

## “You will see Me”

*John 14:18-20*

*“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 “After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. 20 “In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.*

*NASU*

In this passage, Jesus continues to look ahead. He uses the expressions “I will come to you”, and “After a little while”, and “In that day”.

/Verse 18 is the general statement. Here, Jesus is making a promise to them, one designed to give them comfort and hope.\

/Verse 19 explains verse 18 by adding key information.\ His language appears to be general. He is stating things that they are not yet ready to receive. But in light of scripture, we can know the specific events to which He refers.

/Verse 20 is the most amazing verse of the three.\ Here again, He says things simply and generally. Once again, though, we are able to discern what He is saying because we have the benefit of the New Testament writings, and we also have the Spirit dwelling in our hearts.

/In verse 20, Jesus is describing future realities that will come to pass at the dawning of the church age. \

“A little while” will turn out to be a very a short time: less than 24 hours.

“In that day” refers to the period that will begin in 53 days.

So let’s begin.

*John 14:18*

*"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*

/Now, the Greek word for orphan here was used for a child who lost his father.\ Their father died. But that was not the only use of this Greek word.

/The word *orphanos* had the more general meaning of “left without anyone to care for them”.\

The word was used in Greek culture to refer to disciples that lost their teacher.

/For example, when the Greek philosopher Socrates died, his disciples were said to have been made orphans – “*orphanos*”.\

This is how *orphanos* is used here in verse 18.

The disciples of Jesus are about to lose their teacher and Lord. He is going to die.

/When Jesus dies on the cross, His disciples will be orphans in that sense.\

*John 14:18*

*"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*

Armed with that understanding, we can proceed to make sense out of the second thing Jesus says: “I will come to you”.

But first we need to understand what He is saying in verse 19, because the statement “I will come to you” in verse 18 is very general.

/Jesus is going to die on the cross, but He will come to them after that.\

*John 14:19 "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.*

Now I’ve ruined the suspense, haven’t I. I told you already that “a little while” turned out to be less than 24 hours. But let’s see how I got there.

/In verse 18, Jesus is going to die on the cross. After that, “the world” will no longer see Him. \

/Keep in mind that “the world” is the domain of the unbeliever.\

After Jesus died on the cross, He never again appeared to an unbeliever.

/“The world” – ie the Sanhedrin and the Romans – witnessed His death.\

Then, a disciple of Jesus named Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate (the Roman governor who sentenced Jesus to death) for the body of Jesus.

*John 19:38-42*

*After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body. 39 Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight. 40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. 41 Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. 42 Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.*

/So Joseph and Nicodemus buried the body of Jesus.\

/From that moment on, no person from “the world” ever saw Jesus again.\

*John 14:19 "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.*

So “ a little while” points to the burial of Jesus.

After that, Jesus will live!

/”Because I live” refers to His resurrection from the dead.\

Let me show that to you. Please turn to John 16:16. Jesus is going to return to His statement “in a little while”. Notice what He says about that:

*John 16:16-23*

*16 "A little while, and you will no longer see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me."*

Notice that Jesus does not mention the world in verse 16. He says that His disciples will no longer see Him. That “little while” is also less than 24 hours.

/Once Jesus is buried, the disciples will no longer see Him either....for a little while!\

*17 Some of His disciples then said to one another, "What is this thing He is telling us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father'?" 18 So they were saying, "What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is talking about." 19 Jesus knew that they wished to question Him, and He said to them, "Are you deliberating together about this, that I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me'? 20 "Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy.*

After Jesus died, His disciples wept and lamented, and were filled with grief.

/But the world – now remember who represents the world : the enemies of Jesus – the Sanhedrin who wagged their tongues at Him, and the Romans who crucified Him. They rejoiced when He died.\

And the ruler of this world – the devil – influenced men like Judas (John 6:70; 13:2) and the Jewish leadership (John 8:44) to betray and condemn Jesus.

But after a little while, the disciples' grief would be turned into joy.  
/When did that happen? When Jesus was raised from the dead!\

*21 "Whenever 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. 22 "Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.*

Boy did they ever rejoice! And no one could take their joy away from them.



Oh they tried. They put disciples in prison. They beat them and stoned them and killed them. But none of it worked.

*Acts 5:40-41*

*40 They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them. 41 So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.*

NASU

/Peter wrote about Christian suffering.\ Look at what he said:

*1 Peter 4:13*

*13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.*

And this would continue. Paul said that he was sorrowful yet always rejoicing!

/Paul's letters were bursting with joy, even in the face of terrible suffering. \  
Let's return now to John 14:18-19.

*John 14:18-19*

*"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.*

/So again, “ a little while” points to the burial of Jesus.\  
So what comes after that little while?

After that, Jesus will live! /Again, this refers to His resurrection from the dead.\

/Given that, what does Jesus mean by “I will come to you” & “you will see Me”?\

He is talking about events which will occur after He is raised from the dead!

/He is talking about His post-resurrection appearances to His disciples.\

Jesus appeared to people many times after He rose from the dead. And every one of those people were disciples who believed in Him.

There are quite a few of these appearances mentioned in the Bible, and each time Jesus is only appearing to disciples. John describes several of these post-resurrection appearances in this gospel.

/He made several appearances to the eleven who were with Him in the Upper room on the night before He died.\

*John 20:26-29*

*26 After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." 28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."*

/Finally, in 1 Corinthians 15, the apostle Paul provides a catalog of post-resurrection appearances.\

*1 Cor 15:3-8*

*3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.*

*John 14:19 "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. John 19:20 "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you."*

When we return next Sunday, we will take up the rest of verse 19: “because I live, you will live also”. And then we will see verse 20 – where Jesus gives a preview of the wondrous realities of the church age.