

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

NO ONE WILL TAKE YOUR JOY FROM YOU

John 16:20,22 “. . . your sorrow will turn into joy. . . I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”

John devotes chapters 14 – 16 to record Jesus’ words of preparation spoken by Him to His disciples prior to His arrest, trial and crucifixion. These words were so necessary because His disciples had become totally dependent upon His physical presence. Think of the time on the Sea of Galilee when they thought they would die because of the severe storm, until Jesus came and rescued them. Without Jesus physically present they were, as the Bible says, “like sheep without a shepherd.”

To see, hear, perhaps even touch Jesus would be faith strengthening, wouldn’t it? To see Him perform healing miracles, listen to Him preach a sermon, eat with Him, walk and talk and . . . For over three years that is how it had been for Jesus’ disciples. Every time their faith weakened, they lost direction, life became difficult for them, Jesus was physically present to take care of them.

Think what it must have been like for Jesus’ disciples when the mob came to arrest Him in the Garden of Gethsemane. In this place of seclusion, refuge and peace, they witnessed their Lord captured and taken away like a common criminal. For this, Jesus prepared them. He said to them prior to all of this happening, “. . . your sorrow will turn into joy.”

Imagine being with the disciples in the upper room after Jesus’ resurrection. They were filled with confusion, fear and perhaps even anger at all that had happened from the time of His arrest and death. Then, with doors locked, He stood there among them, and said, “Peace be with you!”

Jesus is with you every moment of every day. Though your eyes do not see Him physically, your faith-eyes see Him. In love, He holds out His arms to minister to your every need. And, as your life continues and moves forward to its end, you

need not be afraid. He says to you, "I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you." (John 16:22)

Prayer: Send Your Spirit, Dear Jesus, to give me eyes of faith to see you ever present with me wherever I go and along side of me in all that I do. Let me not be filled with fear but with faith to trust You to shepherd me through this life even to life everlasting. In Your holy name. Amen.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing. And heav'n
and nature sing. And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

(LSB 387)