

Light & Life – The Book Of John  
 “The Truth About Heartache and Suffering” - John 16:17-33  
 Cornerstone Church Of Poway  
 Pastor Ed Turley  
 February 18, 2024

**Big Idea: A Devoted Follower Of Jesus Trusts Him Through Suffering**

**The Truth About Heartache And Suffering:**

**1. It's Normal To Be Confused When God Is At Work**

<sup>16</sup> "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."

<sup>17</sup> Some of his disciples said to one another, "**What does he mean** by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" <sup>18</sup> They kept asking, "**What does he mean** by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying." <sup>19</sup> Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another **what I meant** when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'?" <sup>20</sup> I tell you the truth, you will **weep and mourn** while the world rejoices. **John 16:16-20a (NIV)**

Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. <sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet had **almost slipped**; I had nearly lost my foothold. <sup>3</sup> For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. <sup>4</sup> They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. <sup>5</sup> They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills.

**Psalms 73:1-5 (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup> Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence.

**Psalms 73:13 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> When I tried to understand all this, it was **oppressive** to me <sup>17</sup> till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their **final destiny**. **Psalms 73:16-17 (NIV)**

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. <sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. <sup>8</sup> "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. **Isaiah 55:6-8 (NIV)**

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**2. If We Stick With Jesus, He Promises Our Grief Will Turn To Joy**

You will **grieve**, but your grief will turn to joy. **John 16:20b (NIV)**

<sup>21</sup> **A woman giving birth to a child** has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world.

<sup>22</sup> So with you: Now is **your time of grief**, but **I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy**. **John 16:21-22 (NIV)**

<sup>23</sup> In that day you will **no longer ask me anything**. I tell you the truth, **my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name**. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have **not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete**. <sup>25</sup> "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will **tell you plainly** about my Father. <sup>26</sup> In that day **you will ask in my name**. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. <sup>27</sup> No, **the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God**. <sup>28</sup> I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and **going back to the Father**." <sup>29</sup> Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. <sup>30</sup> Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God." **John 16:23-30 (NIV)**

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### **3. Our Faith Is Often Weaker Than We Think, But God's Grace Is Greater**

<sup>31</sup> "**You believe at last!**" Jesus answered. <sup>32</sup> "But a time is coming, and has come, **when you will be scattered**, each to his **own home**. **You will leave me all alone**. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me." **John 16:31-32 (NIV)**

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,  
<sup>3</sup> because you know that the **testing of your faith develops perseverance**.

<sup>4</sup> **Perseverance** must finish its work so that you may be **mature and complete**, not lacking anything. **James 1:2-4 (NIV)**

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<sup>33</sup> "I have told you these things, **so that in me you may have peace**. In this **world you will have trouble**. **But take heart! I have overcome the world**." **John 16:33 (NIV)**

A **bruised reed** He will not break, and a **smoldering wick** He will not snuff out.  
**Isaiah 42:3 (NIV)**

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But **if anybody does sin**, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--**Jesus Christ, the Righteous One**. <sup>2</sup> He is the **atoning sacrifice** for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. **1 John 2:1-2 (NIV)**

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- **Is there someone you need to encourage with this message?**

### **My Next Right Step, I Will:**

- ☐ Accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior
- ☐ Attend Cornerstone's Membership Class - February 25, 12:30 - 2pm
- ☐ Find a Place To Serve ☐ First Impressions ☐ Media ☐ Children's Ministry

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**Small Group Leader:** Choose how many questions that will honor your time commitment. Encourage everyone to participate in either a question, reading or prayer. If using this as a family, use the icebreaker section to go deeper on Sunday's teaching.

**Big Idea: A Devoted Follower Of Jesus Is Led By The Holy Spirit To Glorify Jesus**

**Open in Prayer.**

**Icebreaker:**

What painful experiences in your life have resulted in joy?

\*What grief or sorrow in your life has God turned to joy?

\*When have you enthusiastically anticipated someone's return or arrival?

**The Truth About Heartache And Suffering:**

**1. It's Normal To Be Confused When God Is At Work**

**Read John 16:16-19**

Have you ever had something go sideways where nothing seemed to make sense?

How did this affect your faith?

**Read John 16:20a**

Why would the disciples weep and mourn?

**Read Psalm 73:1-5, 13, 16-27**

Why did Asaph, the high priest struggle with his faith?

What helped him get through his journey?

**Read Isaiah 55:6-8**

What promises are found in this passage?

**2. If We Stick With Jesus, He Promises Our Grief Will Turn To Joy**

**Read John 16:20-22**

How does the example of a woman giving birth help you understand?

**Read John 16:23-30**

Why will the Father answer our prayers?

What will be our relationship with God The Father?

\*From where did Jesus come and to where was He going? (16:28)

**3. Our Faith Is Often Weaker Than We Think, But God's Grace Is Greater****Read John 16:31-32**

Have you ever been surprised at how weak your faith can be?

Is Jesus surprised on how weak the disciples faith will be? How does this help you?

**Read James 1:2-4**

Why does God allow the testing of our faith?

What testing has strengthened your faith?

**Read John 16:33**

How can knowing Jesus give us peace?

**Read Isaiah 42:3**

How does this verse encourage you?

Is there someone you can encourage to not give up?

**Read 1 John 2:1-2**

What does Jesus do for us?

What does it mean that He is our atoning sacrifice?

**Apply It**

When you are in trouble, what encouraging truth from this passage will you rely on?

Because of your restored relationship with the Father, what can you ask Him to give to you in Jesus' name?

What sorrow do you need to entrust to God?

**Close in Prayer**