

“Who is Jesus?”: JOY!
John 16:16-24

Introduction:

- They are still sorrowful and distressed because of His departure, which they still do not fully understand and He graciously continues to explain. It should be noted that we have no excuse!
- There is something of a crescendo here with the end of chapter 16 next week and then the glorious priestly prayer of Christ in John 17.

Full Joy And Seeing Fully (vv.16-19)

- A) Seeing the BIG Picture (comfort of Christ with His return / modeled by Paul and Peter in comforting the local church through their letters)
- a. **John 14:1**, *“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.”*
 - b. **2 Cor. 5:16**, *“From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.”*
 - c. **1 John 3:1-3**, *“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **2** Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. **3** And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”*
- B) Opening the eyes of the heart (vv.17-19)
- a. **Eph.1:17-18**, *“**17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, **18** having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...”*
 - b. Problems with understanding...
 - i. “little while”

- ii. “going to the Father” (v.5)
 - iii. Trying to put it all together
- c. Gracious condescension (getting the question right...more so, getting their attention)
- d. Why do we look to one another for answers? To have full joy you must first look to the source for the answers...getting the answers is not as important as looking upon the One who has all the answers

Full Joy And Full of Sorrow (vv.20-22)

- A) There will be sorrow (v.20)
- a. His disciples will cry (we will have sorrow)
 - b. The world will cheer (what gives the world joy and what gives the Christian joy should be vastly different)
 - c. The sorrow will be temporary
 - i. His death
 - ii. Encouragement of the temporal nature of suffering
 - iii. **Psalm 30:5**, *“For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.”*
- B) Sorrow will lead to Joy (vv.21-22)
- a. Like Child-birth
 - i. Anxiety
 - ii. Anticipation
 1. Pain
 2. Gain
 3. Forgotten Anguish
 - a. **Rom.8:18**, *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”*
 - b. **Rom.8:22-23**, *“For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”*

- iii. A miracle
 - 1. Resurrection imagery
 - 2. Hints at Second Coming
 - 3. There is a sense that the Christian life is a cadence of temporary sorrow with reminders of eternal joy...one day, the sorrow will give way!
- b. Joy comes with seeing Him again
 - i. Sovereign Initiative
 - ii. Heart-felt joy
 - iii. Sustained joy
 - 1. Evidenced in their powerful witness beginning in Acts
 - 2. Evidenced in their teaching the churches throughout NT
 - iv. Why?
 - 1. Ultimately...It is finished!
 - 2. **Hebrews 7:23-28**, *"23 The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, 24 but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. 25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. 26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. 27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. 28 For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.*

- a. The Power of His resurrection (I don't think the strongest inclination is His return as much as it is His post-resurrection appearance to them)
- b. He is the fulfillment of joy
- B) Requests made today (**v.23b-24**)
 - a. Prayer more necessary upon His departure
 - b. One mediator - Christ
 - c. Confidence in His Will
 - d. Working of the Holy Spirit
 - e. Fullness of Joy is what's guaranteed here
 - i. **Ps.37:4**, *"Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."*
 - ii. Do you really think He'll give you things that will take your joy from Him and put it in things?
 - iii. When He is your fullness of Joy, every answer to every prayer will be for your joy because He is the object of your delight...even in sorrow
 - iv. The deep conviction here: While we are in a "pregnant" state waiting for His return, we are still promised fullness of joy. The implication is, that while we are being sustained until He returns, WE CANNOT KNOW FULLNESS OF JOY APART FROM PRAYER!

Conclusion

- A) Do you see? Or are you blind?
- B) Do you hope in seeing Him again, or are your present circumstances looming too large?
- C) Is Christ enough to give you fullness of Joy? Consider **Hebrews 12:1-2**, *"12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."*

Joy Fulfilled (vv.23-24)

- A) No request in "that day" (**v.23a**)