

1Spending Time with Jesus in I Corinthians Chapter 16

Invite Jesus to speak to you as you read this week.

1st: read I or II Corinthians (read the one you didn't read last week) all the way through, the whole book, imagining you are Paul saying this to the church in Corinth. To help you remember and ENJOY what you are reading, read out loud for at least 15 minutes each time (longer would be even better.)

2nd: read chapter 16 by itself to remember what it is about.

3rd: read chapter 16 again and write down what stands out to you.

What do you notice?

1)

2)

3)

Third read through, answer questions as you go:

I Corinthians 16:1-4

Read 15:58. It will set up chapter 16. Fill in these blanks with the words from 15:58 and then underline the words you put in these blanks when you find them in chapter 16.

- A. "Therefore, my dear _____ and _____,
- B. _____. Let nothing move you.
- C. Always give yourselves fully to the _____, because you know that your _____ in the Lord is not in vain.

Background: The church in Jerusalem was desperately in need of money. Acts tells us that Christians were persecuted so much in Jerusalem that many believers moved to other cities to escape, so it was probably really difficult for them to find jobs. Oh, and remember there was a famine.

The church in Corinth wanted to help their brothers and sisters in Christ in Jerusalem, so Paul is organizing a safe way for their gift of money to actually reach Jerusalem. Today we would transfer funds from our bank to the Jerusalem church's bank, but they didn't have banks in 55 C.E. The only way to get money from the church in Corinth to the church in Jerusalem was for someone to actually carry all those coins to Jerusalem. Sound dangerous? Most definitely.

In this paragraph, Paul is telling them what his plan is.

What other church is taking up an offering for the Lord's people?

What BIG difference is there between the Christians in Jerusalem and the Christians in Corinth/Galatia? Those in Jerusalem are _____, and those in Corinth and Galatia are mostly _____. Do these groups usually associate with one another?

So how big of a deal is it that the churches in Corinth and Galatia want to send this offering?

How do you think the Christians in Jerusalem going to feel about receiving a love offering from Christians who are mostly Gentile?

What day of the week does Paul tell them to set aside a sum of money? Why do you think he chose this day?

How would you know (if you were part of the Corinthian church then) how much to give? (v. 2)

Why do you think Paul wants all the money to be collected before he comes? Why not wait until he arrives?

Letters of introduction were important. Imagine you are part of the church in Jerusalem, and when you go to worship one day, there are a few Gentile men from far away who want to come in, claiming that Paul sent them. The Pharisees are watching you and trying to have you thrown in jail for breaking the Law. How could you know that this isn't a trick of the Pharisees? Do you tell these men to get lost?

Then they give you a letter signed by Paul that says he sent them and that they are believers and very trustworthy. How would you feel then?

Is Paul willing to go, too? (v. 4) _____ If so, why might his going be a good thing? How could he help?

I Corinthians 16:5-12 Travel Plans

This is the typical way to end a letter in the first century in the Roman empire. If you planned to go see someone, you let them know your plans at the end of the letter usually. Which 3 people does Paul tell them to expect?

Why isn't Paul coming to them soon?

What does Paul hope to do?

There is good news and bad news about what is happening with Paul in Ephesus. What is the good news?

What is the bad news?

Who is the 2nd person Paul says is coming to visit the Corinthians?

What does it mean to treat someone with contempt?

Look back at 4:14-17. What does Paul say there about Timothy and why he is sending him?

How could the Corinthians "send him on his way in peace"? In other words, how should they treat him and respond to him while he is there so that he leaves feeling God's peace?

Who is the 3rd person Paul says for them to expect...sometime?

Why do you think Paul would mention his visit? (see chapter 1:12 and 3:4-6)

I Corinthians 16:13-14 Orders!

These verses are commands. Corinth was full of retired soldiers, so they would hear Paul's words as if he were right there, sounding like a general giving orders to the soldiers under his command. His commands are short, to the point, easy to remember, and oh so, so crucial!!! Write them in your best "general in the army" handwriting:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Do you hear them differently now? _____ What do you notice about these commands? What makes them so important that Paul emphasizes them this way?

I Corinthians 16:15-24

We have a pretty good idea about some people in the Corinthian church. Some are causing trouble. List at least 2 of those people/groups of people (think back through the whole letter):

- 1.
- 2.

Now Paul mentions people in their church who are faithful. Three of them have just visited Paul and are part of the group that is bringing this letter to the Corinthians. Who are they?

_____, _____, and _____.

Who does Paul tell the Corinthian church to submit to in v. 16? How would they do that?

Why does Paul want them to submit to them? Who else might the Corinthians be tempted to follow?

Think back to Acts. What do you remember about Aquila and Priscilla?

Why do you think Paul would write a greeting in his own hand at the end of the letter?

Why does Paul include verse 22 in his closing? Why include this warning?

Do you think all will go smoothly for Paul between his sending I Corinthians and his writing 2 Corinthians? Why?