

**Pastor Jim Jackson, 6/28/26**

***Days With Jesus, Day 49—Now You See Me, Now You Don't***

**John 16:16-24**

### **Jesus will LEAVE in death**

Knowing the end is rapidly approaching, Jesus prepares and encourages the disciples for what's about to happen. As the disciples couldn't comprehend Jesus would die and resurrect, he solidifies the unwelcome idea that he will be physically leaving them. *Even when there's bad news, believe in God's goodness!* Telling them 'in a little while' (a matter of hours) they won't see him, and then 'in a little while' (a matter of days) they will, left them all confused. Jesus had previously told them directly what was going to happen, but now he tells them in a different way (Matt. 16:21; 20:17-19). *God often tries to break into our hard-headedness from multiple angles!*

### **The world will REJOICE in evil**

When the Jewish leaders hand Jesus over to the Romans to execute him, it will look like a day of victory for God's enemies. Sadly, they will ignorantly celebrate killing the only One who could save them. *Sometimes those who think they are doing what God wants are doing what God hates!* While the disciples weep and mourn watching their innocent Teacher, friend, and mentor be killed on the cross, the world will rejoice as it puts to death the Author of Life (Acts 3:14, 15). *Darkness looks like light to the blind and wickedness is like good to the evil* (Is. 5:20; Matt. 6:22, 23).

### **The disciples will have JOY from God**

When Jesus finished the work of providing salvation the Father has sent him to do, his disciples will have access to the Father like no one before (John 3:16; Heb. 10:19-21). Because of this new, family-connection to God, the Father will give the disciples all they need in their mission of glorifying Jesus. *Where God guides, He provides!* Being disciples of Jesus has set them against the Jewish religious leaders, the Roman authorities, and the world's corrupt self-serving system. But Jesus promised that their sorrow in his death would be temporary, but their hope in his resurrection would bring a joy that could never be taken (Rom. 15:13; 1 Pet. 1:8). Like a baby in a woman's body, joy and blessing waits on the other side of birth and pain. Similarly, God will allow hardship but is faithful to finish the good He started (Phil. 1:6). *Pain and problems may last for a moment, but joy from God is everlasting* (Ps. 30:5; 73:26)!