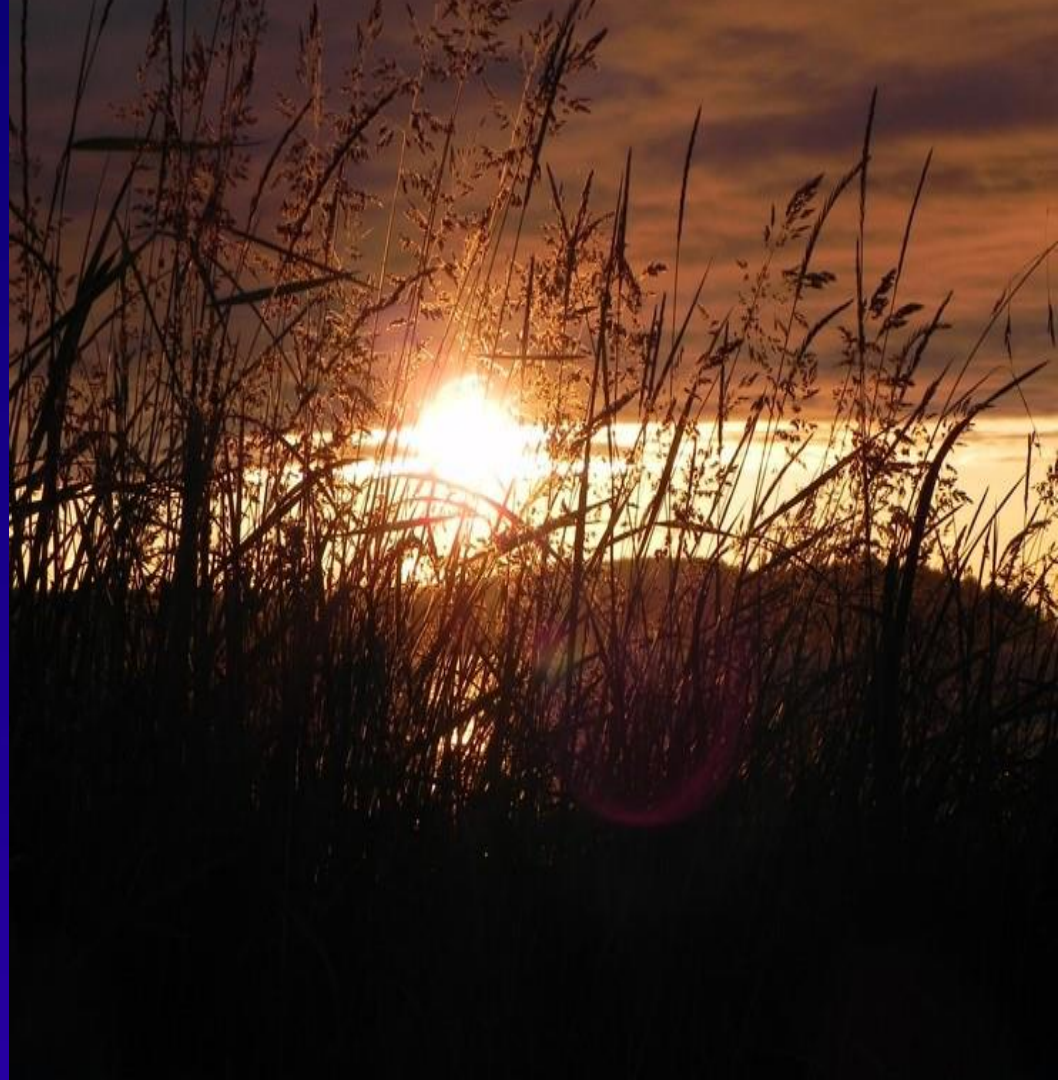


“WHEN SORROW  
TURNS TO JOY”

John 16:16-22



# Theme: How Sorrow is Turned Into Joy

Jesus presents many contrasts recorded by John

Death/life

Light/darkness

Disciples/world

# Theme: How Sorrow is turned into joy

Jesus presents many contrasts recorded by John

Temporary joy/permanent joy

Pregnancy/live birth

Sorrow/joy

# 1. Confusion Can Challenge Joy (vv. 16-18)

## A. The Disciples' Misunderstanding

When Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem fulfilling Zechariah 9:9: "His disciples did not understand these things at first;" (John 12:16)

"And where I go you know, and the way you know.' Thomas said to Him, 'Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?'" (John 14:4-5)

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## A. The Disciples' Misunderstanding

After transfiguration: "Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant." (Mark 9:9-10)

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## A. The Disciples' Misunderstanding

When we know and understand there is confidence

When expectations are unmet, confusion mitigates joy

# 1. Confusion Can Challenge Joy (vv. 16-18)

## B. The Disciples' Means of Handling It

They Talked it out

*"He who asks a question is a fool for five minutes; he who does not ask a question remains a fool forever" --*

Chinese proverb



## 2. Promises Can Anchor Joy (vv. 19-20)

Promises are more important than explanations

When someone faces the death of a loved one, offer promises, not explanations.

*(Comforting the Bereaved, by Warren and David Wiersbe)*

## 2. Promises Can Anchor Joy (vv. 19-20)

Jesus Used This Phrase “A little while” 8 times

### 1. Immediately

Upon the resurrection

"Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord." (John 20:20)

## 2. Promises Can Anchor Joy (vv. 19-20)

Jesus Used This Phrase “A little while” 8 times

### 2. Imminently

When the Holy Spirit was sent in and upon them

"And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 13:52)

## 2. Promises Can Anchor Joy (vv. 19-20)

Jesus Used This Phrase “A little while” 8 times

3. Ultimately: Future: eschatologically when all the believers are gathered in His presence

"But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." (2 Peter 3:8)

## 2. Promises Can Anchor Joy (vv. 19-20)

Jesus Used This Phrase “A little while” 8 times

We can endure the present trial  
when we know it will end

### 3. Sorrow Can Lead to Joy (vv. 21-22)

Delivery is overshadowed by maternity

Despondency will be overshadowed by ecstasy

### 3. Sorrow Can Lead to Joy (vv. 21-22)

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, everything on earth was subjected to God's curse.

### 3. Sorrow Can Lead to Joy (vv. 21-22)

All creation anticipates the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.



### 3. Sorrow Can Lead to Joy (vv. 21-22)

And even we Christians, although we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, also groan to be released from pain and suffering. We, too, wait anxiously for that day when God will give us our full rights as his children, including the new bodies he has promised us. (Romans 8:18-23 NLT)

# What the world does when sorrowful

Drink

Drugs

Entertainment

(35% combat depression by watching TV)

# What We Should Do When Sorrowful

Replace your thoughts with His truth

Replace yourself with your God

Replace your past with His future