

# **“Your Sorrow Will Turn To Joy”**

## **John 16:16-33**

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**Teaching Aim:** To examine the disciple’s confusion about the coming death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. To explore Jesus’ response to them and see how their sorrow would soon be turned into joy. To recognize the contrast between the reaction of the disciples of Jesus and the reaction of Satan and his followers. To understand that it is only by grace through faith in Jesus Christ that we can have peace with God and find solace during the difficulties of life.

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)**

#### **Part I: Jesus prepares His disciples for the events ahead (John 16:16-22)**

1. Twice in **verse 16**, Jesus used the words, *“a little while.”* Two different Greek words were used by Jesus bringing two different meanings. The first usage referred to His impending crucifixion the next day; the second, referred to His resurrection after three days and His ascension to the right hand of the Father in heaven 40 days later. Time and time again, Jesus had warned the disciples of His impending death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. Why do you think they didn’t get it?
  
2. Jesus had a way of knowing when His disciples were talking about Him (**vs. 17**). What were the disciples questioning in **verse 18**? It is important to remember Jesus was still alive and present with His disciples at the time of their questioning; still His disciples were confused.
  
3. In **verse 19**, Jesus questioned His disciples about the content of their conversation. Every time Jesus uses the phrase *“most assuredly,”* an important teaching is about to follow. What important teaching was presented in **verse 20**? What was Jesus referring to when He spoke of *“the world?”* How would the reaction of the disciples be different from that of unbelievers in the world? What promise did Jesus make to His disciples?
  
4. It’s getting harder to find real Christians in our country today. What are some ways that American society has changed over the past 50 years? Has this change affected Christianity in a positive or negative way?

5. What illustration did Jesus use to demonstrate the change in emotions that would take place in His disciples after the resurrection (**vs. 21**)? Note: The pain of the disciples at the crucifixion would give way to an inexpressible joy after the resurrection.
  
6. How many people saw the resurrected Christ according to **1 Cor. 15:1-8**? According to **verse 22**, how permanent would their joy be? What incredible news should drop every believer in Christ to their knees in worship? (See **Rom. 5:8-9**) What are some ways that the disciples lives and ministries were changed after coming to this realization? What are some ways that your life has changed since coming to Christ?
  
7. For the disciples to take the Gospel of Christ to the world, they needed to learn how to pray in His absence. What did Gregory R. Frizzell mean when he said, *"The great secret of prayer is to align ourselves to God's purposes rather than seeking to align Him to ours."* Are your prayers more "me" oriented, or do you do your best to align your prayers with the revealed will of God (His Word)?

## **Part II: Praying in the name of Jesus (John 16:23-28)**

1. In **verse 23**, Jesus said, *"And in that day you will ask Me nothing."* "What day" was Jesus taking about and why would His disciples not ask Him questions? What major teaching did Jesus give to His disciples in **verse 23b**? Jesus used two different Greek words for "ask" in **verse 23**. The first is when someone asks a question of an equal; the second is when someone respectfully asks a superior. In asking the father, the disciples were definitely asking a superior. Who were the disciples to pray to once Jesus has ascended into heaven (**vs. 23**)?
  
2. Why did Jesus say in **verse 24**, *"Until now you have asked nothing in My name?"* What does Jesus then encourage His disciples to do? Why? Why is it important for us to pray in the name of Jesus today? Note: Praying in the name of Jesus is not a magical formula to get our prayers answered. What are we really doing when we pray in the name of Jesus?

3. Not only are we encouraged to pray in the name of Jesus, but the writer of Hebrews encourages us to do so boldly. What are some of the important truths that we can learn from **Heb. 10:19-23**? What is the significance of **1 Pet. 2:9** to every Christian's spiritual walk? Note: Today we approach God, not on our own merit, but on the merit of Jesus Christ and His finished work upon the cross at Calvary. It is through the righteousness of Christ that we can approach God boldly in prayer today.
  
4. Figures of speech were commonly used by Jesus. What is the meaning of "a parable?" What was the purpose behind Jesus using parables? (See **Matt. 13:34-35**) The use of symbolism would stop after the resurrection of Jesus Christ and His ascension to heaven. How would the Holy Spirit speak to the disciples once Christ had ascended to heaven (**vs. 25b**)?
  
5. According to **verse 26**, does Jesus personally present every prayer request we make to the Father? What truths can we learn from **Heb. 7:25-27**? How is Jesus interceding for us as our Great High Priest today? (See **Rom. 8:34**)
  
6. According to **verse 27**, what is essential if we are to be recipients of God's love? It is important to note that the Father answers our prayers out of love for His Son and for us. What can we learn about the incarnation of Jesus Christ from **verse 28**? What can we learn about the resurrection and ascension of Jesus from **verse 28b**?

### **Part III: Finding peace with God and within our lives (John 16:29-33)**

1. How did the disciples respond to the words of Jesus in **verse 28 (vs. 29)**? What led to the disciple's proclamation of faith in **verse 30**? How did having your eyes opened to the truth of Jesus change your life?
  
2. In **verse 30** the disciples said, "*By this we believe that You came forth from God.*" Why do you think Jesus asked His disciples, "*Do you now believe*" in **verse 31**? Is it possible He was questioning the sincerity of their faith which would be severely tested over the next 24 hours? Have you ever let the Lord down in your own spiritual walk? How did you get back on the track?

3. What hour was Jesus referring to in **verse 32**? What did Jesus say would happen in the intensity of that moment? (See **Zech. 13:7**; **Mark 14:26-27**) Have you ever had your friends turn their backs on you in time of need and run? How did it feel?
  
4. What did Jesus mean when He said, *"I am not alone"* in **verse 32b**? Was there ever a time when the Father did turn His back on Jesus? Why? (See **Psalms 22:1**; **Matt. 27:45-46**) According to **2 Cor. 5:21**, why was it necessary for Jesus to be forsaken by the Father while He was on the cross? How does this forsakenness relate to our salvation today?
  
5. What did Christ promise His followers in **verse 33**? What is the only way that we can have peace with God today? Will this peace accompany us as we walk through the difficulties of life? How should we as Christians respond? (See **Phil. 4:6-7**) It is important to remember that no matter what we are going through in life, the peace of God is ours *"in Christ."*
  
6. In **verse 33**, Jesus summed up everything He had been teaching His disciples in **chapters 13-16**. *"In Christ"* we are in a win-win situation, no matter what we are facing in life. In **Ephesians 2:1-4**, we learn that fallen men and women are dead in their trespasses and sins, by nature they are children of wrath. Two of the most beautiful words in the Bible are found in **Ephesians 2:4-5**. What two words in **verse 4** change everything? What incredible truth do we learn about our salvation from **Eph. 2:4-5**?
  
7. John MacArthur writes, *"While the world continues to attack [God's] people, such attacks fall harmlessly, for Christ's victory has already accomplished a smashing defeat of the whole evil rebellious system [that of Satan and the world system.]"* What Satan thought was his greatest victory in Christ's death on the cross turned into his greatest defeat. As a result, followers of Jesus Christ can confidently ask the question: *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?"* (See **Rom. 8:35-39**) What is the obvious answer? How do Christians become more than conquerors today? Do you have this kind of confidence in Christ and the ministry of God's Holy Spirit? If you have never received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, why not do so right now in prayer?

**MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- Though Jesus warned His disciples again and again about His impending death, resurrection, and ascension, they did not understand what He meant.
- The disciples would be filled with sorrow at the events leading up to the death and burial of Christ.
- The world (or those of the world system) would rejoice at the death of Jesus.
- After the resurrection of Jesus, His disciple's sorrow would turn into an amazing joy.
- The resurrection of Christ was God's stamp of approval upon the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.
- To pray in Jesus' name means to pray positionally in who Jesus is and who we are in Christ; it requires that we pray in accordance with the principles of God's Word (the Bible).
- Only in Christ can we find peace with God and the peace of God during the difficulties of life.