

A person wearing a blue robe is standing in shallow water, with their feet visible. The background is a warm, golden sunset over water, with the sun low on the horizon. The overall mood is serene and spiritual.

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

PART FORTY-FIVE

The Word Made Flesh



JOHN 16:16-33

**The Paraclete
of
Empowerment**

1. The Reality of Joy (vv.16-22)

a. Jesus speaks of his departure and return

i. Some figure this is a reference to the Spirit's coming, but there is no indication that He is speaking spiritually



ii. The better understanding is that Jesus is referring to His death and then post resurrection appearances

b. Jesus senses their confusion and explains (v.20ff.)

i. He promises weeping, lament and grief



ii. But Jesus also promises the reality of joy

iii. What is described for them is the constant reality of the Christian's existence--it is not one or the other as if joy has to run and hide when grief and pain are present.



iv. It is not true to say that a Christian who experiences pain and weeping is devoid of joy and thus outside of the will of God



v. It is such that joy and pain exist together in our life to always remind us of the world in which we reside and the suffering that is ever present, but also the hope that is only found in Jesus



c. The promise that Jesus gives is that their sadness will become joy

i. He gives the example of child labor (v.21)

(1) It's painful and traumatic, but that is not the whole of it



ii. No one will take your joy from you
(v.22)

(1) God has given his children
immaterial possessions that are not of
this world



2. Petitioning the Father in Jesus' Name (vv.23-28)

a. The day that Jesus reappears, things will be different; prayer will be different



b. Jesus, (who will have been resurrected) will become mediator granting direct access to God for the disciples

c. This is new for them, because of the requirement of sacrifices (v.24)



i. Jesus is alluding to the end of the sacrificial system and Himself as the mediator and valid substitute

d. Verse 24 is not permission to treat God like a genie

i. Jesus' name is representative of who He is and what He stands for



ii. But the verse is also a reminder for the Christian to live a life that is seeking and desiring something

(1) Active Faith- is not afraid to ask God for things, and is always seeking to know what He desires for us and in the world



(2) Passive Faith- is reserved,
anxious and afraid--often failing to
pursue in fear of rejection



3. Belief and Overcoming (vv.29-33)

