

**Sermon Notes of  
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on July 12, 2020:**

**"Transformed by the Son of God:  
Joy for us in Jesus  
(John 16:16-33) (Part 18)"**

**[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman on U-Tube shows us through the words of Jesus that He will give us His joy to experience even though we live in times of trouble and sorrow.]**

Introduction:

- Hopefully this message finds you well and will add to your joy.
- The title of today's message is "Joy for us in Jesus" and in this passage of scripture – John 16:16-33 – we will find three things about joy:
  - It's a principle to grasp.
  - It's a promise to believe.
  - It's a position to claim.
- This is the finishing part of Jesus' message that He gave on what we call Maundy Thursday – just before he was betrayed and taken captive.
- Jesus is telling us that we can have joy despite the troubling times we're in.
- Jesus will show us that joy comes NOT from substitution but through transformation.

In Preview of today's message (John 16:16-33) – Pastor Craig's rhyming verses:

*3 concepts of Jesus' Joy,  
Each of us can emPloy.  
A little while they can't Understand,  
They were reasoning as a Man.*

*Not to see, then to See,  
Not beyond grief, like you and Me.  
But grief will become Joy,  
As when a mother births a girl or Boy.*

*So ask the Father in Jesus' Name,  
Receive His Joy, that's His Aim.  
The Father loves us, this is True,  
From our belief Joy does Ensue.*

*JC came and now he Goes,  
They now believe, comforting Woes.  
In this world we will have Trouble.  
Take heart, JC overcame the Rubble.*

Overview of today's message:

1. A principle to grasp (verses 16-22)
2. A promise to believe (verses 23-28)
3. A position to claim (verses 29-33)

1. A principle to grasp (verses 16-22):

**John 16:16 (NIV), Jesus went on to say, “In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.” 17) At this, 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’?”**

- As we see, the disciples are first struggling to understand what Jesus is saying, but that they will finally get it.
- As one psychology professor said, “We all get things at different times.”

**18) They kept asking, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand what he is saying.” 19) 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’?”**

**20) Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.**

- Jesus is telling His disciples that their grief won’t be substituted, their grief will be transformed.
- This is a key concept that we need to keep in mind.
- We should remember that this whole series on the Gospel of John is about our transformation through Jesus.
- Pastor Craig has often told us that the Bible can be summed up in two words – belief and response.
- And that response happens through our experiencing who Jesus is and then being transformed.
- The most important thing in this life that we can obtain is coming to faith and belief in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- This then opens up the door on the second most important thing we can focus our time on – and that is a life of transformation.
- That’s what the Holy Spirit does with us, through us, in us after belief comes about.
- Paul called this process – sanctification – where the Holy Spirit transforms our minds and hearts.
- And in this passage, we see that prayer has a great part to play in that.

**20) Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices.**

- The world rejoiced over the death of Jesus because they didn’t support who Jesus was and what He was doing, especially the religious leaders.

**20b) You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.**

- Please keep in mind that this principle to grasp and understand is that our sorrow is transformed into joy.
- Many times people try to self-medicate or find in some way to sublimate their deep sorrows they are experiencing.
- Now they may provide a short term relief, but they really don't work – because it doesn't address the inner transformation that needs to come about.
- Let's not forget that joy is a spiritual fruit – joy comes from a spiritual process. A spiritual transformation.
- This joy can't be bought at any drug store or liquor store.
- Joy comes out of the Holy Spirit.
- So, when we experience sorrow, when we experience tough times don't find it alarming or don't question yourself about what you did.
- We need to realize that sorrow and trouble has a place to play in this transformation process into joy.

**21) 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.**

- Now obviously men haven't given birth to a child. But most married men have been in participation with and have been alongside their wives when they have given birth, even with complications.
- When Nan, Pastor Craig's wife first held their new born, she had a big smile on her face, had tears of joy – it was truly a transformation from the pain she had experienced.
- We see that Jesus used a woman giving birth to a child as a good analogy to get across his point to the disciples.
- So, as we see, the sorrow experienced in birth is not substituted with joy but rather it's transformed into joy.
- We have to realize that joy is not just a natural thing but it's a spiritual thing.
- Many today are out there seeking physical joy, seeking physical peace by trying to find it in all the wrong places.
- But, we know who and where that spiritual source of joy is – and that source is Jesus and our relationship with Him.

**22) 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.**

- No one can take away from us our spiritual given joy, which is internal and it lasts forever.
- Our joy from external things or experiences last only a short time.
- Yes, we do grieve when family members or friends die, but our grief and sorrow will ultimately be transformed into joy by God.

2. A promise to believe (verses 23-28):

**23) In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.**

- Here Jesus is making a direct link and role to play in the spiritual discipline of prayer.
- Now we know that sometimes praying can be difficult.
- But, we need to realize that prayer has a direct link and a direct role to play in our transformation process of obtaining joy.
- And it all comes from asking. We can all ask the Father to help us experience joy, which is sent through the Holy Spirit.
- So, please keep joy at the center of our prayers by asking for joy and asking for the ability to see and the things around us in life that lead to that joy.
- When we enter into prayer, we are placing ourselves onto that holy pathway by which the Holy Spirit supernaturally transforms us.
- Sometimes, we don't feel comfortable talking with God but the Spirit will help us overcome that.

**24) Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.**

- Jesus is telling us to ask the Father in His name, by which he is telling us that we have access to the Father in prayer through the Son.
- When we ask the Father in the name of Jesus, it reflects our relationship we have with Jesus, which the Father honors.

**25) “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. 26) In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. 27) No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.**

- Once again, we see that belief is so critical.
- Jesus shows us that the Father has a direct relationship and a direct love for us because we believe in His Son.
- Jesus is the way to the Father.

**28) I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”**

- Once again Jesus is summing up what's going to happen in a few short days.
- The disciples, believing that scripture told them that the Messiah was going to bring in a conquering kingdom, couldn't believe that Jesus would die.
- Jesus brought in a spiritual kingdom.

3. A position to claim (verses 29-33):

**29) Then Jesus' disciples said, “Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech.**

- In verse 16, they didn't understand Jesus. But now, the scales have been removed from their eyes and ears.

**30) 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."**

- The disciples finally started to believe wholeheartedly.
- From this, we see that when one believes, one starts responding.

**31) "Do you now believe?" Jesus replied. 32) "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.**

- Jesus is right here with us, especially when we're confined to our homes during these times.
- We are not alone – the Father is with us – even though we may be isolated from others.

**33) "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."**

- The Greek word for "peace" can also mean "the possession of all resources needed."
- Even though most of us don't have all the physical resources we need, we have peace in and through Jesus because Jesus tells us, "in me you may have peace."
- In our relationship with Jesus, we have all the spiritual resources we need.
- We can be struggling financially, we can be struggling in relationships, etc., but we are in Jesus and Jesus is in us to give us His peace.
- In Jesus, we can take heart, even in times of trouble.
- And through our relationship with Jesus, we, too, have overcome the world.
- So, we need to stay close to Jesus in our relationship with Him and not drift away.

In Summary of John 16:16-33 (Let's say this together):

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Concluding comments:

- Pastor Craig hopes that today's message speaks to each one of us.
- We need to keep in mind that joy doesn't come through physical things, but through our relationship with Jesus.
  
- Dear family, please note that in times of trouble, that trouble is transformed into joy because we have access to joy.
- Access to the joy of Jesus takes a relationship with Him, it takes prayer.
- The joy of Jesus is a supernatural thing, which is an amazing thing we can truly appreciate.

(Closing prayer)