



SERIES: John Believe
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Monday, April 17, 2023
Scripture: John 16:20-24
TITLE: Turning Sorrow Into Joy

Have you ever considered how a single moment can produce both joy and pain? Both sadness and peace? For example, the death of a Christian loved one. It's sad because the earthly relationship has ended, but the peace of knowing the person is with Jesus brings you peace. And that peace is maintained because you will see them again.

Jesus reminded the disciples that a day would come that would bring both pain and joy. What was that day? What does that have to do with us? Jesus has the answers in John 16:20-24.

"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. 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. 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. 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. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."

Jesus is in the middle of preparing and encouraging the disciples. How many times do we, as coaches, try to prepare our athletes for an upcoming battle? Or, as parents, how many times do we go over the same information to prepare our kids for life as an adult?

Jesus, for several chapters of John, has been both disturbing His disciples with His upcoming death. But calming and preparing them for what will come after.

So here He says, "Truly, truly." In other words, dead serious, guys. This is true. Then He says, "You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy." He's saying that they will be scared because He will die. They will fret because He will be brutalized, murdered, and buried. But that horrific moment won't last. It will change from sorrow to joy. How? Because, simultaneously, sin is defeated. Freedom from sin is realized. And that death will result in resurrection. There will be an immediate reunion.

Jesus then provides a real example. Jesus says,

"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. 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."

I wouldn't believe this example until I saw it with my own eyes. My wife has had three babies. And two out of three were painful. But amazingly enough, the pain turns to joy once the baby is born. How true for the disciples upon seeing Jesus again. How true for us as we face hardship and injustice but know the King is coming for us.

And then Jesus closes this thought with a familiar sentiment. He says in verse 24, "[Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive that your joy may be full.](#)" The point is not that we will get it if we ask for anything. I've asked God for many things that I did not receive. But I surely did receive what I did ask for in accordance with His will. So as we abide with Jesus and align our lives and hearts to His, we will begin to pray in accordance with His will. That's how this comes true.

So today, no matter the pain, hardship, or loss, remember Jesus has conquered sin and death. He is coming again soon. Be ready. Pain can be replaced with joy today. Look at Jesus. Abide with Jesus. And allow Him to turn your sorrow into joy.