



**Looking Inwards** (15 mins)  
*Caring For Each Other*

*Reflecting on your life at the moment, is there anything you would like to share with other members of your home group which you feel is appropriate (this is an opportunity to share, not something you have to do, however, 'It's the sharing that enables the caring!') for:*

- Thanksgiving?
- Prayer?
- Encouragement?
- Support in any way?



**Looking Outwards** (15 mins)  
*Concern For Others*

*Is there anything concerning someone in your: family; circle of friends; neighbours or church, which you would like to share (please be sure not pass on anything that is confidential or which you think the person concerned would not wish to be shared) for:*

- Thanksgiving?
- Prayer?
- Encouragement?
- Support in any way?

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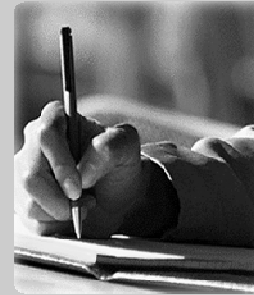


The Last Words Of Jesus  
**HG127: Your Joy Will Be Complete**

John 16:16 - 17:5

Home Group Study Notes

10 July 2016 - Revd Paul Gambling



**PLEASE COMPLETE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN ON THIS WORKSHEET IN PREPARATION BEFORE THE MEETING!**

*Don't forget to take your Bible to Home Group with you, along with any previous notes and other resources which might be helpful.*



**Welcome** (10 mins)  
*Ice Breaker*

Name one 'something' you would like to achieve over the summer holidays and explain why.



**Looking Upwards** (10 mins)  
*Worship*

In your time of worship, you may want to sing Songs of Praise; listen to a Worship CD, as well as using Meditations; Bible Readings; Prayers ...



The Last Words Of Jesus  
HG127: **Your Joy Will Be Complete**

John 16:16 - 17:5

Home Group Sermon Notes

10 July 2016 - Revd Paul Gambling

Joy is a state of mind and an orientation of the heart. It is a settled state of contentment, confidence and hope. It is something or someone that provides a source of happiness. It appears 88 times in the Old Testament in 22 books; 57 times in the New Testament in 18 books.

Christians should always find reasons to be joyful. There are many ways to define joy. Joy isn't just a smile or a laugh. Joy is something that is deep within and doesn't leave quickly. When we have the joy of the Lord, we'll know it and so will others. Since joy is given by God and something that He wants us to have. Joy is the second "fruit of the Spirit," according to Galatians 5:22

The word of God and preaching exist to reveal God to us for the sake of our joy in him. As Jesus said: ***"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11).***

Therefore my job in worship is to set a table for us where we eat and rejoice in the God we taste. I am aiming not merely to change our ideas about God but to change our affections for God. God's glory in our life, hangs in the balance. The aim of discipleship and all Christian relationships is to help each other maintain our joy in God above all things. Because we know that the big enterprises of our life and culture are very fragile. We plan and we save and we build, and things look good and successful, and then it starts to collapse. And we can't believe it.

Not much is sure and firm and solid in our lives. That's why this word from Jesus is very precious to me. ***"No one will take your joy from you.....your joy will be complete"***

You've heard of unconditional guarantees—warranties that seem too good to be true? Have you ever heard of any product that says: "In this you will find pleasure and no one will take your pleasure from you"? If you read that on some box or bottle, you would smirk and call it marketing guff. But that's what Jesus says.....all the money may be lost and the dreams be dashed, but, ***"No one will take your joy from you.....your joy will be complete"*** How can this be? How can such a massive claim stand when the biggest things in our world are utterly uncertain and unstable?

**4:** What reasons does Jesus in this passage from John's gospel, present as reasons for believers to have 'complete joy' ? Why might they be so important as a foundation? ( Much of life is transient, much of life is beyond our control, we experience grief, sadness etc)

**5:** What kinds of things can undermine our joy? Share personal experiences or situations you have witnessed, Be careful to keep confidences.

**6:** If this passage were an 'Invitation' to know and experience joy for someone who has lost their joy or who has never experienced the 'Joy of Jesus'. How would you come alongside them...How would you share your joy with them? ( Think of those Jesus came alongside, whose joy was restored)



Is there anything you most want to put into practice as a result of this study?



## Looking Upwards (40 mins) Bible Study

Read the text for this study, and any references given, then answer the following questions. You may find it helpful to listen to the sermon and/or read through the sermon notes as you do so. Discuss some, or all, your answers with your Home Group and, remember, these questions are only a guide to start your discussions.

**1:** How would you define joy? Where can you find it described or examples of it in the Bible? Listen to each other and discuss with each other your definitions. Share personal experiences or situations you have witnessed, Be careful to keep confidences.

**2:** What do you think is the source of experiencing complete Joy?

**3:** Do you think Jesus joy was complete? Explore this question together, listen to each other, test your assumptions. Read other texts such as John 17. Discuss as broadly as you can...for example Jesus was also described as a 'Man of Sorrows'.

Let's look at these words to make sure we understand them and how it can be that Jesus can guarantee our joy with such amazing absoluteness: *"No one will take your joy from you.....your joy will be complete?"*

Jesus is speaking to his disciples on the night before he was killed. He is trying to help them understand what is just in front of them. So in verse 16 he says, *"A little while, and you will see me no more; again a little while, and you will see me."* The disciples are confused by this and in verses 17–18 they discuss with each other what in the world he means by in a little while they won't see him and then in a little while they will. Jesus knows they are puzzled and so he says in verse 20, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament but the world will rejoice; you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy."*

What's he referring to? He's referring to his death, when the disciples will have a deep and anguished sense of loss, and his resurrection, when their sorrow will become joy (John 20:20). *"In a little while"* he will be lost in a painful, bloody crucifixion. There will be weeping and lamenting and fear in the disciples. Yes I am dying. Yes it will be painful for you. But "in a little while" you will see me again, and your sorrow will become joy. It's like what he said in John 12:24: *"Unless a grain of wheat falls in to the ground and dies it remains alone, but if it dies it bears much fruit."*

You lose me in one sense, but gain me in one far greater. Sorrow Now, Then your Joy will be complete. So when we come to verse 22, we know what Jesus has in mind, namely, his death and resurrection. He says, "So you have sorrow now." And he means that his death is just around the corner and the loss and pain will be great for his friends.

Then he says, *"But I will see you again."* That is, I will rise from the dead. And I will come to you. I will seek you out. (Note: After saying three times in vv. 16, 17, 19, "you will see me," he says in verse 22, "I will see you.") Then he says, *"Your hearts will rejoice."*

That's just what happened. Because it says in John 20:20, ....*"that on the first day of the week, the day Jesus rose from the dead, he came to them and "showed them his hands and his side."* Then John says, *"The disciples were glad when they saw the Lord."*

So Jesus' prediction in John 16:22 came true. *"I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice."* And then come the amazing words, *"And no one will take away your joy from you."*

This joy is irrevocable joy. It cannot be destroyed. It cannot be lost. It is sure and firm and solid and certain even if everything around our soul gives way. This joy will not.

Why Will This Joy Not Give Way? That's the key question: How can Jesus make such an unparalleled guarantee—unlike anything in this world? *"No one will take your joy from you."* We've already been given a good clue, so let's look at two answers from this text in greater detail.

## **The Resurrection Means Jesus Will Never Die....and neither will You.**

First, **"No one will take your joy from you,"** because your joy comes from being with Jesus, and the resurrection of Jesus means that Jesus will never die again; he will never be cut off from you. He says, **"I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice."** If Jesus says to you this morning, **"I will see you again,"** and your heart does not rejoice in being with him, then this text is not a promise for you, it's an invitation. It's an invitation to love Jesus. Because if you don't enjoy Jesus, your joy will be taken from you. Jesus is the only permanent joy.

Notice the sequence of thought in verse 22: **"I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice."** Why will they rejoice? Because Jesus will be with them again. Then it says, **"No one will take your joy from you."** What joy can never be taken away?

Joy at being with Jesus. That's the joy that's guaranteed forever. No other joy. If you don't have that, the joy you do have is very fragile indeed.

And so this text is an invitation to people whose joy is mainly in the love of money, or human institutions, religious, political, economic, or success, or family, or hobbies, or sex, or being liked, or games or sports (*particularly an England football supporter*).

And seeking our greatest and longest joy in God severs the root of sin. Sin only has power because of the promises it makes. Promises for happiness. We sin because we believe the promise of sin that we will be happier..... But happiness is dependent on what happens.

The only way to defeat the power of sin's promise is with the power of a superior promise...The joy of Jesus! Because it is dependent not on circumstances but on a person, who has power over death and to create life itself. It's an invitation to see Jesus as the only joy that lasts forever. **"I will see you again and your heart will rejoice."** Forever.

And why will he last forever? Because he has been raised from the dead and will never be cut off from us again. He defeated death. Now he lives forever and has the keys of death in his own hands. So when he says, **"No one will take your joy from you,"** he means, I will be your joy, and I can never die again, and therefore your joy will never die.

As long as I exist in my resurrection life, that's how long your joy in me will be. No one can take it from you, because it is joy in me and I will live forever and ever. That's the first answer to the question how Jesus can make such an amazing guarantee. The other reason is this: **"No one will take your joy from you"** because your joy comes from being with Jesus, and the resurrection of Jesus means that YOU will never die; you will never be cut off from him.

You see, two things have to be true if your joy is never to be taken from you. One is that the source of your joy lasts forever (JESUS) and the other is that YOU last forever.

If either you or the source of your joy is mortal, your joy will be taken from you. And, O, how many people have settled for just that! Eat, drink, and be merry they say, for tomorrow we die, and that's that. Food doesn't last forever, and I don't last forever. So let's make the most of it while we can. What a tragedy!

If you are tempted to think that way this morning, please consider as seriously as you possibly can that if your joy were in being with Jesus, **"No one would take your joy from you"**—not in this life, nor in the life to come.

For these two reasons: One because Jesus will never die again. And the other because you will never die. The resurrection of Jesus means that not only will he live forever as the source of our joy, but you will live forever if he is the source of your joy. Jesus said to Martha at the tomb of Lazarus, **"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die"**(John 11:25-26).

Someone may say, "But Christians do die." Yes, in one sense we do. But not in the most important sense, namely, the joy that a believer has in being with Jesus is never broken. **"No one will take your joy from you."** Not life or death, or angels or principalities, or things present or things to come, or powers or height or depth or anything else in all creation will be able to take our joy from us in Jesus Christ. Joy in being with Jesus is an unbroken line from now to eternity.

It will not be cut off by his death or ours. The offer of eternal Joy in Christ. And so I commend Jesus to you this morning, whoever you are. If he is not the joy of your heart, he wants to be. He says in John 6:35, **"I am the bread of life, he who comes to me shall not hunger and he who believes in me shall never thirst"**—NEVER! An unbroken line of satisfaction in Jesus from the now to eternity.

This is the word of the risen Jesus to us this morning—to all of us who will take him as our joy! **"You will see me . . . and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."** And the implications go on and on.

Suffice to say that God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him. Therefore, since glorifying God is the main goal of the universe and our life, be relentless and unwavering in fighting for joy in God. This is our lifelong vocation.

And here is a wonderful note to close on: Since God is sovereign, he guarantees the triumph of your joy in the end. In the text from the Gospel of John that was read at the beginning, Jesus said to the disciples who were about to lose him in death and get him back at his resurrection, **"So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you"** (John 16:22).

No one! It is invincible....It is complete. Full. Solid. Eternal. No one will take this joy from you. God is our exceeding joy. And he cannot fail. **Amen.**