

Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

SORROW TURNED INTO JOY

John 16:16-33

Main Thought: In John 16:16-33, that the risen Lord Jesus turns our sorrows into lasting joy as we look to Him in faith and prayer.

1. WE WILL HAVE _____ IN THIS WORLD.
(vv 16-21, 33)

1) Being a _____ does not insulate us from experiencing deep sorrows. (Is. 53:3)

2) Our sorrows may be caused by many _____ factors.

(1) The _____ of a loved one.

(2) _____ over God's purposes.

(3) The seeming triumph of _____ people.

(4) Living in this _____ creation.

2. THE RISEN LORD JESUS _____ TO TURN OUR SORROWS INTO LASTING JOY.

1) By showing us the glory of the _____. (vv 20-22)

2) By giving us an _____ perspective.
(Lk 24:26, 46-47; Psalm 73)

3) By being our _____ to the throne of grace.
(vv 23-27)

4) By triumphing over sin and death through His _____.
(vv 22, 28-33)

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Read John 16:16-33 and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you as you read.

2. What do you learn about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) from this passage?

3. What do you learn about human beings/yourself from this passage?

4. What verse meant the most to you? Why?

5. What didn't you understand in the passage? What answers did you find for your questions?

6. What application(s) for your life do you take away from this passage?

Digging deeper:

7. What did Jesus say in verse 16? Why was that confusing to the disciples?

8. What event is Jesus referring to in verse 20-22?

9. What analogy does Jesus use to help make his point in verse 21?

10. In what ways does the world's "joy" in verse 20 contrast with the joy the disciples will experience in verse 22?

11. What characterizes the relationship we can have with the Father because of Jesus (vv 23-27)?

12. Do you think the disciples truly grasp what Jesus says in verse 28? Why or why not?

13. Why would the disciples be both alarmed and relieved by Jesus' statements in verses 29-33?

14. What did Jesus mean when He said "I have overcome the world"? How does that impact you?