

UNEXPECTED JOY

John 16:16-33

Tags

The Gospel of John, Jesus, a little while, see, disciples, Father, truly truly, weep, lament, rejoice, sorrowful, sorrow, joy, woman, giving birth, hour, anguish, delivered, human being, born, world, see you again, hearts, ask, prayer, in my name, receive, full, figures of speech, plainly, loves, believed, God, question, behold, scattered, home, alone, peace, tribulation, take heart, overcome the world

Introduction

The cross is drawing near, and Jesus has pulled the disciples close. There are so many things Jesus wants to say to his friends, but they can't handle them right now (John 16:12). The cross is moments away as he tries to explain that the pain and sorrow they will soon face will only last a little while and then he will return to them bringing unshakable joy. The disciples will experience the love of the Father in a new way, and their prayers will be made effective by his finished work.

Jesus tells them again that he is going to the Father, but they cannot understand that the return will come through his suffering and death on the cross. The disciples think they are finally understanding, but Jesus announces that they will scatter and abandon him. Jesus offers comfort, telling them that although they will experience tribulation in this world, they can have peace in him because he has overcome the world. Sin has no power, death has no victory, and Satan has no chance. Jesus' resurrection will bring them unshakable, UNEXPECTED JOY.

Outline

Sorrow and joy are compatible for Christians (v. 20).

Unshakable joy comes from seeing Jesus for who he is (v. 22).

Praying in Jesus' name means (v. 23):

- He is Lord
- He is Savior
- He is Messiah (prophet, priest, king)
- We rely on his achievements
- Our prayers align with his word

Joy and prayer go together (v. 24).

Prayer is a family privilege (vv. 26-27).

Know Jesus; know peace. No Jesus; no peace (v. 33).

Jesus has overcome—sin has no power, death has no victory, and Satan has no chance (v. 33).

Application

Has the joy of salvation replaced your sorrow over your sin and the cross?

Is prayer a regular practice in your life?

Are you experiencing peace in Jesus?

Questions

1. How are joy and suffering connected? (Hebrews 12:1-2)
2. What are some ways to see Jesus that will lead to unshakable joy?
3. How would you describe your prayer life right now?
4. What are some reasons we don't experience peace as believers? (John 16:33; 1 Peter 5:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19)
5. Explain how Jesus overcame the world. (John 16:28) Explain how we overcome the world. (1 John 5:4)