

“You cannot bear them now.”

John 16:12-15

12 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. 15 "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

Jesus tells His disciples that He has many more things to say to them. But He also realizes that it is impossible for them to bear them now.

There are two reasons for this.

/The first one has to do with their current state of mind.\ They were having a hard time coming to terms with the fact that He is going to leave them.

And when He leaves them, they would be unable to handle much if any additional new information. Their teacher and shepherd will not be there.

/The second reason is more fundamental. It has to do with their state of being.\

The nature of this new information is such that they lack the capability to make sense of it now. They need another Helper, a guide and encourager. He will change them radically. He will live in their hearts forever.

Nevertheless, they must have wondered what those “many more things” could have been.

Think of the apostles that night. They may have reflected on things Jesus had said that they hadn’t understood, /...like how He would rebuild the Temple in 3 days:\

John 2:18-22

18 The Jews then said to Him, "What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?"

*19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."
20 The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22 So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.*

What did He mean when He said that He who has seen Me has seen the Father?
(John 14:8-9)

/What did He mean when He said that before Abraham was, I am (John 8:58)?\

How about all of those I AM statements.... The bread of life; the way, the truth and the life; the Light of the world, the good Shepherd who gives up His life for the sheep ...

/Why did the Shepherd have to die?\

The disciples must have wanted to understand these things.

WE want to understand them too. / And we can, because the Spirit dwells in our hearts permanently also.\

There was probably a twinge of sadness and disappointment in their hearts when Jesus said that He wasn't going to tell them these things that night.

/But then He reminded them that He was going to send the Helper, the advocate, the perfect teacher, and the Helper would guide them into all the truth.\

All the truth. That's an amazing statement.

Especially when you consider that Jesus will be back in heaven with His Father, giving all the truth to the Spirit. Imagine all the truth that will be!

/The Spirit will listen to the Father and the Son and teach what He hears from Them.\ What astounding conversations they must have.

Can you even imagine all the new things that we are going to learn from our new Teacher?

/How about things that the prophets longed to see and understand and could not?\

1 Peter 1:10-12

10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, 11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things into which angels long to look.

These were things that no eye had seen or ear had heard, things that had never entered into the hearts of men. Things the prophet Isaiah longed to hear.

1 Cor 2:6-10

6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; 7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

8 the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; 9 but just as it is written,

*"THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD,
AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN,
ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." [Isaiah 64:4, 65:17]*

10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

/When the Spirit indwelt them, they would learn about what is to come – what was going to occur in the future.

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The disciples surely had many questions about the future. So do we.

/What about our destiny as members of the body of Christ?\

Phil 3:20-21

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

/What about the fate of this world?\

2 Peter 3:10-13

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! 13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Look at all the things we can learn from our Teacher?

/Things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of the Father!\

Col 3:1-4

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Do we have any inkling of all the truth that Jesus has for us now that He's in heaven? And none of it more glorious than this:

/Who Jesus truly is in all His fulness. All things about Christ!!\

Col 1:15-20

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. 19 For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Meditating on the awesomeness of it all, Paul exclaimed:

Col 2:2-3

2 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding,

resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

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And then he goes on –

Col 2:8-10

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. 9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, 10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

And we are just getting started.

We can go on and on and still only be scratching the surface of all the things that Jesus wants to reveal to us.

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All the truth. Inexhaustible riches. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

And alas, time has failed me, so I can tell you of no more this morning.

But you can continue the exploration. Read a passage in the epistles.

/Ask the question: What does this teach me about Christ? \

Let the Spirit guide you into the truth.