

John-37
“Your Grief Will Turn To Joy”
John 16:16-22 (NIV)

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a moment and welcome our first-time guests and those watching online!

We’ve been walking through the Book of John all year long...

Next week we will finish chapter 16 and then we’re going to put the Book of John Series on pause and pick it back up in January...

That will lead us right into Easter Sunday! Now starting in October we have a new series to go along with our 21 Days of Prayer and fasting called “But God”

If you have friends and family who you know are struggling right now...invite them to church..

This is going to be a life-changing series...If they can't make it to church on Sunday...Invite them to one of our prayer services...Invite them to Encounter...Just invite them!

Okay are you ready to hear from Jesus today? We've been in the Upper Room Discourse...and Jesus is teaching and talking...preparing His disciples for what's coming...

Which means that He's teaching and talking and preparing us too!

Last week we learned more about the work of the Holy Spirit and how He helps us in our walk with Jesus...(If you missed last week's message or any of these messages, you can catch them on our YouTube Channel!

John 16:16-22 (NIV)

Pray

Let me start out by asking you a simple question...do you like to wait for things?

Generally speaking most NY'rs are not known for their patience...We don't like to wait...I am a quintessential NY'er

I don't like waiting in traffic...

I don't like waiting in line...

Pray for me because I have to ask the Holy Spirit to help me keep my tongue...especially if I'm in line at a place like McDonalds...

It never fails...

I get this person in front of me who's like
Let me get....And they're just starting at the board...

Bro, you got burgers, chicken or fish...

This menu hasn't changed much...Pick a number and a drink and ba da ba ba ba!

Have you ever been waiting for the bus or train and it's not on time so you just start staring down the road or the track...Is that it...nope wrong bus...is that it...nope wrong train...

We start wondering what's going on? Did something happen? We start playing all kinds of scenarios in our mind...

Part of the stress of waiting is the confusion we feel because we don't know WHY this is happening...

This is what's going on with the disciples here in our text...Jesus is telling them all of these things about what's going to happen...but He's not really going into detail...and they're confused...

16 Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."

The disciples are thinking...Uhhh...come again? “Could You be a little more specific?”

We’re so confused...

Confusion can hinder our JOY

Now we read Jesus’ words in verse 16 and it makes sense to us, because we’re living on this side of the cross...

Jesus is saying in a little while you’re not going to see me...why? Because He’s going to the cross...

But then after a little while you will see me...why? Because He’s going to be raised from the dead!

They don’t understand what’s coming...
They don’t know that Jesus is talking about the cross, the grave and the resurrection...

All they know is that something is about to change...And it's going to cause them grief... They know something's going to happen, but they don't understand what God is going to do through it...they're confused and the text shows us that...

17 At this, some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" 18 They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."-Jn 16:16-18 (NIV)

Now this isn't the first time Jesus' disciples have been confused...When you read through the gospels we see that more times than not...the disciples were scratching their heads...not sure of what was going on...

Just a couple chapters ago...in John 14...Jesus tells His disciples He's going away remember?

4 And you know the way to where I am going.” 5 “No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?”-Jn 14:4–5 (NLT)

Or go back to John 12...Jesus gets on a donkey and rides into Jerusalem...fulfilling a prophecy given by the Prophet Zechariah...

15 “Don’t be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey’s colt.” 16 His disciples didn’t understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him
-Jn 12:15–16 (NLT)

30 Leaving that region, they traveled through Galilee. Jesus didn't want anyone to know he was there, 31 for he wanted to spend more time with his disciples and teach them. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, but three days later he will rise from the dead."
32 They didn't understand what he was saying, however, and they were afraid to ask him what he meant-Mk 9:30–32 (NLT)

I love the honesty of the Bible...It doesn't hide the fact that the disciples didn't understand everything that was going on...

You know what this shows me? It shows me that you can be close to Jesus, you can be a disciple of Jesus...and still get confused about things...Wonder why things are happening this way...at this time...

The disciples had to be thinking...You spent three years teaching us about the Kingdom of God...and now you're talking about dying on the cross...

Can you relate to any of that? Have you ever thought "Okay, the Bible says that God loves me, but if He loves me...why am I going through all of this? I'm not feeling the love!"

I know that God is more than able...so why isn't He doing it for me?

Have you been there? I have!

2014 Launching Church/losing my brother

You know going through all of that...I never once thought of "deconstructing my faith"

But honestly...I was confused...And that confusion hindered my joy for a season...

What did you do?

I had open and honest conversations with people that I know love God and love me for me...I shared my feelings...I shared my frustrations...

And if you notice that's what the disciples did too! Look at vs.17 & 18 again...

"They said to one another"...

"They kept asking..."

They weren't afraid to admit to each other that they were confused...And they talked it out...Don't let pride keep you from talking to someone about what you're going through!

So confusion can hinder our joy...

A **PROMISE** can anchor our joy

19 Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this,

I wonder if they were like you ask Him...no you ask Him...Whatever they were doing Jesus saw it...

so he said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’? 20 Very truly

Underline those words “Very truly”...NKJV says “Most assuredly” ESV says “Truly Truly” NLT says “I tell you the truth” What’s He doing...He’s making a promise...

20 Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy-Jn 16:19–20 (NIV)

They’re asking why...but notice that Jesus doesn’t give them an explanation...Instead He gives them a promise...

In times of uncertainty and confusion...

In times of grief and sorrow...

In times of disappointment and trials...

We may not get an explanation so we have to hold on to the promises of God!

Notice that Jesus is honest with them...Hey guys...you're going to weep and mourn while the world celebrates...

Jesus meets us in the middle of our sorrow...He doesn't tell them to man up and not grieve...He doesn't tell them to pretend that everything is okay when it's not okay...

He doesn't take away their grief...What does Jesus do? He meets them in the middle of it and He helps them to get through...not with an explanation but with a promise...

Joy is on the way...

If you're in one of these seasons right now...It's okay to ask questions...It's okay to bring them to Jesus...And God may give you an explanation...

But it's been my experience that more times than not, God in His sovereignty chooses not to give us the "Why" to our "What"

And over the years I've learned to trust Him in a deeper way...by holding onto His promises...

I don't know why my brother wasn't healed...I never got an explanation...so I held on to the promise of God...I know that I will see Him again one day in Heaven because He was saved...

That thought brings me joy...The promise helps me move forward...It helps to anchor my joy...

Church Fishing Trip

The waves were rocking us but the anchor kept us in one place...Likewise, you may feel like you're being tossed around right now...waves of confusion, waves of doubt, waves of grief and pain...Hold onto the promises of God...

Let them anchor your joy!

Not only can confusion hinder our joy...
Not only do promises anchor joy...

God can turn your sorrow to **JOY**

I know we want to avoid these sorrow, and grief, but it can lead to joy

21 A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. 22 So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.-Jn 16:21–22 (NIV)

So Jesus tells His disciples your grief will be turned to joy...then He gives them an illustration that everybody can understand...

Childbirth!

Having a baby hurts a lot! There's pain...there's anguish, there's anxiety, and that's just for Dad...

When PC was pregnant for our first daughter Mecaila, lamaze classes were in...It was a way for the father to connect with the mother and help her breathe...in a way kind of "help" deliver their child into the world...

Yeah!

They have different breathing techniques for the various stages of the labor...I was so nervous...I was doing the wrong breathing...

I almost passed out...

PC was looking at me like...really?

The point that Jesus is making is that although there's pain, sorrow, anxiety, during the labor...It's quickly forgotten when the baby is born!

What I want to tell you is that this thing you're going through will not last forever...and one day your sorrow will be turned to joy! Because one day you will see Jesus face to face!

Until that day there's going to be times we go through things...The Apostle Paul talks about this in Romans 8...

18 Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.

19 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. 20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. 22 For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.-Ro 8:18–23 (NLT)

So whatever you're going through right now, the Lord is telling you that one day things will be different...

When?

In a little while...

Now I don't know about you...but I hate when someone tells me they'll call or they'll pick me up...or they'll be over... "In a little while"

It's a relative term...

It could mean 5 minutes, it could mean 5 days...

We don't know how long a little while will be...but what we do know is that

Your grief, your pain, your tears, your hardship...It has an expiration date!

So what do you do in the meantime?

What do you do while you're in the middle of all of this?

Replace your thoughts with God's **TRUTH**

When we're going through these things...our minds become a playground for the enemy...

God doesn't love you...God has abandoned you...God won't forgive you this time...God doesn't care...

You need to grab those thoughts and replace them with the truth of God's Word...

There's over 7,000 promises in the Bible...more than enough to get us through this life!

Replace your **WHY** with **WHAT**

It's okay to ask God why...but what happens is everything becomes about us...we become self-centered...What do we do? We turn our why am I going through this God...to what can I do for You God?

How can I serve You God? How can I be used for Your glory, while I'm going through this? Holy Spirit help me worship through all of this!

Remember when Job lost his children and his property all in one day? What did he do?

20 Job stood up and tore his robe in grief. Then he shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship. 21 He said, "I came naked from my mother's womb, and I will be naked when I leave. The Lord gave me what I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord!"-Job 1:20–21 (NLT)

Job took the focus off of himself and turned it back to God!

Replace your past with God's **FUTURE**

You may be going through it right now...and as I said, it's okay to not be okay...but it's not okay to stay that way!

Whatever you are dealing with...it happened...there's nothing you can do to change it...You're going to have to let it go and move forward!

The Apostle Paul said...

13...Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.-Php 3:13–14 (NLT)

Paul was in prison when he wrote this...He was going through it...and he says he's looking forward to what lies ahead...

What lies ahead?

Heaven...Being with Jesus forever!

No more grief, no more suffering, no more pain, no more tears...Joy that no one can ever take away from you!

It's coming sooner than you think? When PM?
In a little while!

When you think about eternity...a little while
isn't long at all! Could be today...Could be
tomorrow...

You hold on to those promises...
Don't let anything steal your joy...
You keep worshiping while you're waiting...

In a little while God will turn it around!

What's the Holy Spirit Saying To You?
Altar Time

