

110622

From Sorrow to Joy

John 16:16-28



Background:

As we have been walking through the upper room discourse in John, we've spent much of our time learning about the Holy Spirit, the one whom Jesus calls the Paraclete. As Jesus brings his discourse to a close, he spends considerable time sharing about two great gifts the Holy Spirit brings: joy and peace. In our text this week, Jesus says that our sorrow will be transformed into joy, and no one will take this joy from us. What incredible words! Where in your life has the Spirit given you joy, maybe even through sorrow or in the midst of sorrow? At the end of our service, we will have a time of Body Life, so we can hear how the Spirit is working in you, the PBCC body, right now.

Sermon Text (ESV):

John 16:16-28

16 "A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." 17 So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" 18 So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about."

19 Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’? 20 Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. 21 When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. 22 So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

23 In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

25 “I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. 26 In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; 27 for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

Discussion Questions:

- Preparation
 - What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
 - What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- Sermon Questions
 - As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
 - How would you describe your “relationship” with joy? For example, is it “down in your heart to stay” or do you find it to be elusive amid life’s challenges and sorrows? Why?
 - Verses 16-18 reveal the confusion Jesus’s disciples had about what was to come. How does it encourage you that John says, “it’s Ok that there are times of confusion in your life”? How has God shown Himself to be faithful and trustworthy in your life before?

- Shawn provided a couple definitions/descriptions of joy. How do these align with and/or expand your understanding of joy?
 - Joy is a settled state of contentment, thanksgiving, and hope knowing God is in control
 - Joy is a defiant nevertheless (Barth)
- As a Jesus-follower, the Spirit can 1) *turn our confusion/sorrow to joy*, 2) give us joy through *realized prayer*, and 3) give us joy through knowing *God loves (even likes) us*.
 - Which of these channels of joy do you most need the Holy Spirit to supply you with this week?