

“Jesus With Us: Jesus With the Sad” | Rev. Josh Keller | September 13, 2020

Old Testament Reading Ecclesiastes 7:1-5

A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth.

2 It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart.

3 Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad.

4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

5 It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools.

Epistle Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Reading John 16:16-33

16 “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. 23 In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. 25 “I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. 26 In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; 27 for the Father

Introduction

Sermon Series: Jesus with Us (past weeks have included Jesus With the Angry, Anxious, Disabled). This week, we learn how we respond to sadness and sorrow and how Jesus teaches us to respond to it instead. Jesus with the sad is applicable to everyone because every one of us knows (or will know) what it means to experience sorrow and disappointment.

Background

John 16 takes place on the night before the Crucifixion. Coming off of Palm Sunday, the disciples thought that their hopes/dreams were all coming true. However, Jesus has a different message for them in verse 16. He says, “a little while, and you will see me no longer, and again a little while, and you will see me.” He tells them He is going away and that they will experience sadness. We can identify with this passage as a result of the pervasive sadness in our community today.

Sermon Notes

We can have two responses to sadness:

- 1) We are “over it” (i.e. we are not going to let sadness affect us and remain positive no matter what.)
 - In this response, we deny the reality of sadness.
 - Jesus teaches us not to be too eager to “get over it” but to embrace the sadness because we live in a broken world. Jesus emphasizes that the disciples will weep/lament (truly, truly) in verse 20.
 - In Ecclesiastes 7, Solomon reminds us to embrace the reality that we are all going to die. Some of us need to face the harsh reality of sadness.
- 2) We can be “overcome by it” (i.e. we are overcome by it until everything we look at is colored by sadness from our past or present.)
 - In this response, we deny the reality of joy.
 - Jesus offers us a perspective of hope with the metaphor of birth in verses 20 and 21 and Hebrews tells us that Jesus endured the pain of the cross for the joy set before him. We are his joy and our joy is to be with Him forever because of the cross.

Discuss

- 1) What are you hoping in?
- 2) Where are your eyes trained?
- 3) Are you more prone to respond by being “over” the sadness or overcome by it?

Conclusion/Application

- As Christians, we don't deny the reality of sorrow - we look past it to our future reality.
- We take joy (a deep down sense of well-being) by having a perspective of hope.
- v. 33 - Take heart; I have overcome the world.
- In the midst of your sorrow, Jesus has overcome the world. He has defeated death and sin and prepared for you better things ahead.
- Our prayer is to have an eternal perspective and remember the “living hope” we find in 1 Peter v. 4.

himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.^[a] 28 I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father. 29 His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! 30 Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." 31 Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? 32 Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. 33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."