

The Gospel of John: Grief to Joy

John 16:16-33

Joy (v. 16-24)

- Jesus tells the disciples that He will leave & return “in a little while”
 - They are confused because He has repeatedly said that He is going to the Father, where they will not be able to see Him
- He tries to clarify that the world will rejoice over His ‘departure’ while the disciples mourn
 - But their mourning will be short-lived and will turn to joy
 - Joy: A deep contentment that comes from the *perspective* that God is in control
 - The disciples need a perspective shift
 - Like a mother endures childbirth for the joy of the child to come
- Jesus is referring to His death & resurrection
 - When He is raised, they will better understand
 - But the need for a shift in perspective is always needed in our relationship with God
- Jesus declares that after His resurrection & ascension, we direct our needs to the Father (v. 26-27)
 - This is done “in Jesus’ name”/authority

Limited Clarity (v. 25-30)

- Jesus clarifies that they will comprehend better later because He will be able to speak in ways that they can understand because:
 - The reality of His death & resurrection will make much of His statements clearer
 - The Holy Spirit helps us understand spiritual truth in ways that we cannot without Him
- This restatement helps the disciples have some insight, but it is limited

The Peace & The Promise (v. 31-33)

- Jesus questions whether they really comprehend
 - Their lack of true understanding will be shown when the disciples all abandon Him and lose hope
- Jesus comforts them by offering Him His peace & a promise
 - The Peace: Jesus will come back both through His resurrection & His second coming
 - The Promise: Living in this world means undergoing troubles
 - Jesus has overcome/conquered the world

So What?

- Do we have an eternal perspective that God is at work, which gives peace & joy, or are we easily overwhelmed?
- Do we live in the victory of Jesus, or are we trying to fight alone?

Meditation Verse: John 16:33

Next Week: John 17