

## In a Little While

- **Vs. 16.** ILW – when spoken or heard those wrds? Child, road trip or fam vaca - ILW. Fri, Jamboree. Hungry, dinner ready. Assgnmnt/schl, project/wrk; tchr/boss. Suffrng pain, on dthbed; when get go hvn. ILW – phrase all heard/used. Has diffnt meaning depndng whthr you: spkr or hearer. Person hearing, probly: anxious/excited/nervous re what's coming; uncomfrtbl waiting – when get there; when eat; need project done; I'm afraid of dying; or just want go home. That's maybe how we're feeling if smone has to say ILW. On other hnd, if we're one speakng wrds ILW, probly means: want calm smone's nervs/anxty, reassure, encourg, cmfrt, maybe tch some patience. Don't worry, get there soon – ILW; dinner'll be ready up; I'll get assgnmnt turned in; don't be afraid, you're going go home & see J. When? ILW.
- Well today, J is speaker: **Jn 16:16.** J spks wrds on MT eve, just hrs before arrest/torture/dth. It's a heavy eve, and J has lot imp thngs say discs. In fact, if have red letter Bible (wrds/J in red), most of Jn 13-17 all red, bec J: spkng at length; tchnng, encourngng, comfrtng discs; last chance before cross. And in middle of this lengthy speech, on this heavy eve, J: **vs. 16.**
- Discs: hearers. They're ones: anxious, nervous, trbld; don't know exctly wht's going hap that nght & nxt day; but know smthng big: coming. That night J said some heavy things: **“One/you: going betray me” (Jn 13:21).** **“My chldrn, I'll be w/you only little longer... Where going, you cannot come” (13:33).** **“Wrld hates you... They'll persct you” (15:19-20); “Time comng when anyone who kills you'll think offering a service to God... I have told you this, so that when time comes you'll remem that I warned you” (16:2-4).** **“Bec I have said these things, you: filled w/grief” (16:6);** but **“Do not let hrts trbld & do not be afraid” (14:27).** But they were trbld/afraid; nervous/anxious. So, J reassures/encrgs: **vs. 16.** Just like parent telling child: don't worry; we'll get there, ILW.
- But what that mean? Even discs wondrd: **vs. 18.** Today, what I want share w/you is this: when J says ILW, means 2 things: 1) next few days; 2) at end/time. Start w/1, next few days. **Vs. 16a.** “That's bec I'm about be arrstd & held in custdy by Rom soldrs, who'll torture me & nail cross. Then I'll: buried in tomb, & you won't see me.” **Vs. 16ab,** “...bec come back; rise dead; come to you & be/walk/eat w/you, show hnds & side. You will see me again, ILW – in next few days.” And on ES, their joy: complete!
- But 2<sup>nd</sup> thing J meant by ILW: at end/time. **Vs. 16a.** “That's bec I'm in ~month/half, 40 days after rise dead: ascend into hvn & return to my Fr. From up there I'm going care for you & guide; rule univrs for your good & send you my Spirit to strngthn you. And surely I w/you alwys very end/age (Mt 28:20). But you'll not see me; I'll not be here in same way I have been.” **Vs. 16ab,** “...bec come back, in same way you see me go” (Ac 1:11); on Last Day, return, to judge living/dead & bring end to all thngs; and say to you: **‘Come, you who blessed by Fr; take inhrtnc, kngdm prepd for you since creatn/wrld’ (Mt 25:34).** You will see me again, ILW – at end/time.” And on Last Day, our joy: complete!
- We need remem this, ev day/lives! This is pwrful prom/J – he is coming back & we will see him! Even if can't see him right now, smday we will. When? ILW. Whenvr parent says that to child, really saying: “Don't worry; be patient; I'm not going let you down; and I know, it's hard waiting.” And smtms it really is hard waiting. Smtms we go thru awful/painful situations in life that are really diffelt. J here uses analogy/chldbrth. **Vs. 21.** I've nvr given birth child; but am dad; and I've been w/Sarah during chldbrth. And even w/epidural, it's: painful/anxious exprnc for a mom. But what J says here is true: when baby born & hold little one in arms, all pain/anxiety fades away. It's the same for Xian living in fallen wrld. 1<sup>st</sup> go thru awful; then get awesome. 1<sup>st</sup> have labor pains; then get baby. 1<sup>st</sup> painful; then wondrful. **Vs. 22a.** I don't know what you're grieving right now, but I'm sure many/you are. Maybe: recent/impending dth loved one; lost job; brokn relatnshp; loneliness or melanchly; stress or persnl anxiety. Whtvr it may be for you – **vs. 22ab. No one...joy.** 1<sup>st</sup> painful; then wondrful. 1<sup>st</sup> awful; then awesome. Res/J turns our grief into deep & lasting joy. **Vs. 20.** And joy doesn't mean you're always happy/smiley. Means in your hrt you know by faith that J will make evthng better – maybe even in this life; most certainly in life to come. And when do this? All says: ILW.

- He's asking us to trust him. When parent tells child ILW, saying trust me. When J says ILW, saying trust me. "My dear discs, this Sat when you don't see me bec I'm in tomb, trust me. My dear Xians, thruout life when don't see me bec I'm in hvn, trust me. **Vs. 16. Trust me.**" Earlier that eve, J: **"Do not let hrts be trbld. Trust in God; trust also in me... I will come back & take you be w/me that you also may be where I am"** (14:1, 3, NIV 84). Trust me. When your life stinks, when bear heavy cross, trust me. When feel all alone, when just want be in hvn, trust me. I went thru painful to bring you wondrful; I went thru awful to bring you awesome. And when you go thru the painful/awful, trust me; I'm going bring you thru it, to the wonderful/awesome. When? ILW. **Vs. 22; 24c.**
- Dear followers/J, on ES J rose fr dead; kept the prom he made on MT, and it only took him LW. On Last Day, J'll return; he'll keep his prom again. When'll that hap? ILW. In very last words/Bible, J: **"Yes, I am coming soon"** (Rev 22:20). We wish he'd tell us how "soon" or when "LW" will be! But doesn't, so we just trust him, like child trusting parent, when says **vs. 16. "Amen. Come LJ"** (Rev 22:20).

### John 16:16-24

<sup>16</sup>Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."

<sup>17</sup>At this, some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" <sup>18</sup>They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."

<sup>19</sup>Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'?"

<sup>20</sup>Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. <sup>21</sup>A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. <sup>22</sup>So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. <sup>23</sup>In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>24</sup>Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."