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## SERMON NOTES January 24, 2021

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Today's notes also available at [CCPL.life/Connect](http://CCPL.life/Connect)

### John 16:16-24 Sorrow Turned into Joy Pastor Mike

- I. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God's word
- II. God's plan of \_\_\_\_\_ through apparent \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Living with the perspective of \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Combining \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_
- III. The cross, \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. The \_\_\_\_\_ are a reminder of the \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. The joy of the \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_
- IV. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christian joy
  - a. God's joy doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ pain but \_\_\_\_\_ it
  - b. Jesus promises " \_\_\_\_\_ "
  - c. This joy is a byproduct of \_\_\_\_\_

*Your sorrow or joy will be in direct proportion to \_\_\_\_\_*

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. In John 16:16-20 Jesus uses opaque and cryptic language in speaking to his disciples about his coming death and resurrection, saying things like, *"A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me."* The passage tells us that the disciples were confused by his words.
  - a. Why does Jesus use such opaque and cryptic language here? Why doesn't he just come out and clearly tell the disciples what is going to happen?
  - b. What can we learn about God, and the way that he works with us today from the way that Jesus spoke to his disciples in this passage?
2. The cross and the resurrection are the supreme example of how God's great plan often involves what appears to be defeat on his path to ultimate victory.
  - a. Where the disciples wrong when they felt sorrow and confusion when Jesus was arrested, beaten, and crucified? If not, what does this say to us when we face crisis and trial? Are we wrong if we are sorrowful and confused? Explain your answer.
  - b. If the cross and the resurrection is the supreme example of God's common plan of using what appears to be defeat, to bring ultimate victory, where else do you see this pattern in the Bible? Where have you seen God use this pattern in your life? How would remembering this truth encourage you in a current circumstance?
3. In his message, Pastor Mike talked about the word he invented – sovereignism, as opposed to optimism or pessimism.
  - a. Where does optimism get things right? Where can it be wrong? Where does pessimism get things right? Where can it be wrong?
  - b. Are you by nature more of an optimist or a pessimist?
  - c. How is the Biblical perspective (what Pastor Mike calls sovereignism) different from either optimism or pessimism? How can this perspective challenge your thinking?
4. In John 16:21 Jesus uses the illustration of a woman giving birth as an example of how he will turn joy into sorrow. Pastor Mike pointed out how the image of the pains of childbirth came as a result of the curse upon sin. What is the relationship between what Jesus is teaching here and the teaching of Genesis 3:15-16?
5. The nature of the joy Jesus promises in John 16 is totally different than the joy of our world. The joy of our world is focused on the absence of pain and sorrow, but Jesus speaks of a joy that comes from sorrow – *"your sorrow will turn into joy."* And a pain that transcends sorrow.
  - a. Many in the world see joy as the absence of pain and sorrow. If this is joy, then how do they pursue this joy? What is the failure of this type of joy?
  - b. How is the joy of Christ radically different than the joy of the world? How can Jesus promise us a joy of such permanence that "no one will take your joy from you"?
  - c. Do you have this joy? What can you do to pursue this joy?