



The DAILY JESUS NEWS #295
Thursday... Day of Instruction and Arrest:
Jesus Delivers His “Farewell Discourse”

Jesus Promises the Joy Of His Risen Presence
JN 16.16-22

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16 Jesus went on to say, *“In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”*

17 At this, some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father?’”

18 They kept asking, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand what he is saying.”

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, and the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but then your grief will transform into 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 your hearts will rejoice, and no one will be able to take away your joy.”

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This “superscript ID” is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	A Vineyard On the Road to the Mount Olivet
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus’ Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week

	D. Thursday: Day of Instruction and Arrest
	Jesus Delivers His "Farewell Discourse"
Title	Jesus Promises the Joy of His Risen Presence

In today's reading Jesus began to describe his special gift of joy. We have already seen his gift of peace (DJN #290), and love (DJN #292) in the Farewell Discourse. Joy is the third component of life in and with the Trinity that characterizes those who live in an intimate relationship with Them.

Love, joy and peace are like the Trinity--they are three distinct, yet related characteristics that are the expression of one relationship with the Triune God.

Jesus promised his joy to us in John 15.11; 16.20-24, and 17.13. These seven verses contain eight different references to joy. (You would do well to mark each of them in your Bible.) In them, Jesus spoke of his joy in us, and our joy being made full--or complete. Jesus' own joy given to us is immediate, and instant. Our own joy being made full by the constant infusion of his joy is a process, that accumulates over time.

Just as Jesus gave us his peace in a way that is totally different from the world, his gift of joy is something fundamentally different from mere circumstantial happiness. He said, "**no one can take your joy away from you,**" when HE is the source of it. That is, Jesus' joy does not originate in our outer circumstances, but it bubbles over from within, from our eternal and rock-solid, unchanging identity in him.

Jesus spoke of three primary ways that he pours his own joy into us. The first is the consciousness of his love (15.11). By abiding in his love we simultaneously open the door to the power of his joy. The second way we experience Jesus' joy is the thrust of today's reading--the supernatural joy of the consciousness of his risen, living presence. As David said, "*In your presence is the fullness of joy.*" (Ps. 16.11) The third way he renews our joy is by answered prayer (16.23-32), which is our reading for tomorrow. Jesus himself prayed for the fullness of our joy to abound in 17.13.

Jesus has been constantly filled with joy as his very nature as God, forever. Joy is a Divine attribute, more than a human one. In addition, Jesus also achieved more human joy than anyone that has ever lived. "*You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God--your God--has set you above all your companions by anointing you with oil of joy.*" (Ps. 45.7)

So when Jesus speaks of filling us with "my joy" he is speaking as the greatest expert about joy in history, with the deepest and most powerful experience of it that is possible.

So, what is joy? **It is God's cumulative satisfaction in the perfection of his own being, and works.** It is his omniscient and experiential sense that "it cannot get any better than this." It is the knowledge that he is perfect, and that he has created perfection in everything he does. **Joy is the ultimate sense of personal satisfaction in perfect moral and creative goodness.** Can you see why joy is a Divine attribute?

We are SO far from perfect. We are certified experts on imperfection, malfunction, dysfunction, and destruction. Yes, a part of us strives for and recognizes good, and the possibility of perfection, but we never come close to it in a moral, relational way. So how can we have real joy? Because it is a gift from Jesus--pure grace!

Jesus achieved complete, perfect righteousness. He was filled with the joy of doing all things perfectly. And he joyfully shares his own joy with us, by creating his perfection in righteousness within us and enabling us to accumulate the unshakeable consciousness of the goodness and completeness of what

he has done for us, and within us by his Spirit. This is why joy begins with abiding in the consciousness of how much he loves us.

We will have more to say about this tomorrow, in Part II of "The Gift of Joy...According to Jesus."

APPLICATION:

Every time the gospels describe the disciples meeting Jesus after the resurrection, they portray the effervescent joy of his living presence. In seeing Jesus, his disciples simultaneously were filled with powerful joy. It can be no other way.

Your joy is in Jesus alone. Happiness can come from many things. Joy is an attribute of God, and his unique gift to us. Because it comes from Him, it is not fickle. Constant joy is our rock-solid foundation for living because of knowing him.

Have you been confusing happiness for joy? How do you tend to do that?