



ALL SAINTS  
PRESBYTERIAN

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

FOR ALL SAINTS SMALL GROUPS

“Like Jesus In An Age of Despair” | Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt | October 18, 2020

**John 6:16-22**

“A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” 17 So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” 18 So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” 19 Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’? 20 Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. 21 When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. 22 So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

**Key Points and Discussion from Tim’s Sermon:**

- Introduction
  - Context for Sermon. We are exploring the supernatural characteristics of the Christian Life (the fruit of the Spirit).
  - Questions for consideration during this Sermon
    - What is everyone close to giving up on right now?
    - What are you close to giving up on right now?
    - What is causing you despair?
  - Let us meditate on this passage about Christian Joy. (What does it mean to meditate? How is it similar to worrying?)
  - Basic question for this Sermon: what is true of this fruit of the Spirit, Joy?
- Answer One: Christian Joy is fundamental.
  - (v. 20) Weeping, lament, and sorrow characterize the life of his disciples when Jesus must depart from them.
    - How is this a metaphor for our experience as believers?
  - But throughout the text, what do we see it is the final word of the Christian life, the *answer word* in this text?
  - Tim described how Jesus leads (views us, greets us, initiates with us) with joy in his relationship with us.
  - Discussion: What substitute words did he use to describe His view of us? Does this resonate with you? Why or why not?
- Answer Two: Christian Joy is Overwhelming
  - What aspects of Joy show us its overwhelming nature? Hint: how is it like the Covid-19 virus?
  - How do we reconcile the coexistence of sadness with joy in our lives?
  - What analogy for the experience of his believers does Jesus use in this context? (Hint: only women go through it.) Related: Can we ever know true Joy by itself?
- Answer Three: Christian Joy is Permanent
  - Can anyone take Christian Joy from us? Why or why not?
  - Does Christian joy belong to you?
  - What sorts of joy can be taken from us?
- Closing: Who or what is your supreme treasure, your safest refuge, your most trusted counselor, and your sovereign Lord? (What/who do you ... jump up and down for? ... turn to when you’re scared? ... lean upon for guidance when you need help? ... obey fully and finally?