

SERMON OUTLINE John 16:16-24

Your Sorrow Will Be Turned into Full Joy

JESUS' DEPARTURE AND THE DISCIPLES' CONFUSION (16-18)

JESUS' EXPLANATION AND PROMISES (19-24)

The Circumstantial Promises

Promise #1: You Will Weep and Lament and Be Sorrowful (20, 22)

Promise #2: The world will rejoice (20)

Promise #3: Your Sorrow Will Turn into Joy (20), Your Hearts Will Rejoice (22), And Your Joy Will Be Full (24)

Promise #4: No One Will Be Able to Take Your Joy from You (22)

The Sorrow-to-Joy Promises

Promise #5: You Will See Me Again (22)

Promise #6: Your Requests Will Be Granted (23-24)

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this passage is that while Jesus would soon leave, and while this would be really hard for His followers, fullness of joy would soon and forever follow. And the main takeaways are to share this good news faithfully with all who will hear and live faithfully without fear.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Do you remember the first time you heard the gospel? What, specifically, was shared with you?
3. When you share the gospel with others, are you ever tempted to minimize the "hard stuff"?
4. If someone were to ask you why you follow Jesus even though it's hard, what would you tell them?
5. When is the last time you remember being confused by the teaching of Jesus? What did you do?
6. Have you ever spent time purposefully considering the attributes of God? What stood out as you did?
7. What comes to mind as you consider the fact that God knows every thought you've ever had?
8. In what ways has following Jesus been difficult for you? How often are the challenges tied to persecution from others?
9. Has anyone ever been glad to see you persecuted for being a Christian?
10. Can you think of a time when Jesus turned your suffering into joy? Have you ever had glimpses of "full joy"?
11. Have you accused someone of taking your joy? What does Jesus' words in v.22 say about that?
12. What do you imagine Jesus' return will be like? What are you most looking forward to about it?
13. How have you experienced the truthfulness of Jesus' final promise in vs.23-24?
14. In what ways did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

15. Practice rehearsing the gospel, including the harder aspects of it. Share that with someone this week.
16. Find a list of God's attributes. Consider the list carefully and prayerfully. Ask God to help you live more fully in light of them.
17. Work with someone in your DG to better understand how to live in light of a confusing passage in the Bible.
18. Pray through a passage of the Bible, trusting God to answer your prayers as you ask in Jesus' name.
19. Consider carefully the fact that Jesus knows your every thought. Look for ways to turn that knowledge into holiness.
20. Find one way you've been compromising in your faith to avoid persecution. Start obeying in that way.
21. Purposefully seek greater joy in Jesus this week. Live in light of the fact that no one can take it from you.
22. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
23. Ask God to show you one specific thing you ought to do differently as a result of this text or sermon? Share that and pray about it with someone in your DG. Continue praying for and checking in with each other until you've both done it.

PRAYER POINTS

24. Adoration. Praise God for being omnipresent, wise, consistent, omnipotent, and joyful. Praise Him that He is perfect, holy, and good. Praise God for being eternal and infinite. Praise Jesus for being truly God and truly man.
25. Confess. Confess any ways you've chosen comfort over faithfulness and obedience. Confess any ways you've tried to make the gospel more palatable out of fear or embarrassment. Confess any ways you've blamed others for taking your joy.
26. Thanksgiving. Thank God for all of His promises. Thank God for being unchanging in His attributes, especially gracious.
27. Supplication. Ask God to turn someone's sorrow into joy, to answer our prayers, and to make us more faithful.