

**Title: If All Else Fails - John 16 17-33**

---

**Read: John 16 17-33**

<sup>17-18</sup>That stirred up a hornet's nest of questions among the disciples: "What's he talking about: 'In a day or so you're not going to see me, but then in another day or so you will see me'? And, 'Because I'm on my way to the Father'? What is this 'day or so'? We don't know what he's talking about." <sup>19-20</sup>Jesus knew they were dying to ask him what he meant, so he said, "Are you trying to figure out among yourselves what I meant when I said, 'In a day or so you're not going to see me, but then in another day or so you will see me'? Then fix this firmly in your minds: You're going to be in deep mourning while the godless world throws a party. You'll be sad, very sad, but your sadness will develop into gladness. <sup>21-23</sup>"When a woman gives birth, she has a hard time, there's no getting around it. But when the baby is born, there is joy in the birth. This new life in the world wipes out memory of the pain. The sadness you have right now is similar to that pain, but the coming joy is also similar. When I see you again, you'll be full of joy, and it will be a joy no one can rob from you. You'll no longer be so full of questions. <sup>23-24</sup>"This is what I want you to do: Ask the Father for whatever is in keeping with the things I've revealed to you. Ask in my name, according to my will, and he'll most certainly give it to you. Your joy will be a river overflowing its banks! <sup>25-28</sup>"I've used figures of speech in telling you these things. Soon I'll drop the figures and tell you about the Father in plain language. Then you can make your requests directly to him in relation to this life I've revealed to you. I won't continue making requests of the Father on your behalf. I won't need to. Because you've gone out on a limb, committed yourselves to love and trust in me, believing I came directly from the Father, the Father loves you directly. First, I left the Father and arrived in the world; now I leave the world and travel to the Father." <sup>29-30</sup>His disciples said, "Finally! You're giving it to us straight, in plain talk—no more figures of speech. Now we know that you know everything—it all comes together in you. You won't have to put up with our questions anymore. We're convinced you came from God." <sup>31-33</sup>Jesus answered them, "Do you finally believe? In fact, you're about to make a run for it—saving your own skins and abandoning me. But I'm not abandoned. The Father is with me. I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world."

**Think:**

I am like the disciples in so many ways. They have come across a problem; they don't understand what Jesus has said to them. So what do they do? They ask each other, what's this all about. You want to shout out hey guys Jesus is standing next to you ask him you muppets. But hey aren't I just like them to? Aren't you like them to? You're plodding along at college and you come across a problem, what do you do? I'm plodding along with my life in my own merry way and I hit a problem, what do I do? I look at the problem and ask myself, "right how can I work this out?" How can I solve this problem? I ask my mate, "can you help" with this? And then finally when we have tried every other option, some bright spark says hey how about praying? It's at that point I want to shout to myself "hey muppet pray at the beginning, not when every other option fails." Remember Jesus is standing alongside you and he really doesn't mind you asking him questions.

**Pray:**

Father please prompt me when I hit problems to ask you first. Thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to help us communicate with you. Amen.

**Action:**

Think of a problem you have had for a long time and ask God to help you. After all you don't want to be a muppet do you? Cheerio.