

John 16:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.

Analysis

When the time shall come, ye may remember (ὅταν ἔλθῃ ἡ ὥρα αὐτῶν μνημονεύητε, hotan elthē hē hōra autōn mnēmoneuēte)—the verb *mnēmoneuō* (to remember, recall) is subjunctive, suggesting purpose: Jesus spoke these warnings so that when persecution arrived, disciples would remember His words and find their faith strengthened rather than shaken. Fulfilled prophecy becomes proof of Christ's deity and care.

I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you—during Jesus's earthly ministry, His presence provided protection and teaching. But now, preparing them for His physical absence, Jesus must equip them for the hostile world they'll face. The pedagogy of Christ: progressive revelation matched to the disciples' capacity and circumstances. What was unnecessary while He walked beside them becomes essential before His departure.

Historical Context

Jesus spoke this in the Upper Room, likely between 6-9 PM on Thursday of Passion Week. Within 12 hours, He would be arrested; within 24, crucified. The disciples couldn't yet 'bear' (verse 12) the full weight of what awaited both Christ and

themselves. His gradual disclosure demonstrates divine wisdom in teaching—revealing truth according to the learner's readiness.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How has God's Word proven trustworthy when you've faced trials He warned you about?
2. What 'times' or seasons of difficulty might Jesus be preparing you for through His current teaching in your life?
3. How does Christ's progressive revelation to His disciples inform how you should teach or disciple others?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλὰ	Ταῦτα	λελάληκα	ὑμῖν	ἵνα	ὅταν	ἔλθῃ	ἡ	
But	these things	have I told	unto you	that	when	shall come		G3588
G235	G5023	G2980	G5213	G2443	G3752	G2064		

ἄρα	μνημονεύητε	αὐτῶν	ὅτι	ἐγὼ	εἶπον	ὑμῖν		
the time	ye may remember	of them	because	I	I said	unto you		
G5610	G3421	G846	G3754	G1473	G2036	G5213		

Ταῦτα	δὲ	ὑμῖν	ἐξ	ἀρχῆς	οὐκ	εἶπον	ὅτι	μεθ'
these things	And	unto you	at	the beginning	not	I said	because	with
G5023	G1161	G5213	G1537	G746	G3756	G2036	G3754	G3326

ὑμῶν	ήμην							
you	I was							
G5216	G2252							

Additional Cross-References

John 14:29 (Parallel theme): And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.

Mark 13:23 (Parallel theme): But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.

John 13:19 (Parallel theme): Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.

Matthew 9:15 (Parallel theme): And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.

Mark 2:19 (Parallel theme): And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? as long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.

Matthew 24:25 (Parallel theme): Behold, I have told you before.

Acts 9:16 (Parallel theme): For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

2 Peter 1:14 (Parallel theme): Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

Matthew 10:7 (Parallel theme): And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.