

Sadness To Gladness

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-7 Andrew P: Global Missions. Harvest Vol. Harvest candy/baked goods. Harv Youth. Men's Breakfast. BT Worship Night.
- B. Slide8 Global Day of Prayer for the Rohingya [those stuck in *concentration camp-like* conditions in Myanmar. The million stuck in limbo in refuge camps in Bangladesh. Those facing *deplorable living conditions* in the countries they've fled. Our friends in Nepal]
- Slide9 Sun Night of Prayer: Rohingya.
- C. **Prayer:** In Job 26, Job explains many evidences of God's power over nature (of things below, above, and on the earth). *He wraps up the chapter with, Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways.* They are only *meager indications* or the *outer fringe* of what He does. *See, God is incomprehensible yet knowable...*
- There is our speculation & His revelation. Speculation is our attempt to comprehend God. And Revelation is God's communication w/us, w/clarity that is otherwise impossible. [The result? these 66 books] Prayer: reveal... And Ro.

II. Slide10 Intro: Sadness to Gladness

- A. How do you brace yourself to face life without the one you love? How can sorrow really be turned into joy? If we're promised tribulation, how can we be of good cheer/take heart?

III. Slide11a SORROW BECOMES JOY BECOMES JAM-PACKED JOY (16-24)

- A. SORROW'S JOY
- B. You won't see me anymore - refers to his *death*, which will bring about **great grief**.
You will see me again - refers to his *resurrection*, which will bring about **great joy**.
- C. Example: To illust how their *sorrow* will turn to *joy*, Jesus refers to *a woman giving birth*.
- D. (19) They had talked the matter over among themselves w/o consulting or asking Him.
- Wow, how often do we do that? Yet still...*He knows, He is aware, He cares.*
- E. Slide11b (20) *The Lord does not *replace* our sorrow with joy; He *transforms* our sorrow into joy.

1. The *same baby* that gives the mother **pain** also brings her **joy**.
 2. Jesus *does not mean* that after a woman gives birth, she *cannot* remember any of the pain of childbirth. **Rather**, He is saying that **the joy** of a new little one thrusts that pain *into the background*.
 3. **Jesus himself** experienced this same *transformation*. His **deepest sorrow** became the source of His **greatest joy**.
 - a) **Slide11c** Is.53:3 *He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief/suffering*. But in Heb12:2 it describes Him as *who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross*.
 - (1) The miracle of **the cross transformed** sorrow into **joy** for **Jesus &** for His **disciples** (on Res day), **&** it can work the same miracle in **us**.
- F. (22) **Jesus** wants to clarify to the disciples this **isn't the end** of our relationship.
1. Remember how **rainy** it was in our valley last year? But *right after* our **thunderstorms** what happened? We were blessed with *a super bloom*.
 - a) **From** sorrowful storm to a **super bloom** of **joy** in abundance.
- G. **Slide11d** David spoke to this back in Psalm 30:4,5 *Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name. For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning*.
1. **Weeping** – whatever is causing the **weeping** is **only a night guest**. **And he must be gone at daybreak**.
 2. **Joy** – but when morning has broken *who is this running to the door?* It is **JOY**.
 - a) **He** comes as, **not** a **night guest**, **but as the owner** who has been running all through the night **and** now has **returned home**.
 - b) His key opens every room & closet locks. His presence fills every room with **himself...JOY** unspeakable.
 - c) Obviously that doesn't mean that at sunrise you'll **never** have **a weeping hangover**. **It means** that *in comparison* to whatever we have to face down here, **even the most debilitating disease or excruciating pain**, *it won't hold a candle to* even a whiff of **Heavens Joy**.

3. If things seem **dark** to you now, *wait for the morning to dawn*. **He** can change everything...in a hurry.

a) No matter how **dark** the night, **DAWN WILL COME**.

b) No matter how **heavy** your heart, **1 DAY THERE WILL B A SONG**.

4. **Slide12a** It's having an attitude of **enjoying the price**. In old age, Renoir (ren-war), *the great French Impressionist painter*, suffered from **arthritis**, which twisted and cramped his hand. His friend Henri Matisse, watched sadly while he grasped a brush with only his fingertips, **continued to paint**, even though each movement **caused stabbing pain**. One day, Matisse asked Renoir *why he persisted in painting at the expense of such torture*.

Slide12b Renoir replied, *"The pain passes, but the beauty remains."*

H. (22) **Joy** is a present possession, *no one will take your joy from you*.

1. **Angels** can't give it & **devils** can't take it away.

2. It's why **Paul** could write from prison, *rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!* [& then repeats variations of *rejoice* that 10x's in Phil.]

I. (23) **In that day** (post cross) *you will ask nothing of Me...ask of the Father...in My name*.

1. Pre-cross the disciples either asked Jesus directly **or** prayed to the Father, **as** Christ taught them to pray (*our Father in heaven*) **but now** after the cross *a new arrangement was inaugurated* the disciples were to ask *in Jesus name*.

a) **Not** tagging *Jesus' name* on the end of your prayer, **but** coming on the basis of **His** merit, **not** yours. [*or, ask in my nature*, what **I** would want]

b) **Slide13** Bible prayers are...*to the Father; through the Son, in the Spirit*.

J. **Slide14 JAM-PACKED JOY** (*full joy* comes by answered prayer) [*full* = to contain as much as possible]

K. (24) **So be Large** in your prayer request: **For** your own personal generosity towards others **To** live the **missional life** (missionary lifestyle). **For** your own character transformation. **To** encounter God daily. **To** grow a **merciful heart** towards others.

1. **Yes, pray Large** - *that your joy may be full* (like a river overflowing its banks, msg)

2. **But** remember, *oftentimes that joy arises from the ashes of sorrow*.

IV. Slide15 **LOVED BY GOD (25-28)**

- A. The coming new day would give the disciples *direct personal intimate access* to the Father *through Jesus*.
1. It will not be necessary for **Christ** to *beg* the **Father** on **our behalf** because the **Father** is *willing* to answer **our requests**.
 2. **Jesus** would no longer need to *pray on-their-behalf*, they could *ask* for themselves. [This doesn't *negate* the promise of *Christ's intercessory work*]
 3. Just that, the disciples were now in *a personal love-and-faith relationship with the Father*. **Only children** have this **privilege of access** to their **Father**.
 - a) *Wow, someone up there likes me!* Being assured of **GOD'S LOVE** does wonders to *keep us going*. It *keep us* mentally/emotionally/spiritually *whole*.
 - b) It's *spiritual adrenaline*. It supplies us with *reserves of encouragement*.
 4. **Jesus** doesn't have to go back to *persuade* the Father to like you. **Nope**, He already does, **WHY?** because of 2 things: you **love Jesus** & you **believe He came from God** (He is, who He says He is, *not just a man*, He came from heaven)
 5. Maybe your **earthly father** didn't know how to love you? *your heavenly Father himself loves you!*
 6. Maybe you've blown up **every relationship?** *The Father himself loves you!*
- B. Slide16 Ray Stedman gave a **3-fold technique** in gettin up in the morn: *Stretch, Smile, Say*.
1. **Stretch** - that gets your **body** going. **Then, Smile** - that puts the **soul** in the right attitude. **And then Say** - *God loves me*, that sets the **spirit** right. *Stretch, Smile, Say*
- C. (28) **Jesus** summarized His mission in *one pregnant sentence*: [which is also the key to *peace*] His **Incarnation** (I came from the Father). His **Humiliation** (and have come into the world). **and His Res, Ascension & Exaltation** (and now I'm leaving the world & going to the Father)

V. Slide17 **BAD NEWS GLAD NEWS (29-33)** *Sadness to Gladness*

- A. (32) What does that mean for **you & I** when those closest to **us** abandon us in our greatest time of need?

1. Maybe your **wife/husband** till death they wouldn't part, parted? Or your **adult child** abandoned you? Or your **parent** abandoned you and went & started another family? Or you feel your **employer** abandoned you? Or your **best friend** found a new one? **We're not alone**/abandoned/forsaken/or **friendless!**
- B. (33) The **Bad** news & the **Glad** news [2 opposing spheres, in which they/we live]
- C. You will have tribulation. But *why do I seem to have more than my unbelieving neighbor?*
 1. Mosquitos are said to bite **strangers** more than **natives**. [we're strangers here]
 2. **Slide18a** Believers live a 2-fold **Life**: In Christ & in the world.
Believers live a 2-fold **Experience**: In Christ **peace** & in the World **tribulation**.
Believers live a 2-fold **Secret**: The **Fact**, I have overcome & the **Feeling**, take heart.¹
- D. I have overcome the world - Really? I look around and...*really?* Overcome what?
 1. Victory over a **moral & spiritual** world of evil. When you & I see **through** the external **to** the **internal & spiritual**, we recognize Jesus as **the greatest conqueror in history**. *I have overcome this present world-system.*
 - a) **Slide18b** He overcame the **world's flatteries** [from **satan**, *if you're the Son of God*, or from **men**, when they were going to take Him by force to *make Him king*, Jn.6:15]
 - b) He overcame the **world's hostilities** (all they could get from him in the end was *Father forgive them*)
 - c) He overcame the **world's principles** (principles like...*never using His power for selfish ends*, or modify His message to *avoid opposition*)
 - d) He overcame the **world's prince** (From the *wilderness* **to** the final wrestle in *Gethsemane*, *the prince of this world has nothing in Me*...Lucifer had met his **waterloo**, *where Napoleon met his final defeat*)
 - e) See the true **victor & hero** is the man who overcomes **the world** within himself.
 - (1) How are you doing with the world **flattering/charming you?**
With its **self-seeking?** With its **prejudices?**
 2. **Satan** has usurped a **temporarily permitted power** over men, & has organized the world of mankind upon the principles of: **force, greed, selfishness, ambition & pleasure**.

¹ Griffith Thomas; John; pg. 218.

a) **Slide18c** He has organized it so as *to push God out*, & to keep men's minds chained for mundane things. The world is *anything that shuts God out*. The world is *anything that opposes His will* (as the *religious leaders* were doing).

E. In the next few hours, the disciples would watch their world *fall apart*, & yet Jesus assured them that **He was the winner**.

1. I have overcome the world is a present **fact**, **not** a future *promise*.

a) The force of this verb indicates *a continuing victory*.

2. **Is your world coming apart at the seams?** Remember, **you win** (By obtaining: *His Joy, His Love, His Faith, His Peace*). **He wins** (having obtained the Victory)

F. How do we find peace?

1. If you google how to find peace (google automatically adds *inner* peace) you'll find...*breathing techniques, meditation, setting boundaries* (I guess I need to keep *a few of you* out of my life). They each point to finding a peace **w/in you**. **But** don't miss it here, Jesus reveals **how to find peace**...you find it *in me*, **not** in **you**. (33) *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace*.

G. **Do you now believe?** (prob said w/hint of cynicism) - **A question we all face**.

Do we believe who He was & what He said? Do we believe? If you do...then cheer up... He has overcome the world :)

H. **Communion:**

1. **Bread** -

2. **Cup** - *If today God has made your cup sweet...drink it w/Grace. If today God has made your cup bitter...drink it in communion w/Him.*