

“That Your Joy May Be Full”

Read John 16:20-24

²⁰“Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy. ²¹Whenever a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, because of the joy that a child has been born into the world. ²²Therefore, you too will have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you. ²³In that day you will not question Me about anything.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything, in My name, He will give it to you. ²⁴Until now you have asked for nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, so that your joy may be full.”

Study Questions

1. In this passage, Jesus was giving His disciples the game plan for their days following His death and resurrection. Their identity would be changing. He referred to the pain of childbirth, the child born of it, and the joy that would come as a result. What would soon be causing them pain, and what would be their great joy? What “child” would be produced?
2. What role would they now play, much like the historical Roman figure Fabius Maximus? They were followers of Jesus, but soon would go forth in His authority. What would their mission now be?
3. What they would be asking for, from the Father, must now represent whose interests? How do we ask of the Father today with Jesus’ purposes in mind? What are His purposes?

**4. Moses and Paul also demonstrated this representative ambassadorship. How so?
(Compare Exod 32:9-12 and 2 Cor 5:20)**

Exodus 32:9-12

The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, they are a stiff-necked people. Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them, that I may destroy them, and I will make of you a great nation.” But Moses entreated the Lord and said, “O Lord, why does Your anger burn against Your people whom You have brought out from the land of Egypt with great power? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘With evil intent He brought them out, to kill them?’”

2 Corinthians 5:20

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

- 5. We also can speak on behalf of Jesus in offering God’s reconciliation to others. What will be our reward, born in us, when we extend - and people receive - what God offers?**
- 6. We are ambassadors, but also soldiers. Where does the real warfare take place?**