

Your Grief Will Turn into Joy on That Day

John 16:17-33 (vv20-24)

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I. Introduction/ Background

At this point, Jesus was just hours from the Cross. Still, He was taking the time the time to reassure the disciples about what they will endure. Although He was encouraging them, He didn't sugarcoat what was about to happen. They were about to enter a time of suffering. It was Friday of the Passover week. It should have been a time of great joy as thousands of Jews had traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate God's deliverance of Israel bondage from Egypt. Those from the Northern areas celebrated the Passover the previous night, like Jesus and the disciples. Those from other areas were doing it that very night. The lambs were being brought to the temple for sacrifice. Jesus and the disciples had left the Upper Room where they had the Last Supper. He continued to teach them lessons they needed to understand because He knew his hour was drawing near. In Jn.16:1-4," Jesus explained that he was telling them these things to prepare them so they will not fall away." In fact, he warned them how they will be treated and why, in our previous lessons. Jesus is offering not a way of ease but a way that will bring glory to the Father. He His disciples to be prepared for the journey they will be embarking on in His name. A week ago, the town was celebrating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Matt.21:1-11; Mk.11:1-11; Lk.19:28-44; Jh12:12-19). But for his disciples, there is no joy. They are filled with sorrow, confusion and are scared.

II. The Lesson: Your Grief Will Turn into Joy on That Day

1. vv.16-19.

Jesus was telling His disciples that He was about to die. He let them know they would grieve and lament and be filled with sorrow and not understand the purpose of His death and suffering. They would need to hang on to the truth He had spoken to them repeatedly. The truth was the disciple's ultimate comfort (and ours) could never be found unless Jesus died. He suffered on the cross our so that we might not suffer for eternity (Lk.22:63-65). He thought we and His disciples were worth the beating, humiliation, and nails to be hung that rugged

cross. The cross was supposed to be the humiliation for Christ but Hebrew 12:2 says that “for the joy that was set before Him Jesus endured the cross. They did not understand what Jesus was telling them, but instead of asking Him they asked each other. But unlike us, Jesus was not irritated with them for not understanding. We see the love and patient He displayed to them, and it is extended to us today (2Co.12:9).

2. vv.20-22.

When we see the words “truly, truly” spoken by Jesus, it is a time for the disciples and us to pay attention. It is important that they take heed because it is fact (assurance) when He was letting them know that they would weep, and lament and the world will rejoice. Their grief will be turned into joy. This is a great promise to them. in the midst of their (also for us) confusion. Joy is a gift from God that is part of the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:2). Everything he promised them was fulfilled after His resurrection in the Upper Room. They were all grieving when they thought all was lost. In this world we will have sorrows, pain and events that will bring us to our knees. We live in a fallen world (Lk.4:16-19)and though we love Jesus, things will happen that we don’t understand. Like the disciples who will have to depend on the truths that Jesus had taught them, we too must look to Jesus and the Holy Spirit to guide us through this maze called life (Eph.6:10-12).

There may be a time when it looks like being a Christian brings nothing but sorrow, pain, and disappointment, and those in the world seem to get all the joy and riches. But a time will come when the roles will be reversed. The world’s joy will turn to sorrow; for the Christians this is not the end of things, and that sorrow will give way to unspeakable joy that will never end. He compared what was coming to a woman giving childbirth. The pains of childbirth are agonizing but must be experienced. But after she gives birth, she is so overjoyed with the baby that she quickly forgets the suffering caused by labor. In the same way, the disciples would experience intense grief, but when the reality of the risen Christ was manifested to them, their joy would be so intense that they will forget the agony they were feeling. For the Christian, all suffering has an expiration date. No matter how dark the days may seem, the Word teaches that all grief will end and be replaced with eternal peace and gladness (Rev.21:4).

If we look back at verse one, we see why Jesus is preparing them. They were about to step in a life changing event, like they have never seen before, and they will have to do it without Jesus physical present. Right, now, they do

understand that it was best for Him to leave them. In His physical body He was limited by time and flesh. When He is resurrected, He will be able to be with them always and not just those in the world that believe He is the Christ. He paved the way for the sending of the Holy Spirit into the believers' lives (Matt.1:21; John 14:16-26).

3. **vv. 23-24.**

In verse 17, they were confused and asking each other what He was talking about. In the future, those questions will be answered. In addition, their relationship with God the Father will be changed too because of Christ. They will be able to approach the Father directly in the name of Jesus. That was not the way they prayed up to this point. Jesus' death and resurrection will have secured redemption. Hebrew 4:14-16 tells us that because Jesus is now our great High Priest, we can come boldly before God's throne of .. We can have confidence in prayer because of Jesus (Mk.15:33-41). To pray in Jesus' name is to ask for it to be done according to His will. A name represents the person, so to ask in Jesus' name is to ask for something that is in complete harmony with all that Jesus is and desires. Those who use His name like an incantation are guilty of practicing a form of sorcery. His name is not a magical formula because prayer is not magic. James 4:2-

4. **vv.25-33.**

Jesus further explains how this will work and to prepare them for the future. In Matthew 13, Jesus explained why he had started to speak in parables saying that it was to explain the mysteries of heaven to His followers, while hiding the truths in mystery to those who did not believe in Him (Matt.13:10-14). Now Jesus tells them of a day when He would no longer speak to them in such confusing figurative language. The Holy Spirit will reveal to them the meaning: John 16:13....he will guide you in all truth. Their confusion of trying to understand what He was saying on that night, they thought they finally understood. They had been confused by Jesus' statement in verse 16, but now in verse 29 they said they understood because of His statement when He said, "He was from the Father, and He was going back to Father was clear to them. Upon this basis they make a firm claim to now believe that Jesus is from God, But Jesus gently challenges them because He knows what is going to happen in the next few hours and revealed it to them. John 18:1-14; Matt.26:36-56; detailed what happened in the Garden of Gethsemane. They would scatter and return to their dwellings; they had been staying in Jerusalem because they feared for their life. Peter will deny Him three

times. But despite their abandonment, He will not be alone because His Father will be with Him. Men fail, but God never fails. We see a Compassionate Jesus, who comforted them even when He was revealing their failures. He is telling them plainly in verse 33, that He is revealing these things in advance to them so that they would have peace even during the tribulation because He have overcome the world. The same is true today for believers.

We fail the Lord, but He never fail us and there are many trials and tribulations that have or will test our faith even to the very foundations. Yet as believers we hold on to our faith and His faithfulness (1 Thess.5:16-18). We will persevere and mature because of what Christ has done and through the help of the Holy Spirit, who enables us. When Jesus spoke these things of course, He had not yet been to the Cross, but He knew what the plan was. He was the Lamb to be sacrificed for the sin of the world (Rev.13:8). Even though they abandoned Jesus in His time of need or like Peter, denied Him three times, Jesus came to see them as he had promised them. Where they were full of grief and thought there was no hope or joy, when He entered the Upper Room, their outlook changed. When Jesus did a fish fry on the beach for the disciples, Peter was full of joy because he saw Jesus. They saw the truth that Christ had overcome the world and enables us through the Holy Spirit.

III. **Conclusion**

Like the disciples, we will go through trials and tribulation because the Bible assures us it will happen. Life as a Christian does not exempt us from going through them. Like the disciples we must see Jesus even in our situation. Just like He made provision for them to have the Holy Spirit to guide them and He promise to see them, the same apply to us. It was Good Friday, and for the disciples everything was confusing and depressing. They have been told the truth and had many promises from Jesus, but they did not understand at that present time how things would be fulfilled. But from that dark day to the third day where Light began to shine things changed. Jesus rose from the dead, proving His Deity and keeping His promise, therefore giving the us hope that death not the destination for the believer. Rejoicing or joy does not always look like happiness. It is setting our eyes and heart not on the situation but on the One who has been raised. Happiness depends on what is tangible, but our joy is a gift that can only come looking to Jesus for comfort and peace that only come from Him even in the darkest moments.