“A Promise of Joy for The Disciples of Jesus”

**John 16:16-22** Sunday July 23, 2023 Pastor Timothy Atkins

## INTRODUCTION How are things? How are you doing? How can I pray for you?

Life brings many challenges where difficulties darken our understanding. Such experiences bring the accompanying shadow of emotions in seasons of sorrow and grief. When an unexpected turn on the road of reality is where we find ourselves. On our backs and in our minds there is placed a heavy burden with the companion of a grieving heart. And we walk on the cobblestone uneven path of uncertainty before us. The Bible does not stay away from such matters. Here in the Gospel of John the words of Jesus speak to this matter for His disciples. READ Psalm 30:5, 11 “In Christ Alone”

In this Upper Room discourse given to us here in the Gospel of John the words of the Lord Jesus for His own disciples are filled with promises for faithful believing, blessings for fruitful abiding, and prophecies for hopeful living

READ John 16:1, 33

1. A Word By Jesus About Present Misunderstandings 16:16-18

 Not Seeing Him And Yet Seeing Him Again

An Announcement by Jesus of His Resurrection The Absence Then Presence

1. Here The Prophecy by Jesus 16:16

“A little while, and you will no longer see Me;

 and again a little while, and you will see Me.”

 John 7:33; 12:35; 13:33; 14:18-19 cf. John 10:11, 17-18

 the three days prophecy by Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels

1. There The Perplexity by His Disciples 16:17-18

Here in this section the conversation narrative returns . . . vv. 17-18, 29-30

“What is this thing He is telling us . . .”

 “So they were saying, “What is this that He says . . .”

“We do not know what He is talking about.”

1. Some Promises By Jesus About Blessed Understandings 16:19-24

 Having Joy & Praying to The Father

Some Encouragement by Jesus Because His Resurrection

Here Jesus hands them the key of His words to the unlock their understanding

1. For His Disciples His Promise Grief Will Become Joy 16:19-22

 “Jesus knew . . . and He said to them . . . that I said . . .”

 Jesus repeating His words plainly & personally to His disciples

“Truly, truly, I say to you . . .” listen, hear, certainty, reliability cf. 16:23

“ . . . that you will weep and lament . . . you will grieve,

 but your grief will be turned into joy.” cf. John 20:20

 illustration verse 21 “ . . . because of the joy . . .”

“Therefore you too have grief now . . .”

“ . . . but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice . . .” 14:1, 27

“ . . . and no one *will* take your joy away from you.” PAI

Joy = a deep, abiding inner thankfulness and gratitude to God which is not interrupted when undesirable life circumstances intrude confidence

One unknown author represented joy as the royal banner flying from the

flagstaff of the heart, signaling that the King is in residence

1. For His Disciples His Promise of Answered Prayer 16:23-24

 “so that your joy may be made full.”

CONCLUSION And next week . . . verses 23- 24

* Having joy in your experience as a disciple of Jesus because of His Promises in His Words He is the resurrected Lord and the exalted Savior
* Seeing the Lord turn your grief into joy that your heart would rejoice because of His resurrection He Is able, He is reliable, He is dependable
* Understanding the ministry of the Good Shepherd to you as His disciple when you are in the misery of grief and sorrow Testimony of Joy
* This experience of joy needs to be my testimony as a disciple of Jesus