

JOHN 16:16-24

JESUS GIVES

As the conversation continues, Jesus turns to the sorrow rising in the hearts of His disciples.

Soon, they will not see Him, and grief will follow—but that grief will not last.

“And then after a little while you will see me” (16:16b). The disciples do not fully understand what He means, but Jesus knows what is coming.

He compares their experience to the pain of childbirth which gives way to the joy of a new life—a joy that cannot be taken away.

What feels like loss in the moment will be transformed through the Resurrection. This very event, that seems like defeat, will become the source of lasting hope.

Jesus also invites His disciples into a new kind of relationship with the Father—one marked by confidence in His sufficiency. Their circumstances may not immediately change, but soon their outlook will.

Sorrow will not have the final word because of what Jesus is about to do. Joy is coming.

DAILY READINGS

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| I. JOHN 16:16-24 | V. 1 JOHN 4:4-12 |
| II. JEREMIAH 31:10-17 | VI. REVELATION 21:1-8 |
| III. ISAIAH 26:16-21 | VII. JOHN 20:11-23 |
| IV. MATTHEW 7:7-14 | |

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 16:24

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Jesus went on to say, “In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”

¹⁷ At this, some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father’?” ¹⁸ They kept asking, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand what he is saying.”

¹⁹ Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’?” ²⁰ Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. ²¹ A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. ²² So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. ²³ In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ²⁴ Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”

DISCUSSION

Look back at the previous chapters in John 15 and 16. What is the setting for these words? What do you imagine the mood is like when Jesus says, “In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me”?

How do you see the relationship between what Jesus the Son is doing, what the Father does, and what the Spirit does? (See verses 13-15 and 27-28.)

What does it mean to “pray in Jesus’ name”? Why do we pray in Jesus’ name?

What does Jesus mean when He says He has overcome the world? How should that encourage us as His followers? How does lasting joy emerge from the grief of Jesus’ death on the cross (v. 22)?

What are you grieving right now? What disappointments or losses are you carrying? How can the hope of Jesus’ resurrection bring joy and strength even as you continue to walk through grief?

Pray for healing, hope, and courage for one another. Take heart—Jesus has overcome the world!



“Until now you have not asked for anything in my name.
Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”

JOHN 16:24