

STUDY #44

Jesus Offers Hope of Joy

John 16:16-24

John's Purpose Statement:

"³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:30-31

John 16:16-24—

¹⁶ "A little while, and you will no longer see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me." ¹⁷ Some of His disciples then said to one another, "What is this thing He is telling us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father'?" ¹⁸ So they were saying, "What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is talking about."¹⁹ Jesus knew that they wished to question Him, and He said to them, "Are you deliberating together about this, that I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me'?" ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy. ²¹ Whenever a woman is in labor she has [Ⓛ] pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a [Ⓛ] child has been born into the world.²² Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one *will* take your joy away from you.

²³ In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.

REVIEW: John 16:5-15

⁵ "But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?'" ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the [Ⓛ] Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; ¹¹ and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

¹² "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. ¹³ But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

1. According to verses 5 and 10, where is Jesus going?
2. Describe the state of the disciple's hearts this evening. (v. 6) (Can also see John 14:1, 27)
3. Why is it to the disciple's advantage that Jesus goes away? (v. 7)
4. What will the Holy Spirit do? (v. 13)

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

→ **Read vs. 16-18**—¹⁶“A little while, and you will no longer see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me.” ¹⁷Some of His disciples then said to one another, “What is this thing He is telling us, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me’; and, ‘because I go to the Father?’” ¹⁸So they were saying, “What is this that He says, ‘A little while’? We do not know what He is talking about.”

1. What measure of time is used in these verses?
2. What statement does Jesus make to His disciples in v. 16?
 - a. What does “you will no longer see Me” communicate?
 - b. What does “you will see Me” communicate?
3. In v. 17, what phrase do the disciples add to what Jesus had said in v. 16?

Look at the following verses to see where they got that phrase.

John 14:12—²“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”

John 14:28—²⁸“You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.”

John 16:10—¹⁰“and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; ¹¹and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”

4. Describe the disciple’s level of understanding. (vs. 17-18)
5. Read the following passages & answer the following questions.
 - a. What does Jesus reference in each passage?
 - b. Do the disciples understand what He is talking about? Why? When will they understand?
 - c. How does this help us understand our passage?

Matthew 20:17-19—¹⁷“And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, ¹⁸“See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be

delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.”

Luke 18:31-33³¹ And taking the twelve, he said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. ³² For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. ³³ And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.” ³⁴ But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.”

John 2:19-22—¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”²⁰ The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹ But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²² When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.”

→ **Read vs. 19-22**—¹⁹ Jesus knew that they wished to question Him, and He said to them, “Are you deliberating together about this, that I said, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me’? ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy. ²¹ Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world.²² Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one *will* take your joy away from you.”

1. What did Jesus know? (v. 19) What does that tell us about Jesus?
2. How does He get their attention in v. 20?
3. What does He say the disciples will do in v. 20? With what are all of those words associated?
4. Read the following passage which takes place after the cross. How do Jesus' followers reacted to His death? Resurrection?

John 20:11-20—¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, ¹⁷ “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, ²⁰ Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord."

5. Back to today's passage, in contrast to the disciple's weeping, lamenting, and grieving, what does He say the world will do? (v. 20) Why do you think the world had that reaction?
6. What will the disciples' grief turn into? (v. 20)
7. What illustration does Jesus use in v. 21?
8. What word does v. 22 start with? In what way does it relate the illustration of child birth to what the disciples are experiencing?
9. What will happen when Jesus will see the disciples again? (v. 22)
10. How is this joy characterized? (v. 22)

→ **Read vs. 23-24**—²³ In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full."

1. What does He say the disciples will not do? (v. 23a) Have they been asking a lot of questions recently? Look back at John 13:36, 14:5, 14:22.
2. What promise does He give in v. 23? How is that similar to John 14:13-14 & 15:16:

John 14:13-14—¹³ Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do *it*."

John 15:16—¹⁶ You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you."
3. What is Jesus saying will be different about prayer now? (v. 24)
4. What will this kind of prayer result in? (v. 24)

TEACHING NOTES

1. The Declaration (v. 16)

- a. Time frame

- b. Departure

John 14:19—“Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.”

- c. Arrival

2. The Confused Disciples (vs. 17-18)

3. The Confusion Acknowledged (v. 19)

4. Jesus offers Hope of Joy (vs. 20-24)

a. Grief will be turned to Joy (vs. 20-22)

- i. Truly, Truly Statement (v. 20)

- ii. The Illustration (v. 21)

- iii. The Connection (v. 22)

b. Prayer will bring Joy (vs. 23-24)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What about this passage made an impact on you?
2. The disciples had the privilege of seeing and interacting with Jesus in person. We walk by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7), but, if we have the Holy Spirit working in us, we definitely have the capability of seeing Jesus' presence in our lives. Read through the following passage and think through the questions.

1 Peter 1:8-9—"8 Though you have not seen [Jesus], you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls."

Persona Application Questions: Do I love him? Do I believe in him? Do I rejoice with joy that is inexpressible? What is the outcome of faith? How can that outcome bring joy?

3. Jesus told the disciples in 16:22—"22 Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one *will* take your joy away from you." Here is a quote from Dale Whitehead about that verse—

"The joy that we have as a result of Christ's work on the cross will be enduring and everlasting. Our lives might fall apart, we might lose the joy that comes from our circumstances, but no man can ever undo the work of grace that God did in our lives through the cross. The work of the cross is irreversible and therefore the joy of the cross endures in our lives even up to this day."

What should our joy be rooted in? How can no one take that joy away from you?

Discuss how we can live this out in our every day lives.

4. Right prayer is important to Jesus. If we are seeking to pray in Jesus' name, we will be making a conscious effort to pray prayers that we believe Jesus Himself would be praying if He were in our circumstances. How do your prayers match up?
5. In John 16:7, Jesus say, "7 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you." How can we see that it was to the disciples' (and our) advantage that Jesus went away from our passage today?