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**Sermon: *“Sorrow for a Little While: Joy & Peace Forever"***

**Scripture: John 16:16-33**

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Sunday, July 15, 2018

**Introduction:**

The disciples would soon learn that overwhelming sorrow and unspeakable joy may be experienced from the same event, separated by only “a little while.”

**Jesus shared several truths intended to bring joy & peace to His disciples:**

1. **Believers can have joy, because we intimately know Jesus.** *(v. 20-22)*
   * The cross brought a moment of weeping, but also an eternity of unspeakable joy. (Acts 16:25; Galatians 6:14a; 1 Peter 1:8)

* Ultimate joy is not only in knowing Jesus, but in being known by Jesus for all eternity. (Galatians 4:9; Hebrews 2:9)
* Joy is not to be a future condition, but a present and ongoing reality for every believer! (Galatians 5:22)

1. **Believers can have joy, because we have full access to the Father.** *(v. 23-28)*

* Our access is rooted in the Father’s Love. *(Romans 8:32)*
* Our access was opened by Jesus’ Work. *(Ephesians 2:18; 3:18)*
* Our access is helped by the Spirit’s Assistance. *(Romans 8:26-27; 15:13)*

1. **Believers can have peace, because we know the final outcome.** *(v. 29-33)*

* True peace comes through comforting truth, not empty attempts to comfort.
* The peace of God is both positional and practical.
* Believers have peace with God through faith in the person & work of Jesus Christ.
* Believers may have the peace of God through faith in the promises of God.

**Questions to Consider:**

1. What circumstances or people threaten to undermine your joy and peace?
2. How did the cross, the resurrection and ascension of Jesus change the disciples’ relationship with Jesus?
3. How should the cross change our perspective towards the difficulties, sorrows, trials and disappointments of life?
4. How ought your access to the Father bring joy to your heart?
5. Does Jesus response to the disciples’ proclamation of belief surprise you? Why or why not?
6. What is the difference between the positional and practical peace of God?