

## Outline of Fr. Patrick Winslow's Lecture on Lesson 20

### I. First Approach - What is happening in the moment of the text.

- A. After having spoken to His disciples about Faith, Hope and Love and their necessity in the face of inevitable persecution, Jesus states His intention for this ongoing discourse at the Last Supper, "I have said all this to you to keep you from falling away."
  - i. He warns them that, even in God's name, they will be persecuted for the truth of God revealed by the Son.
  - ii. He speaks about the necessity of the Holy Spirit who is to come and the work He will do concerning: sin, righteousness and judgment. (vv8-11)
  - iii. He states that He, Jesus, will continue to teach them in the future, more than they can handle now, through the gift of the Holy Spirit. (vv12-14)
- B. Jesus speaks about will happen both prophesying about His own immediate fate and the future of the disciples. He says, "a little while, and you will see me no more; again a little while, and you will see me." Vv16:16
  - i. The disciples become confused as to what Jesus means.
    - 1. Jesus responds by explaining, "you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy." Vv16:20
    - 2. He equates the trials that face them and the joy that will follow to that of childbirth.
  - ii. Jesus reaffirms that He is their link to the Father in heaven and will continue to be so even though He is going to depart from them in order to go to His Father.
  - iii. The disciples profess to understand Jesus as one who is of God and therefore they now believe in Him.
    - 1. Jesus responds by noting that the Hour is coming and they will be scattered - suggesting that the faith they have now is not all they think it is.
    - 2. He explains that they will be scattered.
      - a. Yet, soon they will be able to believe as He wants them to believe.
      - b. These words that He is saying now will later bring them peace as it will confirm that He will have overcome the world that they may have peace and joy in the midst of tribulation.

### II. Second Approach - Pastoral Points

- A. Vv16:4-11. Loosing the forest for the trees - we need a guide.
  - i. V5 Jesus notes that the disciples concern is for themselves - they will miss Him "sorrow has filled your hearts."
  - ii. Jesus raises them out of their own pity to address more important matters than their current sorrow.
    - 1. He gives them the question they should be asking, "where are you going?" V5

2. He then proceeds to answer the question He intimated that they should have asked.
    - a. His going is necessary for the Counselor (Holy Spirit) to come.
    - b. He will “convince the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.” V8
- iii. Jesus is asking them to consider a plan greater than themselves - greater than their own pain, loss or sorrow. This is what He asks of us.
1. This can be an enormously difficult lesson to put His plan above our own concerns.
- iv. Jesus is pulling them out of their own pity.
1. He does this by teaching them the right questions to consider (in fact He gives them the question in verse 5) and He provides the answer.
  2. Whatever be our challenge, Our Lord will not abandon. He will walk us through.
    - a. He shows that He is the first Counselor, Guide or Paraclete as He guides them through their sorrow to the more important matters.
    - b. In this, He is providing an example of what the Paraclete will do. Thereby not leaving them abandoned.
- B. Vv 31-33. Jesus challenges their ‘belief’. He states that they will be scattered.
- i. There are really two anchors to the Christian faith: death & resurrection. The disciples are bound to one but not quite yet the other.
    1. The anchor they did have - death.
      - a. A certainty in life - death
      - b. In the natural realm, death is an anchored truth, it grounds us - anchors us all by its ominous and universal weight.
        - i It is an absolute ‘given’ in the order of nature.
        - ii The disciples are anchored in the truth of their mortality.
    2. The anchor they do not yet have - the Resurrection.
      - a. Without this anchor there is not the sufficient weight to weather- out the storm that lie ahead - the Passion of Christ.
        - i The absence of this anchor causes them to flounder and scatter.
        - ii Belief in mere words, even the words of Christ, will not be strong enough to ground their faith.
        - iii Despite what the disciples believe, they will soon find out that they will scatter as Our Lord told them.
    3. Death and Resurrection are the two anchors of truth for a Christian.
      - a. ***They are the certainties upon which all else hinges.***
        - i Death via reason. Resurrection via faith.
        - ii The Christian is properly anchored in the spheres of both faith and reason.
        - iii Death keeps us rooted in the reality of our need. The Resurrection keeps us rooted in the reality of our remedy.
- C. Combine the two lessons above: Christian faith will not endure the challenges of this world if it is not anchored in the resurrection and guided by the Holy Spirit.
- i. It is this proper anchoring that leads to a life of peace and joy despite the storms of pain and suffering.