

I. Jesus Acknowledges that His Disciples Will Weep (vv. 16-20a)

- A. Verse 16 “you will see me”—when?
 - 1. At the Second Coming?
 - 2. After the resurrection?
- B. Disciples talk among themselves in their confusion; Jesus addresses them in v. 20 (knows they are talking about him).
 - 1. Anticipates their concern
 - 2. Acknowledges the coming sadness
 - 3. Contrasts sorrow of the disciples with the rejoicing of the world
- C. Sadness is appropriate at death.
 - 1. **Romans 12:15** *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep*
 - 2. Jesus has walked closely with his disciples for three years
- D. The disciples will in fact weep over Jesus’ death, which is why Jesus reassures them.

II. But Their Weeping Will Turn To Joy (vv. 20b-22)

- A. Jesus states clearly that the disciples’ sorrow will turn to joy
 - 1. Image of childbirth (cf. Is. 26:16ff)
 - 2. Sorrow will turn to joy at seeing Jesus.
- B. Taking the long view.
 - 1. Disciples need to see beyond the immediate grief and trust that Jesus knows what he’s talking about
 - 2. The disciples need hearts that rejoice at seeing Jesus
 - 3. We need hearts that rejoice in “seeing” Jesus
- C. The disciples’ weeping will turn to joy

III. And Their Joy Will Be Full (vv. 22-24)

- A. A full and complete joy
 - 1. A rejoicing that nobody can take away (**READ v. 22**)
 - 2. A joy rooted in a relationship with the Father through the Son by prayer (vv. 23-24)
- B. World's definition of joy is often connected to **circumstances**
- C. Jesus' definition of joy is connected to a **person**
- D. The power of prayer

IV. Conclusion

- A. Are we joyful people, especially when circumstances indicate that we shouldn't be?
- B. How do you react to a culture which seems to be increasingly hostile to Christians?
- C. Is your joy in the person of Jesus Christ?
 - 1. Full joy comes from a constantly growing relationship with the Triune God
 - 2. Eyes focused on Christ
 - 3. The example of Jesus: Hebrews 12:1-2
- D. If you are joyful, ask God to make you more joyful so that all will have a reason to ask you about Christ. And be prepared to defend the faith in joy.
- E. If you're not joyful, don't give up! There is hope in the Living God, who answers prayer through his Son. Re-read vv. 23-24 and believe them! Ask the Lord to help you in your unbelief.
- F. Is our joy complete? May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit grant us His joy in increasing measure as we move ever closer to that day of being with Him eternally in heaven.