

When The Going Gets Tough.

March 14th & 15th, 2026



Read John 15:26-16:33.

1. Jesus warns His disciples in **16:1-4** that they will face serious opposition... even from people who genuinely believe they are serving God. Why do you think Jesus prepares them in advance rather than simply protecting them from it?
2. The Holy Spirit is called the Paraklētos - "one called alongside." Looking at **15:26-27** and **16:7-15**, what specific roles does the Spirit play? Which of those feels most significant to you personally right now?
3. In **verse 7**, Jesus says it is actually better for the disciples that He goes away. Why is that true? What does the Spirit's coming make possible that Jesus' physical presence could not?
4. **Read 16:8-11.** The Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. What does each of those three mean in context? Why does it matter that the Spirit is the one doing this work and not us?

5. In **verse 12**, Jesus says He has more to say but they cannot bear it yet. What does that tell us about how God reveals truth to us? Can you think of a time when understanding only came after you walked through something hard?
6. Jesus uses the image of a woman in labor in **verses 20-22**. What does that analogy communicate about the nature of grief and suffering for the Christian? How does it reframe a painful season as something other than just loss?
7. Jesus promises in **verse 22** that no one will take away their joy. What kind of joy is He describing? How is it different from happiness that depends on circumstances going well?
8. In **verses 23-24**, Jesus invites the disciples to ask the Father directly in His name. What does it mean to pray "in Jesus' name" and what does it not mean? How does that invitation change how you approach prayer?
9. In **verse 32**, Jesus knows the disciples will scatter and leave Him alone and He goes to the cross anyway. He says, "I am not alone, for my Father is with me." What is the foundation of Jesus' peace in that moment? What does that teach us about where lasting peace actually comes from?
10. Jesus closes with: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." He does not promise the trouble will stop. He declares the victory is already secured. What is the difference between optimism and the kind of hope Jesus is offering here? Where do you need to apply that this week?