

# John 16:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb.

## Analysis

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**Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb** (ἴδε νῦν παρρησίᾳ λαλεῖς καὶ παροιμίαν οὐδεμίαν λέγεις)—The disciples express relief that Jesus is finally speaking parrēsia (παρρησία), meaning openly, plainly, without figures or riddles. Earlier in the discourse (John 16:25), Jesus had acknowledged speaking in paroimiais (παροιμίας)—proverbs, figures, veiled sayings. They believe the moment of clarity has arrived.

Yet their confidence proves premature. Within hours they would scatter in confusion (v.32), and even after resurrection they struggled to understand (Acts 1:6). Their claim to comprehension is sincere but shallow—they grasp Jesus's words intellectually but haven't yet experienced the Spirit's illumination that would come at Pentecost.

## Historical Context

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The disciples had been confused by Jesus's references to "a little while" (John 16:16-19), the woman in labor (16:21), and asking in His name (16:23-24). When He speaks directly about coming from the Father and returning to Him (16:28), they assume full understanding has arrived. This reflects the common human tendency to claim comprehension before truly possessing it—a tendency Jesus gently corrects in the following verses.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. When have you claimed to understand spiritual truth only to realize later your grasp was superficial?
2. What's the difference between intellectual comprehension of Jesus's words and Spirit-illuminated understanding?
3. How does the disciples' premature confidence warn us against overestimating our own spiritual insight?

## Interlinear Text

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λέγεις	αὐτοῦ	οἱ	μαθηταὶ	αὐτοῦ	Ἴδε	νῦν	παρρησίᾳ
<b>said</b>	<b>His</b>		<b>disciples</b>	<b>His</b>		<b>now</b>	<b>plainly</b>
G3004	G846	G3588	G3101	G846	G1492	G3568	G3954
λαλεῖς	καὶ	παροιμίαν	οὐδεμίαν	λέγεις			
<b>speakest thou</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>proverb</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>said</b>			
G2980	G2532	G3942	G3762	G3004			

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 16:25** (Parallel theme): These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.