



John 16:16-33, Lesson #46

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**NOW YOU SEE ME...NOW YOU DON'T!
NOW YOU SEE IT...NOW YOU DON'T!**

There is "Magic" (Illusions)...

There is the "Mysterious"...

There are the Mystiques of the Times...

There are the Miracles!

John 16:16-22, "A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father." Then some of His disciples said among themselves, "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 go to the Father'?" They said therefore, "What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is saying." Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, "Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'? Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you."

Tuh...Duh! Now you see me...Now you don't; But, then again, you will see me again!

- Trouble and confusion were keeping the disciples from understanding what Jesus was saying.
- The disciples probably thought Jesus spoke with unnecessary mystery about where He was going and what He would do.
- The arrest of Jesus was only an hour or two away, and then His crucifixion would follow.
- "During the interval between His death and resurrection the disciples lost their faith and spiritual vision, and no more beheld Him than did the world." (Trench)
- "*Where for us, all is clear; for them...all was mysterious.*

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- Jesus understood that the disciples wanted a clearer picture of what he was speaking of; but He also knew that they needed more than information...
- They needed their hearts and minds prepared to endure the coming crisis.

You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy:

- ✓ Jesus knew they would experience an event in their lives that would plunge them into deep and dark depression and **sorrow** in the next few hours.
- ✓ Praise God! Jesus also knew that **GOD WOULD, BY HIS POWER AND GRACE**, turn their **sorrow** into **UNSPEAKABLE JOY**.

UNDENIABLE TRUTH: The words, “**you will be sorrowful**” were certainly true.

- ✓ Sorrowful at the loss of relationship.
- ✓ Sorrowful at the humiliation of their Master and Messiah.
- ✓ Sorrowful at the seeming victory of His enemies.
- ✓ Sorrowful because all they hoped for was taken away.

NOTE: *The crucifixion and all that went with it was not JUST a bump in the road on the way to fulfilling God's plan. To us...we know the outcome. To the disciples, it was devastation. Because a woman knows the excruciating pain she is going to experience while she is giving birth to a child...she can look forward to the joy of having a little one in her arms at the end of it all. She knows that because other women have gone through all the pain and see joy on their faces at the end of it all, she can see a wonderful outcome for her and look forward to the blessing of holding that child.*

- The disciples, however, did not have any prior events that were so painful and still see a rainbow at the end of a storm.
- They didn't fully understand the separation, so they could not fully understand the joy of the coming reunion.
- The resurrection was such a sure testimony...they endured death because of it. **JOY EVEN IN DEATH...BECAUSE WE KNOW WHERE WE ARE GOING!**

John 16:23-27, “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God.”

- Jesus probably meant that they would be so overcome with joy and relief at the resurrection that they would be speechless.

- *Paraphrasing: Jesus is saying “You have not as yet considered me the great Mediator between God and man; but this is one of the truths which shall be more fully revealed to you by the Holy Spirit.”*
- *Because of Jesus’ finished work, the disciples will have unlimited, undeniable access to God through Him. The Holy Spirit will teach them that there is POWER IN THE NAME OF JESUS.*

But I will tell you plainly about the Father:

- ✓ *The disciples should trust that in this time of restored joy and open access to Jesus, they would know the Father Himself and know about Him more than ever.*

For the Father Himself loves you:

- *Jesus is saying: ‘You can go to God, because he loves you,’*
- **VERY IMPORTANT: JESUS IS SAYING “THE FATHER LOVES YOU... BEFORE THE CROSS”**
 - *He did not die to change God into love; he died to tell us that God is love.*
 - *He came to die, not because God so hated the world, but because he so loved the world.*
 - *Jesus brought and showed to men the love of God.”*

John 16:28-33, “I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.” His disciples said to Him, “See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God.” Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

In those sentences above is the sum of the Christian Faith.

- ✓ *Jesus is God, having existed in heaven’s glory and goodness before He ever came to the earth.*
- ✓ *Jesus was born as a man, having added humanity to deity.*
- ✓ *Jesus would die.*
- ✓ *Jesus would rise from the dead and ascend to heaven (to the Father and ours).*

The summary statement in the previous sentence made the disciples feel that now they understood.

- *They seem to have been sincere, but more confident in their faith than they should have been.*
- *Jesus did not doubt the belief of the disciples, but warned them that their faith would be shaken before it was finally settled within them... The Holy Spirit would make sure they would understand this part of the final plan.*

- *They would find it much easier to believe on Him in the upper room than in the Garden of Gethsemane, where they would all flee **each to his own way...and would leave Jesus alone.***
- *The crisis would come soon, and when it did the disciples would think, “every man for himself” and abandon Jesus **alone.***

Summary:

- **“There Jesus stands. They have left him alone; but there He is, still standing and resolved to fulfill His purpose.**
 - ✓ *He has come to save, and He will save.*
 - ✓ *He has come to redeem, and He will redeem.*
 - ✓ *He has come to overcome the world, and He will overcome it.”*
(Spurgeon)
- Knowing that Jesus has **overcome the world** brings us **good cheer**. It is the foundation for our **peace** in Him.
- *We see that Jesus is in control, we see that although He leaves, He does not abandon, we see that He loves, and we see that the victory is His.*

We can be of good cheer indeed!

JOY COMES IN THE MORNING!

If you've knelt beside the rubble of an aching broken heart
 When the things you gave your life to fell apart
 You're not the first to be acquainted with sorrow, grief or pain
 But the master promised sunshine after rain
 Hold on my child (hold on my child)
 Joy comes in the morning
 Weeping only last for the night
 Hold on my child (hold on my child)
 Joy comes in the morning
 The darkest hour means dawn is just in sight
 To invest your seeds of trust in God in mountains you can't move
 You have risked your life on things you cannot prove
 But to give the things you cannot keep for what you cannot lose
 Now, that's the way to find the joy God has for you
 So hold on my child (hold on my child)
 Joy comes in the morning
 Weeping only last for the night
 Hold on my child (hold on my child)
 Joy comes in the morning
 The darkest hour means dawn is just in sight
 Yes, the darkest hour means dawn is just in sight
 Just in sight

Songwriters: Gloria Gaither, William J. Gaither. For non-commercial use only.