

Easter Joy
John 16:16-22

Introduction: Sorrow is part of life in this world. Troubled relationships, health problems and financial uncertainties are just a few of the difficulties that we face at times. In addition, there is also the sorrow that is associated with the condition of our souls. We are grieved by the things we've said and done. We are not who we think we should be. Is it possible to have joy even when our troubles are not resolved? Can we have joy even when our souls are not completely healthy? The passage that we are looking at today would suggest that, yes, it is possible. Because of the resurrection, we can have joy.

Read John 16:16-22

1. How did the disciples react to Jesus' "little while" statement?

2. What did Jesus tell the disciples would happen to them (v. 20)?

3. What is the point of the illustration that Jesus uses (v. 21)?

4. What did Jesus say the disciples would experience when they saw him again?

5. How would you define joy?

6. Read Acts 5:40-41; 13:50-52; 2 Cor. 8:1-2; 1 Peter 1:3-6. What do these verses add to your understand of the nature of joy?

Steve said:

How does Jesus' resurrection secure for us a type of joy that "no one can take away"?

Our joy rests on the same foundation as that of the original disciples. The resurrection guarantees that the life and death of Jesus established a new covenant. When you put your faith in Christ, the deepest longings of your heart are satisfied. This relationship with God gives you so much forgiveness and life and freedom that you have a type of joy that is so substantive that nothing can take it away. It's not that you never have sorrow or that you never get "down"; but joy is always restored because your relationship with God is secure.

7. What do you find tends to rob you of joy in your life?

8. How might reflection on the reality of the forgiveness, life and freedom made possible in your life through Jesus' resurrection help you restore or hold onto your joy?

9. In the past, how have you seen the reality of a secure relationship with God give you joy even when all is not good in your life?