

Date: 3/18/2018
Series: Final Words
Sermon Title: From Sorrow to Joy
Sermon Text: John 16:16-24



GC Discussion Questions

Big Idea: *The cross, like a woman giving birth, was a source of temporary pain that would give way to eternal joy in light of the disciple's new relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

1. Can you think of an occasion in your life when you made a sacrifice for a certain period of time that resulted in something good? Could you describe what that process was like? Was it worth it?
2. With that idea of sacrifice and reward in mind, could someone read John 6:16-24?
3. Does anyone find this passage confusing? Why is it confusing?
4. What is the sorrow and anguish that Jesus refers to here?
5. What is the nature of the joy in verse 22? Why do you think this is?
6. Sometimes verses 23-24 can be confusing. How do verses 12-13, 15, and 19 of this chapter help us understand 23-24? How do these verses help us understand our relationship to God in light of the resurrection of Jesus?
7. One commentator writes: "Easter is not an isolated event but the beginning of the new creation, wherein disciples will know the presence of the Lord in a manner impossible in the days of his flesh."¹ In what ways is the power of the new creation evident at Church on Mill? Christ's death and resurrection made it possible to have an undeserved and intimate relationship with God. How can we encourage one another to take joy in that relationship?
8. As we close in prayer, could we remember to pray specifically for our upcoming Easter gathering? Let's pray especially that the joy that is ours because of the cross would possess the hearts of all members at Church on Mill. Let's also pray that more people would come, hear, and receive this message of good news about the cross of Christ.

¹ Beasley-Murray, cited in Leon Morris, *The Gospel According to John*, pg. 627.