

Readings

Scripture

²⁵ "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷ for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸ I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

²⁹ His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰ Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." ³¹ Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? ³² Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

- John 16:25-33 (*English Standard Version*)

Reflection

The damping down of an enthusiastic confession of faith might seem surprising, if we did not remember that it corresponds to a constant pattern, not only in the Fourth Gospel but elsewhere. It is part of the character and genius of the Church that its foundation members were discredited men; it owed its existence not to their faith, courage, or virtue, but to what Christ had done with them; and this they could never forget.

- C.H. Dodd, *Interpreting the Fourth Gospel* (p. 416)

This is a remarkable passage, by which we are taught that we have the heart of God as soon as we place before Him the name of His Son.

- John Calvin, *The Gospel According to St. John, Chapters 11-21* (p. 130)

Sermon Outline

Loved By The Father

John 16:25-33

Table Talk in an Upper Room

Brad Anderson

The befriending love of God the Father can be found through faith in Jesus Christ.
(John 16:27)

What is characteristic of this befriending love?

Unveiled Speech. (John 16:25-28)

Good Confessions. (John 16:29-30)

Strengthened Faith. (John 16:31-33)

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- Jesus uses the metaphor of childbirth (John 16:21-22) to comfort the disciples in their grief. How did it comfort the disciples? What comfort remains for us today in Jesus' figure of speech?
- Why has Jesus veiled his speech with metaphor? Why did Jesus do this in general?
- Do you think that the disciples really grasped what Jesus says in verse 28? Why or why not?
- Jesus said to the disciples in John 16:25 that an hour was coming when he would speak even more plainly. How do Luke 24:27 and Acts 1:3 describe the clarity of Jesus' speech after the resurrection?
- What do you learn from verse 33 about Jesus' mission and its effect for us? How had Jesus overcome the world?