

Sorrow and Joy > John 16:16-33

16:16-24 Now and later: the topic here is not a new one, but instead it is a contrast between Christ's going to the cross and His resurrection and return. This is shown through weeping and rejoicing; sorrow and joy.

16:25-33 The second contrast: tribulation and peace. Once more, this is a topic that Christ has already taught on, but just as the previous one looked to what would soon happen to Jesus, now this topic is what will soon happen to the disciples. They shall experience persecution just as Jesus did. Yet, the end result shall not be sorrow or failure, but peace.

Context: These words conclude the "teaching" portion of Christ's instructions in the upper room. In that sense, they summarize all that Jesus has been speaking on and then prepare for His prayer in the following chapter.

Aim: Disciples of Jesus must see His crucifixion as something for their own good – it is Christ's sacrifice that makes us right with the Father. Similarly, all who follow Jesus must recognize the opposition they receive as part of being identified with Him – and trust that Jesus will give lasting peace.

Gospel: These two contrasts aim square at Christ's work – at discipleship as a whole, and at salvation in particular. It is God's plan that Jesus should die for our sins. And it is God's plan that disciples would be made through persecution.

Applications: How's your praying? Do you ask the Father to give what you need to be faithful each day? Do you ask Him for joy? How's your faith? Trust the Lord for lasting peace.

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
