



Growth Group Studies

Study #6 - John 16:16-33

Sorrow to joy

A. Misunderstanding

At this point the disciples are having difficulty processing what Jesus is teaching. They seem to be getting hung up on some of the details, hence the back and forth exchanges in the dialogue in 16:16-19. From verse 20 onwards Jesus starts interchanging joy with sorrow.

1. How does the illustration of the woman giving birth help the disciples grasp what Jesus is teaching them?

In verse 20 he contrasts their sorrow with the world's rejoicing.

2. Why and when does the world rejoice?
3. Has Jesus gone slightly off topic in verses 23-24 when he talks about their asking?
4. How does what he says here fit in with what has gone before?

B. Speaking plainly

The penny seems to have finally dropped for the disciples and they seem to now "get" what Jesus is talking about. However, going back to the woman giving birth analogy, Jesus is now talking to them

about serious difficulties that they are going to face presumably on the other side of the birthing process. Joyous new parents now need to get used to the discomfort of sleepless nights! Unless we are supposed to match verse 20 with the events of verses 32-33 in which case we have returned to the pre-birth period that Jesus describes in his motherhood analogy. How do we make sense of what Jesus is saying here?

For verse 32 where Jesus speaks of the Father being with him during his fiery trial see 2 Corinthians 5:19. Here is an important truth for us to hold onto.

5. What is this truth?