

# “Gospel of John: Grief Turned to Joy”

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## Scripture

### John 16:16-24

“A little while, and you will no longer see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me.” 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'?**”

So they were saying, “What is this that He says, 'A little while? We do not know what He is talking about.'” 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'?**”

“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.**”

“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.”

“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.**”

“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. Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, **so that your joy may be made full.**”

## Last Week

Jesus taught the disciples a little more about the Holy Spirit – the Guide within – to their advantage

How it's the Holy Spirit's job to convict the world of sin and righteousness and judgment

The disciples are free to simply open their mouth and speak about Jesus

We have that same resource and success in front of us if we simply open our mouth for Him

## This Week

Jesus encourages the disciples with a promise of His return after momentary grief -> Happiness vs. Joy

## The Disciples' Question

### John 16:16-17

“A little while, and you will no longer see Me; and **again a little while, and you will see Me.**” 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'?**”

Jesus had repeatedly told the disciples that He was leaving

They are not questioning the fact that Jesus is leaving

They want to know “when”...

Jesus has confused them with the term “a little while”

The Greek word is mikros where we get our word “micro”

It means the least or the smallest amount, not necessarily related to time

Jesus describes a short amount of time to His departure and then a return?

He told them that He would come again in **John 14:3**

But a quick return?

He didn't mention any timing until now

## The Disciples' Debate

### John 16:18-19

“So, they were saying, "What is this that He says, 'A little while? We do not know what He is talking about." **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'?"

Jesus can read the minds of the disciples

He knows that they want to know the timing of both His departure and His return

In reality, His departure will be within a day -> definitely a short amount of time

But His return?

They had no idea of His coming resurrection

They will be surprised, without a doubt

Jesus doesn't give them any clarity of timing of His return

It is the same for His eventual coming back in glory:

- We know Who is coming back -> Jesus will
- We know what will happen, where, and how -> Jesus will come on the clouds back to where He left, on the Mount of Olives
- We know why He will come back -> to judge the world
- We do not know when that will happen

Why doesn't He give any timing?

He wants the disciples to be continually ready for His return -> including us

He can return at any time, and we are to be ready -> **Matthew 25**

## The Lord's Statement

### John 16:20

"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.**"

Instead of answering their question of timing, Jesus prophesies about their emotions into the future

"**weep and lament**" -> both Greek words signify an auditory response -> "you will demonstrably cry out loud"

"the world will rejoice" -> on the other hand, would be filled with JOY at His death

The Jews, for example:

### Isaiah 53:1-4

"Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; **He has no stately form or majesty** that we should look upon Him, **Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.**

He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; **Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.**"

The passage of the Suffering Servant revealed Israel's opinion of Jesus

Nothing special to look at -> Nothing attractive about Him

We thought He deserved His fate, and that God punished Him

Can you imagine the reaction of Annas and the High Priest Caiaphas?

"We got Him!" -> "That troublemaker is gone..."

On the other hand, the disciples "will grieve" -> *lupeó* -> Deep, emotional pain and sorrow

The disciples will be ripped up inside at their personal loss when Jesus is crucified

"**your grief will be turned into joy**" -> it will be a short-lived grief, though

"joy" is *chara* which means exceeding delight and gladness

Many of you have experienced the loss of a loved one or a job or a relationship

How many of you have been greatly distressed at the passing of a friend, a spouse, or a child?

Finding joy in the midst of struggle and crisis can be elusive

Finding joy in the midst of conflict is difficult, as well

Sometimes, we need assistance in finding that peace of God during the struggle

If that's you, consider Paul's words to the Philippians:

### Philippians 4:4-7

**“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!** Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”**

Focus on your JOY, Paul writes -> so much so he repeats it for them

Paul is writing from prison, by the way

The entire letter to the Philippians is about JOY

Jesus promised that the disciples would have JOY when they saw Him resurrected, read Peter's Acts 2 sermon

They did:

### Matthew 28:8-9

**“They left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy** and ran to report it to His disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.”

Peter's reaction:

### Luke 24:12

**“Peter got up and ran to the tomb;** stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.”

Jesus then gives an earthly example:

### The Childbirth Example

### John 16:21

**“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.”

Having never experienced giving birth, you ladies will have to let me know if this is true

A woman is focused on the joy of the new birth

“anguish” is the Greek word for tribulation -> thlipsis

What is Jesus saying?

They will not focus is on the sorrow of His death but focus on the new birth that results!

Wasn't it the same with Lazarus?

### John 11:32-33

“Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled.”

They didn't know He purposely waited until Lazarus was good and dead to be able to raise him after 4 days

When Lazarus arose, they were, no doubt, filled with joy

Jesus tells the disciples, they will again have great joy:

### Eternal Joy

### John 16:22

“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.”

“no one will take your joy away from you” -> not only will you have joy at the resurrection

But you will have eternal joy!

How do we know that?

Who is Jesus going to send to them? -> the Holy Spirit!

Who were we talking about last week?

### Galatians 5:22-23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

We have the Spirit, we have eternal JOY available to us

Anyone stealing your joy?

I remember someone telling me once, "Don't let anyone steal your joy"

No one can steal your joy!

But I know many people who surely give it away

They forget and instead experience fear and worry

FEAR: Forgetting Everything and Running

Instead, Jesus tells them:

## Prayer Promises

### John 16:23-24

**"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. Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full."**

In what day?

In the day of Jesus's resurrection when they see Him again?

No, in the Day of Pentecost -> when the Holy Spirit shows up

The disciples wanted to question Him, but the Holy Spirit will provide answers to them after Jesus departs

**"ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full"** -> answered prayers bring joy

Being full of Joy is a state of mind:

### 1 Peter 1:3-9

**"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy **has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials**, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and **though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory**, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls."**

**We are to sing songs of Joy!**

Prayer

Benediction