

The Good News Turns Grief into Joy

John 16:16-24 (page 86 in the black Bibles)

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The Main Point:

The Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection has the power to transform a believer's grief into a secure joy which fills his/her life.

Transition Statement (v. 16)

¹⁶“A little while, and you will no longer see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me.”

The phrase, “a little while,” is used 7 times in verses 16-19.

John 7:33; 14:19

A little while and you will not see Me – Jesus' death and burial.

A little while and you will see me – Jesus' resurrection.

The Disciples Confusion (vv. 17-19)

¹⁷Some of His disciples then said to one another, “What is this thing He is telling us,

‘A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me’;

and, **‘because I go to the Father’?**”

John 14:28; 16:5, 10

¹⁸So they were saying, “What is this that He says, **‘A little while’?**

We do not know what He is talking about.”

Jesus Acknowledges the Disciples' Confusion (v. 19)

¹⁹Jesus knew that they wished to **question** Him, and He said to them, "Are you deliberating together about this, that I said,

Mark 2:8; 9:30-32; John 6:61

'A little while, and you will not see Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me'?

See v. 23 "In that day you will not **question** Me about anything."
John 16:29-30

Two Responses to Jesus' Death (v. 20)

²⁰"Truly, truly, I say to you, that

you will weep and lament,

The kind of weeping and lamenting associated with the death of a loved one. See John 11:31, 33; Luke 23:27

but **the world** will rejoice;

"the world" – the religious leaders, people who are alienated from God and at enmity with God because of their sins.

John 1:10; 3:16-19; 12:31; 14:17, 19, 15:18-24; also James 4:4

"will rejoice" – they will be glad.

1 Corinthians 1:18-24

2 Corinthians 2:14-16

The Good News Transforms Grief into Joy (v. 20)

Reversal --

you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy.

John 16:6; 20:20

Unless they believe and repent the world's rejoicing will be turned to weeping.

Luke 13:22-28

Illustration: A Woman's Anguish in Labor Turned to Joy (v. 21)

²¹"Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world.

The Good News Ensures that Your Joy Will Endure (v. 22)

²²"Therefore you too have grief **now**; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.

Acts 5:40-42

The Good News, Answered Prayer & Joy Made Full (vv. 23-24)

²³"In that day you will not question Me about anything.

John 14:20; 16:26

Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you.

²⁴“Until now you have asked for nothing in My name;
ask and you will receive,
so that your joy may be made full.

Incentives for praying in Jesus name:

“Ask and you will receive”

John 14:12-14

John 15:7-8, 16

Matthew 7:7-8

“so that your joy may be made full”

John 15:11

Acts 13:48-52

Romans 15:13

Conclusion:

The Good News has the power to change our grief into joy.

Hebrews 12:1-3

1Corinthians 15:1-4, 50-58

1 Peter 1:3-9

1Peter 4:12-19