

THE PREDICTION OF JOY OVER JESUS' RESURRECTION

TEXT: John 16:16-22

PLACE: Jerusalem, upper room

TIME: Thursday evening

NOTE: In verses 16-24 we hear Jesus speak to His disciples a riddle concerning His return - a riddle that they would only understand after Pentecost when the Spirit would then abide in them.

◆ The Pledge, vs. 16

"A _____, and you will _____ longer behold Me; and again a _____, and you _____ see Me."

- What does Jesus mean? Jesus uses two different Greek words for "behold/see" which may indicate two different manners of vision (physical vs. spiritual). They had seen Him physically for some three years and would soon no longer "see" Him in such a way - but their second vision of Christ, the resurrected Christ, would remain with them. This was the subject of the last few lessons - His return in the Spirit to abide with them (cp. John 14:17, 19). The Christ who filled them with joy is the same Christ seen by all believers today - the Christ of the Spirit who makes Himself known to men through His Word.

o This pledge is ours also! Cp. Acts 2:38.

◆ The Perplexity, vs. 17, 19

- Were the disciples confused? Why do you suppose they questioned among themselves and failed to ask Jesus?
 - o What a grand difference between the men they were and the men they were to become! So with us!

◆ The Parable, vs. 20-22

- What does Jesus mean in vs. 20?
- How does the illustration of a woman giving childbirth illustrate the point?
- One need only see the contrast between the disciples at the crucifixion and the resurrection and Pentecost to see the fulfillment of Jesus' prediction.
- The same is true for all believers. Christ can change our sorrows into joy. As David has said, "Joy comes in the morning."

◆ The Promise, vs. 23, 24

(We shall dip into the next section of scripture for this point.)

"And in _____ day..."

- The promise:
 - Answered questions - Their minds were filled with questions, but after the resurrection and Pentecost with the coming of the Spirit, the meaning of all they had heard and seen would become clear.
 - Answered prayer - vs. 23b, 24. How does this promise apply to the disciples? Us?
 - What does it mean to pray "in Jesus' Name"?

THE PROMISE OF ANSWERED PRAYER AND PEACE

TEXT: John 16:23-33

- ➔ This section (vs. 23-33) best divides into three segments:
 - Verses 25-28: Soon they will have free access to the Father.
 - "These things" - what things?
 - What promise does Jesus give the disciples?
 - Why had it been so hard to understand what Jesus had been saying?
 - These verses present the fact that they will have a new relationship with the Father:
 - Jesus will be their High Priest, constantly interceding on their behalf, but they will approach the Father directly through Him, all barriers removed.
 - All this is true for us today!
 - Verses 29-32: Their failure to comprehend
 - They now understand! (or do they?) Verse 31, Jesus says, "Are you so sure of Me as you think - do you now really believe?"
 - What was ahead for them that would shatter their faith in Jesus?
 - Do we ever make "easy confessions" that cannot stand the storms of life? We must beware when we say, "We are able" (Matthew 20:22). We must always remember the man who prayed, "*Lord, I believe, help my unbelief.*" (Mark 9:24)
 - Verse 33: Peace in the midst of tribulation
 - Two kinds of peace
 - 1 - Judicial: Which Jesus accomplishes on behalf of man between God and man on the cross.
 - 2 - Subjective: of the heart and soul which passes understanding (cp. Philipians 4:7)