

Take Heart John 16:16–33

SERMON OUTLINE

Jacob worked 7 years for his wife’s hand in marriage and it “seemed to him but a few days because the love he had” for her. The same can be true for us as we wait for promised joy.

JESUS’ FOLLOWERS WILL EXPERIENCE:

I. Present Pain (vv. 16–19)

- A. Pain of confusion, grief, rejection, deadly danger
- B. Two clarifications:
 - 1. God is sovereign in and over suffering
 - 2. The godly will suffer in the will of God
- C. Your pain is not painless; your suffering is not a waste

II. Promised Joy (vv. 20–28)

- A. Illustration in v. 21 – the agony & beauty of childbirth
 - 1. Sorrow leads to joy
 - 2. Pain leads to pleasure
- B. Three specific joys we will experience:
 - 1. Present pain will lead to joy in the presence of Christ
 - 2. Present pain will lead to knowledge of the Father
 - 3. Present pain will become joy in the love of the Father
- C. We should be confident in Christ
- D. If you are not in Christ, your present pain is a prelude to promised judgment

III. Persevering Peace (vv. 29–33)

- A. v. 33 - “I have said [this] that in me you may have peace”
- B. Fill the gap between present peace & promised joy with the joy of Christ
- C. Take heart: Jesus has overcome the world

APPLICATIONS

- Turn your gaze from your present situation to the peace that passes understanding.
- We gain peace in the knowledge that Jesus has overcome the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you think of a time where the waiting was worth it?
2. Why do you think God, in His sovereign goodness, causes us to walk through pain and suffering in this world? (Read 1 Peter 1 if you are unsure).
3. Have you ever experienced the peace of Christ in the middle of pain?
4. Read Philippians 4:4–7. What steps do we take when we need to trust Jesus in the midst of pain?
5. What is a present pain you are walking through? How has God given you peace in the midst of this present suffering?

OTHER QUESTIONS THAT MAY HELP

1. What does this text tell us about God?
2. What does this text tell us about man?
3. What should I put on or put off in my thinking?
4. What should I put on or put off in my doing?

LAST WEEK’S HOMEWORK

1. Remind yourself of the gospel through reading, praying, or listening to music throughout the week.
2. Tell someone else the Good News this week.

HOMEWORK

1. Listen to the song (or read the lyrics to “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” and put your gaze upon Christ.
2. Spend time in prayer about your present pain and ask someone in your group to walk with you through the trial.