

As you read...

As Jesus final conversation with His disciples before He goes to the cross continues, the disciples are looking for answers. Throughout His ministry their have been times when it was hard for them to understand what He's been saying but now, in these final moments, He speaks plainly for them to understand.

Can you relate? Sometimes life can become so busy with so many voices that it can be hard to zero in and truly be able to listen and take to heart what God has to say to us. For the disciples, this had certainly been the case. However, on this final night they find clarity. They hear clearly what Jesus has to say. Even so, it's not the prettiest of pictures that our world often has trained us to expect.

Jesus promises to His disciples, "You will weep and morn, but the word will rejoice. You will become sorrowful, *but* your sorrow will turn to joy." That's a pretty important *but* Jesus shares with them on that final night and it's one that I hope you take with you today.

Jesus knew that His disciples would need to carry with them a rock, solid promise of joy still to come because of what they would experience. He knows the same for each of us. There will be days for each of us—as I'm sure there have been days for you—that we are tired, worn, and full of sorrow. The important thing for us to carry with us is this promise that sorrow *will* be turned to joy.

For the disciples, they were about to lose their rabbi, leader, and friend to death. However, in three days He would prove that even death would not be able to take away the joy He was promising.

Read [John 16: 16-33](#)

### ***Sorrow Turned to Joy***

*<sup>16</sup> “In a little while, you will no longer see me; again in a little while, you will see me.”*

*<sup>17</sup> Then some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this he’s telling us: ‘In a little while, you will not see me; again in a little while, you will see me,’ and, ‘Because I am going to the Father?’” <sup>18</sup> They said, “What is this he is saying, ‘In a little while’? We don’t know what he’s talking about.”*

*<sup>19</sup> Jesus knew they wanted to ask him, and so he said to them, “Are you asking one another about what I said, ‘In a little while, you will not see me; again in a little while, you will see me’? <sup>20</sup> Truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice. You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. <sup>21</sup> When a woman is in labor, she has pain because her time has come. But when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the suffering because of the joy that a person has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup> So you also have sorrow now. But I will see you again. Your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy from you.*

*<sup>23</sup> “In that day you will not ask me anything. Truly I tell you, anything you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have asked for nothing in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.*

## **Jesus the Victor**

*<sup>25</sup> “I have spoken these things to you in figures of speech. A time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. <sup>26</sup> On that day you will ask in my name, and I am not telling you that I will ask the Father on your behalf. <sup>27</sup> For 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 have come into the world. Again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”*

*<sup>29</sup> His disciples said, “Look, now you’re speaking plainly and not using any figurative language. <sup>30</sup> Now we know that you know everything and don’t need anyone to question you. By this we believe that you came from God.”*

*<sup>31</sup> Jesus responded to them, “Do you now believe? <sup>32</sup> Indeed, an hour is coming, and has come, when each of you will be scattered to his own home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. <sup>33</sup> I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”*

## Questions

1. Now that you’ve read through much of John, what words here that Jesus shares reflect many of His teachings you’ve read

earlier in the book? Think about phrases that sound familiar and note those in the space below.

2. Verse 31 is an interesting one. Thinking about all that Jesus had done and how much He had focused on the importance of believing in Him, why do you think Jesus says, “Do you now believe?”
3. Take a moment to reflect on your own life for a moment. The disciples here have missed out on some big things because of distractions. Even so, Jesus promises them greater things still to come.

What’s distracted you from seeing the greater things God is working in front of you and through you these days?

These could be situations, circumstances, or even emotions like anger or something like forgiveness that isn’t being given.

A moment to pray.

Father, remove the blinders from my eyes. Show me the ways that you are clearing out the distractions in my life and open my heart to see clearly the work you are doing. Help me to forgive, find forgiveness, and have conversations that are long overdue.

Strengthen my confidence in You and the promises You give me so that I can go into this world without fear today. In Jesus’ name.

Amen.