

4-16-25 – Grief Will Turn to Joy

Tomorrow would be Maundy Thursday. Last supper... last chance to talk.

Remember “The Last Lecture”? Randy Pausch. Jesus did it first.

Jesus told them many things that night – beforehand – for **4** reasons.

- He predicted one of them (**Judas**) would betray Him.
- Predicted **Peter's** Betrayal.
- Then He told them He was **going away ...**
- They would be expelled from the synagogue
- They will be scattered, leaving Jesus all alone
 - Why? **1st Reason:** Jesus wanted to be sure they **believed in Him**.
 - **John 13:¹⁹** - “I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen ***you will believe that I am who I am.***”
 - Strangely, they still struggled... some were still doubting.
- **John 14:⁸** - Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”
- ⁹ Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.
 - **First** & foremost, **Jesus is concerned w/their faith.** Believe.
 - Also **John 14:²⁸** “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ ***I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.***”
 - Achievements are meaningless if we don’t believe in Jesus.

Second reason: Jesus wants to be sure they would not abandon their faith.

John 16:1 - “All this I have told you so that you will not fall away.”

- Tough times, we blame God/discouraged... walk away from Him.
- But @ a moment when the disciples don’t understand what’s happening - seems so bad - afraid of the future ... Jesus tells them:

“¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” – **John 15:13**

- **Just b/c life has problems ... challenges ... sorrow ... it is **not** a sign that God doesn’t love you.**
 - God **not a genie...** but is greater than the problems we see.
 - **Rom. 8:28** – in ALL things work together for good.”
- Jesus shares an important truth: people will hate us, but – “keep in mind that it hated me first” – **John 15:18.**
 - **Quit expecting** everyone to love you; won’t happen.
 - Jesus never said God is love so everyone will love us.
 - Know when to shake the dust from your feet & move on.
 - **Don’t lose who you are in Jesus trying to fit in.** We belong to Jesus, not to the world. That matters most.
 - **Quit expecting** everyone to do what’s right... to get it right.
 - **John 16:1-4** “All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. ² They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. ³ They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. ⁴ I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them.
 - People do things contrary to what’s right/ go against God... they are led by pride, greed, envy, wrath... 7 deadly sins.
 - Don’t abandon faith in Jesus b/c of life’s problems.

Third reason: Jesus wants us to not worry, to live in peace.

John 16:³³ - “**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.”

- We let **problems steal our joy.** We worry too much. The **unknown** is not unknown to God.
 - Worry is the opposite of peace. Worry is the opposite of trust.
 - When we face problems, remember: “in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” **Rom. 8:37**
 - **We are victorious** not b/c of us, but b/c of **Jesus.**

- Peace is not the absence of problems, it is in the complete surrender of our problems to Jesus.
 - You take a car to a garage... trust the mechanic.
 - You have your house repaired... trust the contractor.
 - You fly... trust pilot. You cruise... trust captain.
 - Trust Jesus more.

Fourth reason: Jesus wanted the Disciples – and us – to live with **Hope**.

- Jesus had told them in a little while, they would see Him no more...

John 16 – “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. 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. 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.”

- Jesus didn't say we'd never grieve... Grief will turn to joy.
 - He was saying, I will be **crucified**, but I will be **resurrected**.
 - That says to us, our **comfort** is in Jesus... there is a **tomorrow**.
- When Jesus returned to His hometown, he opened **Isaiah 61**:
- **1** The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted,
- to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners, . . .
- **2** to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of our God's vengeance,
- to comfort all who mourn, **3** to console the mourners in Zion— to give them a crown of beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and a garment of praise for a spirit of despair.
 - If we give Him our grief, He will restore joy.
 - The ashes of today are not the end of the story.
 - To receive this comfort, stay near to the cross.