



John 16:16-22

HOPING FOR JOY IN A
TROUBLED WORLD

Following the Lord's statements about timing can be confusing (16:16-18)

¹⁶ *"A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me."*

- Shortly the disciples will not see him
- Then shortly following His absence they will see Him again

¹⁷ *So some of his disciples said to one another, "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 am going to the Father'?"* ¹⁸ *So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about."*

- The disciples are perplexed by this statement of Jesus
- They try to figure it out, but they are incapable of connecting the dots
- Every follower of Jesus involved in progressive sanctification can relate to times of confusion
- We must learn to cast ALL our anxieties on Him knowing He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7)
- The Lord's timing and ways can be confusing, but we serve a trustworthy God who is the source of comfort

Present sorrow and pain will end in future delight (16:19-22)

¹⁹ *Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’?”*

- Jesus knows His disciples are confused and He desires humble honesty from them
- We need to humbly admit our weaknesses and confusion to our Lord
 - Matthew 11:28–30

²⁰ *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.*

- At the time of His crucifixion and burial, the hearts of His followers will be filled with devastating sorrow
- Added to this heartbreak will be the world’s delight at the crucifixion of Jesus
- Isn’t it interesting that in reflecting on the cross, followers of Jesus can find themselves both grieved and grateful, heart-sick and joyful?
 - Psalm 30:4–5
 - John 20:20
- The disciple’s grief is not taken away, but it turns into joy

Present sorrow and pain will end in future delight (16:19-22)

²¹ 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.

- The birth of the baby, the very reason she experiences grief and agony, is the very reason she is flooded with joy after delivery
- The cross that grips us with grief and sadness is the very cause of our forgiven relief and joy

²² 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.

- Jesus describes their present sorrow (caused by His crucifixion) and then their joy (the result of His resurrection)
- The purchased reality of the New Covenant age
- The resurrection ushers in ongoing transformative New Covenant power through the Holy Spirit
 - The joy of spiritual life and spiritual power endure for all followers of Jesus
 - Power and hope are not the fruit of human effort
- Sorrow and pain become delight and satisfaction by God's grace and for God's glory

Questions to Consider

- Where do you typically look to find peace and joy in this troubled world?
- Why is it important to persistently present your perplexities and confusions to the Lord?
- What are some sorrows and pains that God has graciously turned to joy and delight?
- What are some present sorrows and pains where you see transforming resurrection power at work?



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