

Complete (Joy, Courage, Victory)

John 16:16-33

vs. 16, In a little while...

- You will no longer see me.
- You will see me.

vs. 17-18, Verbal processing complete confusion.

vs. 19, The depth of Jesus' knowledge.

In the moment the words of Jesus and their meaning are really hard to process.

Question: Have you ever felt this way? You are not alone.

vs. 20, Your reaction is going to be different to me going to the Father than the reaction of the world.

- You will weep and mourn.
- The world will rejoice.

But remember the upside down values of the kingdom!
Your sorrow will turn into joy.

vs. 21, Like a woman in labor

A woman was the closest to death at the time of giving birth.

These are the signs...God's new world really is being birthed.

The OT uses the imagery of birth (pain, anguish) to speak of what is coming before renewal.

The Servant

Isaiah 42:1-2 "This is my servant; I strengthen him, this is my chosen one; I delight in him. I have put my Spirit on him; he will bring justice to the nations. **2** He will not cry out or shout or make his voice heard in the streets.

The King is coming

Isaiah 42:14, 16b "I have kept silent from ages past; I have been quiet and restrained myself. But now, I will groan like a woman in labor, gasping breathlessly. **16** I will turn darkness to light in front of them and rough places into level ground. This is what I will do for them, and I will not abandon them.

Already / Not Yet

John speaks of the realized eschatology inaugurated among believers through Jesus' resurrection.

vs. 22, Let me repeat what you need to remember.

Now, you will have sorrow.

But you will see me again and your hearts will be filled with joy.

The kind of joy in which no one can take away!

vs. 23-24, Prayer

vs. 25-28, So much good news!

- The Father loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God (vs. 27).
- You know who I am. I have come from the Father into the world (God incarnate).
- I am leaving this world and returning to the Father.

Implications: As a follower of Jesus you have immediate, instant, direct, and welcoming access into the presence of the living God.

- To pray in Jesus name - means, we are conscious of the fact that we belong to Jesus and that what we are doing is for his glory

Matthew 27:50-51 But Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and gave up his spirit. **51** Suddenly, the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom, the earth quaked, and the rocks were split.

Ephesians 2:18-19 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. **19** So, then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household,

Hebrews 10:19-22 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus— **20** he has inaugurated for us a new and living way through the curtain (that is, through his flesh)— **21** and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water.

Complete Joy - a new relationship with the Father because of Jesus.

An everlasting presence through the Spirit.

A trustworthy promise of fluid and stable communication who delights in provision.

vs. 29-30, We believe that you come from God.
We know that you know everything.

The first fruit of faith.

- God has sent his son Jesus to restore the broken relationship.
- Jesus is God incarnate (all knowing).

John 1:1-2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Isaiah 46:10 I declare the end from the beginning, and from long ago what is not yet done, saying: my plan will take place, and I will do all my will.

Hebrews 4:13 No creature is hidden from him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.

Key: Acknowledging that Jesus knows better.

vs. 31-33, Your belief will be challenged.

You will scatter.

Two immediate images would come to mind.

1. Troops whose leader had fallen.
2. Sheep without a shepherd (the on-going saga of Israel)

Be courageous!

Jesus has established a new reality.

- The official's son who was close to death was healed with the words of Jesus (chap. 4).
- The man who had been crippled for 38 years. "Get up, pick up your mat and walk" (chap. 5).
- The healing of the man born blind (chap. 9).
- The resuscitation of Lazarus (chap. 11).

Corruption, decay, and death have no power over Jesus, the savior of the world.

Victory is his and he has established the new reality.

Followers of Jesus can, in fact, live in the security of this reality!

- We can overcome evil by faith.
- Our trust is in the accomplished victory of Jesus.
- Perseverance is a necessary part of faithful obedience.
- At times it may seem that the world is overcoming the saints (through martyrdom).
- But we must remember in the middle of the chaos, when the world is in a fevered frenzy of accusations toward Jesus followers, it is the Holy Spirit who is our Counselor and he is the greatest advocate of all time.

Question: Is your life in alignment with the activity of God? Do you now believe? How have the first fruits of faith in your life begun to mature into sweeter and sweeter fruit with each passing year?

How are your attitudes and actions challenging the decay of the world?

What specific challenge are you having to overcome? How are the words of Jesus, “be courageous” giving your strength in the middle of this challenge?

How would you evaluate your confidence in prayer before a welcoming and loving Heavenly Father?