

# John 16 vs 16-33

Deep Joy

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### *The Upper Room Discourse - the story so far...*

In the Upper Room Discourse Jesus has been teaching his disciples what it will look like to have faith in him... and to live life while we wait for his return. He has answered his disciples' four questions concerning what life will be like when he is physically absent. Life will come through his Holy Spirit who will reveal Jesus to his people, through Jesus' words.

Jesus has explained that his disciples are the true people of God connected to the true vine (him).

He has spoken of the hostility of the world to God's people – **“they will hate you as they have hated me”** ...and he has taught them about the work of the Holy Spirit in convicting the world and in giving a full and final revelation of God to Jesus' Apostles.

Now Jesus begins to spell out the details of what our relationship with him will look like once he is gone.

We start by reading John 16 vs 16-19:

John 16 vs 16-19: *“A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.”*<sup>17</sup> *So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?”*<sup>18</sup> *So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.”*<sup>19</sup> *Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’?”*

In these verses John appears to record Jesus and his disciples saying the same thing over and over again!

- John has the same thing repeated 4 times – what is it?
  - In “a little while” Jesus will be gone – out of sight.
  - A “little while” later he will be seen again.
- Why is John being so repetitive?
  - It seems that the Apostles are still very confused, and Jesus' death and resurrection are just hours away...
  - ...so Jesus spells it out yet again.

Verses 20-33 shed more light on what Jesus is talking about. The verses fall into three sections:

- Part 1 (vs 20-22): sorrow and joy at his death and resurrection
- Part 2 (vs 23-28): joy at the new relationship with God achieved through Jesus' death and resurrection
- Part 3 (vs 29-33): pain and suffering mixed with peace and victory!

## ***Part 1: Sorrow and joy at Jesus' death and resurrection***

Read John 16 vs 20-22: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. <sup>21</sup> When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup> So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”*

What is the cause of such sorrow and joy?

- Sorrow – his death
- Joy – his resurrection

Because we know that Jesus is alive... this means our joy cannot be taken away. He lives FOREVER!

How does the illustration of childbirth help to make the point?

- His disciples' pain at his crucifixion will be short-lived... and has a purpose.
- Once Jesus has risen their JOY will be irreversible!

v22: *“So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”*

## ***Part 2: Joy at a new relationship with the Father***

Read John 16 vs 23-28: *“In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. <sup>25</sup> “I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. <sup>26</sup> In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; <sup>27</sup> for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. <sup>28</sup> I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”*

What is the source of our joy in these verses?

- v24 RELATIONSHIP – “**...ask and you will receive**”
- v25 REVELATION – “**...tell you plainly about the Father**”.
- vs 26-28 RELATIONSHIP again: “**ask (the Father) in my name**”.

What is new about our relationship with God in these verses?

- DIRECT access to the Father through the finished work of the Cross – in and through the gift of the Spirit.
  - v23 - “**In that day you will ask nothing of me**”
  - v23 – “**...whatever you ask of the Father in my name...**”
  - v24 – “**Until now you have asked nothing in my name.**”

How is this open relationship possible?

- Following his death and resurrection Jesus will be able to explain clearly to his disciples everything that he has been doing... ‘The penny will drop!’

What will characterise this new relationship?

- LOVE

v27: “*...for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.*”

### ***Part 3: Pain and suffering / peace and victory***

Read John 16 vs 29-33: “*His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! <sup>30</sup> Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” <sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? <sup>32</sup> Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. <sup>33</sup> I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”*”

What is the disciples’ experience going to be like as described in these verses?

- v33 - “**tribulation**”
- v33 - “**...that in me you may have PEACE**”

In summary, in the light of the disciples' continued failure to grasp both their own weakness and sin, and the need for Jesus' death and resurrection, Jesus has spelled out what his death is going to result in:

vs 20-22 - SORROW AND JOY

vs 23-28 - REVELATION AND RELATIONSHIP

vs 29-33 - TRIBULATION AND PEACE

From these verses - how would you describe the normal Christian experience?

- Tribulation... yet joy and peace
- Final victory – Jesus says in v33: “**...take heart; I have overcome the world.**”

What is the OBJECTIVE SOURCE of our joy and peace?

- Christ's death and resurrection which enables a relationship with God the Father through the gift of God the Spirit ( i.e. vs 23 -28)

What will be the nature of our DAILY EXPERIENCE?

- Tribulation
- Yet through the revelation that our relationship has been made right with God - JOY AND PEACE!

What would you say to somebody who says:

1. *“Those Bible-believing Christians have no vibrant experience – it's all head knowledge and book work!”*
  - NO - joy and peace are the normal Christian experience – through our relationship made right with God.
2. *“The normal Christian experience is one of triumph as we march from one victory to the next”!!*
  - In the world you will (v33) **have tribulation!!**
3. *“I feel no joy and peace”!*
  - Joy and peace flow from our prayer life and from our personal knowledge of God the Father through what Jesus has shown us in his WORD.

Read vs 23-25: *“In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. <sup>25</sup> “I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father.”*

So...

Jesus' death and resurrection, and his gift of the Spirit, achieves a radical change... a new age of direct access to the Father and prayerful involvement in the Father's work.

This turns a bunch of sorrowful, confused disciples into people with true, lasting joy.

- How would you now answer someone who asked you to show them how to have true joy?

### ***Next time...***

What Jesus wants...

## *John 16 vs 16-33*

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