was resurrected. Well, similarly, we are living in a similar little while between the resurrection and the return of Christ. Here's the reality for me personally, I feel like a great life, but at the same time, every day I feel like I'm wrestling with the difficulty of life and I'm just longing to go home. I love my life, but I'll be fine to be dead because I just have faith that of what lies beyond this life is better. It's perfected. This world is not our home. And that feels so true to me right now in this season of life.

Life is difficult, it's confusing and many believers wrestle with doubt. But Jesus gives us hope, access, and peace during the wait. Here's the lynch pin verse for our conversation today. And oh by the way this is a great one to put on a post it note and put it on the fridge or on your mirror or on top of you Bible or on the dash of your car.

Johb 16:1 says, ***All this I have told you so that you will not fall away.***

As new testament believers, we have great privilege of having the scripture written down, who God is, how he feels about us, and we get to carry about and lien on this as we walk through the uncertainties of life.

Today is another one of those days. We are going to go back to those scriptures, and we are going to reaffirm what we believe in.

**Point Number 1** – a little while can be confusing. By a show of hands, how many of you have gone through a season of life that's been an absolute head scratcher? Like, Lord, what are you doing here? This so hard. This seems unjust. I can't explain this, right? We all know that. We've all been there. You are not alone. Here's what Jesus says to his disciples:

***A little while and you are no longer going to see me. And again, in a little while, you will see me.*** do you think that clarified things for them. Clear as mud.

Some of his disciples said to one another, “What is it that he is telling us?? A little while and you’re not going to see me, and again in a little while and you will see me because I’m going to the father. They were saying, “What is it that he says?” we do not know what he’s talking about Jesus knew they wanted to question him and he said to them. And he said to them, ***Are you deliberating together about this? A little while and you are not going to see me and again, a little while you will see me.*** they are confused

And I’ve spent a little bit of time over the last couple of weeks just meditating on this portion of the passage, this is the truth that emerged from it for me. God often gives us enough to trust him, but not enough to remove all confusion. Can you relate?

By his design, God requires us to have faith. I believe in part he does that because he wants a relationship with us and by not eliminating the entire path but requiring us to grab his hand and follow him, walk with him through life. It creates an intimate, loving relationship. Ultimately, that’s what God wants from all of his children. So, this is purposeful. He gives us enough to trust, but not enough to see the whole play,

Here’s the application: As many believers live with the tension of saying God, I believe, but I don’t understand. I’ve got good news for you. Jesus does not rebuke the disciples for their confusion, he comforts them. One of my favorite character qualities of God Paul laid out when he wrote a letter to the Corinthian church. he said, “But God of all comfort who comforts us in our afflictions. It’s a quality of God, of who he is as a godly Father. In the Greek, that phrase, comforter literally means calling near. In other words, part of God’s character is he is the kind of loving Father that he’s actually calling you near into intimate relationship with him. He wants you closer.

It’s like my daughter my daughter, on multiple occasions in the last week... she came up to me and asked for a band aid. I said, “I don’t have one. Your mother’s not here. It’s going to have to coagulate” however, as a Daddy, I was so happy to receive that little Punkin into my arms. I love that little thing. I want to take care of her. I want to engage her in the hardships of her life and to walk with her. It’s no different, in fact it’s way better with the heavenly father, because that’s the

kind of relationship he's calling you into. He's calling you near to allow him to comfort you in the difficulties of life.

**Point Number 2 – sorrow is temporary and joy is coming.**

Here's some good news. So, Jesus continues: ***Truly truly I say to you that you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy.***

***When a woman is in labor, she has pain. Because her hour has come, but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world. Therefore, you, too have grief, but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice and no one is going to take your joy away from you.***

Jesus uses this teaching analogy that many of us are very familiar with. I happen to be a professional. I've been witness to six child births... and it was hard for me. Three of them were natural births and that was scary. The other three were epidurals and I took a nap. Totally different experiences actually. But I've seen enough to know that the trials of childbirth truly are so difficult and yet, after you walk through this horrific experience, all of the sudden it's like there's the joy that is absolutely inexpressible. As a side note, a couple of months ago, I had preached a sermon, and I made some jokes at the expense of one of my daughters. I walk in the back and Ted hands me 20 dollars. I asked him what it was for and he said, well, I just learned over the years that when you crack jokes at your kid's expense, you've got to make sure and pay them off afterwards. So, sure enough, after a third service I go out to the parking lot and my daughter is marching up to me so she can let me have it. I just handed her 20 dollars, and she was overjoyed that she was one of the examples. The problem is I think there is like a 5x multiplier when you make jokes at the expense of your wife, so this is going to be an expensive sermon. The good news is that it's taking place after the New York trip...Praise God.

So, Jesus compares their suffering, their coming sorrow to a woman in labor and the pain is intense. But when the child is born, joy overwhelms the suffering.

Here's our application as believers: the Christian life often follows this pattern- Friday, suffering, Saturday, silence, and Sunday resurrection. Isn't that true. I know you guys love your weekends. We're living in a Friday and Saturday world. I'm not trying to spoil that for you. but Sunday is coming. One of the ways that we take the gospel... when we think of the gospel, most of the time, you just kind of focus on that lifechanging moment where the gospel becomes truth to you. You're filled with the Holy Spirit, and you become a new creation. But the ongoing nature of the gospel is that you continue to receive grace upon grace, upon grace. You continue to grow up under the power of the gospel.

During these seasons of whether we are suffering or frankly it might just seem like silence in your asking Lord, where are you, the gospel reminds us, I know the truth and my faith is undergirded with the resurrection. That sorrow will be transformed into joy.

A great passage – Psalm 30: 5 it says, weeping may endure for a night, but **Point three comes in the morning.**

**Here's our next point, point 3 – we have direct access to the Father.**

Jesus continues – ***and on that day, you will not question me about anything. Truly, truly I say to you if you ask the Father for anything in my name, he will give it to you. Until now, you have asked for nothing in my name. Ask and you will receive so that your joy will be made full. These things I've spoken to you in figures of speech. And hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. On that day, you will ask in my name. And I'm not saying to you that I will request the Father on your behalf, for the father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.***

This specific passage is one of the more confusing passages in scriptures. Believers over the centuries have wrestled with it. We wrestle with the statement anything you ask in my name, the Father will grant it. Well, is Jesus teaching us that God is like a genie in a bottle? and that we get anything we ask for? no, that's not what he's saying. Let me peel this back a little bit. So, when Jesus was hanging on the cross, the scripture says in Matthew that the third hour the sky goes dark. For the next three hours he hangs there and suffers and in the

sixth hour he cries out “My God, my God, why have thou forsaken me. and his final statement was “It is finished, and he gave up his spirit. When he did that, there was a great earthquake and the tombs in Jerusalem opened up and people walked out alive and interactive with the people in Jerusalem. The scripture goes on to tell us that within the temple; there is the holy of holies. so, there is a curtain that is around the ark of the Covenant, which is, in the Old Testament, where the glory of God rested. And by God’s design, the people of God, the people of Israel would have to walk through a sacrificial process to have their sins forgiven. And they would have a priest that would intercede on their behalf.

In other words, only the priest could enter into the Holy of Holies to intercede on behalf of the people of Israel.

When Jesus gave up his spirit, the curtain that surrounded the Holy o Holies, was torn top from bottom. Now, that’s significant for a number of reasons, but just the physical act of that happening... It’s said that two grown pulling horses, if they were attached to these curtains that are made of thick goat hide, many layers of it. but a team of horses could not tear apart that curtain. But the scripture says it was torn top from bottom. Symbolically, what that means for our faith is that we no longer, because of Jesus, need anyone to intercede on our behalf. He is the ultimate, once and for all intercession. His sacrifice pays for our sins no and forever more. And he gave us direct access to the father himself. Ever since then, what have we been praying in? for 2,000 years, we pray in Jesus’s name.

What this passage is teaching the disciples and teaching us today is that you have direct access to the Father. You need no one to intercede on your behalf because you are in Christ. For those who are in Christ Jesus, you have direct access to God the Father. And he is a loving father who listens. Who cares and wants to help you in every season of life.

What this signifies is relationship.

**So let me wrap this up in clarification.**

God is not a genie in a bottle. He is a loving and attentive father. Jesus even reminds them the Father himself loves you.

**Point number 4** – Jesus knows that our faith is often fragile. So not only do we get confused, but our faith can also be fragile. He continues. His disciples said see, now you are speaking plainly and are not using any figures of speech. Who do you think this probably was? Who does it sound like? Sounds kind of like Peter. Now we know that you know all things and that you have no need for anyone to question you. this is why we believe that you came forth from God.

Jesus replied to them: ***Do you now believe. Behold. An hour is coming and has already come for you to be scattered, each to his own home. And to leave me alone, yet I am not alone because the Father is with me.***

So he's making the statement like Your faith is going to be shaken, but here is our encouragement – even when our faith is fragile or imperfect, Jesus remains faithful.

After first service, there were two things that I gleaned from people in the audience that they connected with. One was that faith can be confusing, and my faith can be fragile.

But God is safe. He is a safe place for those shortcomings and imperfections.

Some of you perhaps grew up in a religious environment. I know that I had some exposure to a religious environment and my perception of the Christian faith was to simply be Mr. Nice guy and try and keep it together. Not to make a mess of things. To put on a good front. And it wasn't just for the people in front of me watching me, but it was just as true for my Father in Heaven. Just trying to hold it altogether. But your God, your Father desires an authentic relationship with you. and he loves you right where you are. Now granted, he loves you too much to leave you there, but you are okay. It's okay to doubt. It's okay to question. It's okay to seek answers. It's okay to struggle. You are not in trouble. Your father wants to love you right where you are.

**Point number five – Peace in a troubled world.** Jesus ends with this and this is just a beautiful capstone for this passages. ***These things I've spoken to you so that in me, you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation but take courage. I have overcome the world.***

Every single day, I long for peace. And seemingly, it's something that I have to pursue. My natural inclination and I would even tell you increasingly over the last three weeks or so, I've just been in a season where I am so focused on things that I want to get accomplished. Whether it's professional things, financial things, relational things, different goals in life, I'm hyper focused on these things and in large part I cannot control their outcomes. What it's causing me today is a bunch of anxiety and worry. Low and behold, I was sitting down with a buddy about three weeks ago and he was sharing a passage with me. It happened to be Psalm 73, but I when I went home... I wanted to look that scripture up. I forgot what it was. I forgot the chapter. I was thinking it was Psalm 90. So, I go to Psalm 90, and I end up in this passage and Low and behold, God just smacks me with exactly what I needed. I stumbled into Psalm 90 and over the last three weeks, God has just been ministering to me as I've been wrestling for this peace.

Here's what it says in Verse 14 – ***Satisfy us each morning with your unfailing love.*** When I read that, it stopped me in my tracks. I realized that my anxiety was due to a lack of satisfaction to these things I was pursuing. So, I stopped in my tracks, and I say *okay, you're unfailing love, your loving kindness, what have you provided me today.* I started writing in my journal. I started writing all the things that are a result of his loving kindness in my life. The list got longer and longer. And as it gets longer and longer, I realize I have so much to be grateful for and I am, Lord. I am satisfied. I'm good today. And when I came to that realization, I by the way, I have to revisit it about a half dozen times a day, depending on the day, but to keep going back to that and say, "Lord, I'm going to find my satisfaction in your loving kindness." Guess what happens to my anxiety. It begins to lift and peace returns and with peace comes joy. It's kind of a package deal. So, my satisfaction needs to be in the Lord today.

If I were to sum it all up, I would say God himself is enough even in the little while. Shay Robbins, God is enough. Today is enough I go back to Sage coming up running up to me and saying "When is mommy coming back? In a little while. Sometimes I run to the Lord and go Lord, when is Jesus coming back? I'm tired. He grabs me by the face and says, "In a little while."

Let me close with a challenge. We have hope of future joy. Ultimately, we can look beyond this and say there is a day coming according to revelation where he'll wipe every tear from our eyes. There will no longer be any pain, mourning,

suffering or death. The old things are gone, and the new things have come. We can have joy in that future.

Number 2 – we have direct access to the father in the now. We can find satisfaction in him today. And finally, we can have peace in the present, knowing that the gospel is living and active and it is working out in our lives on a daily basis to grow us up in our faith.

Father, we come to you and we thank you Jesus that we can find satisfaction in you. We pray for joy and for peace and for hope. I want to pray encouragement for those that are discouraged today.

It's in Jesus name we pray, Amen