

Title: Invitation to Hope, Pt 2: “Invitation to Lament & Rejoice” – John 16:16-24

Big Idea: Turn laments into joy by understanding the resurrection and return of Jesus and making requests to the Father in His name.

What in the message stood out to you?

What questions do you have?

1. The LAMENTS of believers will turn into JOY – John 16:16-22

Pastor Greg defined lament like this: “To lament is to bring our pain, anger, grief, and confusion to God in prayers of faith.” What are the current sources of pain, anger, grief, and confusion in your life? What would it look like to bring these to God in prayers of faith?

Read John 16:16-18. Why do you think the disciples were so confused?

Go back and read John 14:18-22 to see the question Jesus was still answering in 16:16. Does this passage help you understand 16:16-18? Why or why not?

Read John 16:19-22. Note that Jesus does not say their sorrow will be replaced by joy, but that their sorrow will TURN INTO joy. What is the difference? How does the metaphor of childbirth help you understand the difference?

2. Our LAMENTS turn into JOY by looking back to Jesus’ resurrection and forward to His return.

Despite how hard and painful our laments may be, how does looking back to Jesus’ resurrection and forward to His return help turn our laments into joy?

Read John 14:16-19. How does the gift of the Holy Spirit help us as we look back to Jesus’ resurrection and forward to His return?

3. Our LAMENTS turn into JOY by understanding Jesus! – John 16:23a

John 16:23a says: “In that day you will ask nothing of me.” Read John 16:13-14 for an explanation of why this is. How does the Holy Spirit guide us into truth and help us understand Jesus?

Concerning our suffering and trials, the Holy Spirit has communicated some incredible promises to us in the Bible:

- Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. Share some reactions and observations.
- Read Romans 8:18. Share some reactions and observations.
- Read Romans 5:2-5. Share some reactions and observations.

How do these promises help you understand what Jesus means by our laments turning into joy?

4. Our LAMENTS turn into joy by making requests to the Father in Jesus' name – John 16:23b-24.

Read John 16:23b-24. What do you think it means to pray in Jesus' name?

Why do you think we can only pray in Jesus' name after the resurrection and gift of the Spirit? Read Hebrews 4:14-16 for help understanding.

Read Psalm 6:1-3, Psalm 10:1, and Psalm 13:1. Would you be comfortable talking to God like this? Why or why not?

Pastor Greg said: "Good laments are pleadings and yearnings directed to God with submissive hearts that hope in His unfulfilled promises." How is this different from complaining or being demanding?

"Next Steps" Takeaways – Discuss and pray through the following:

- With God:
 - Spend time "lamenting" to the Father in the name of Jesus this week related to the suffering and trials in your life.
 - Attend the "Reasons to Believe" Apologetics Conference with Dr. Sean McDowell at Good Shepherd May 3-4 to help strengthen your faith.
 - True for you, not true for me.
 - Evidence for the New Testament
 - Evidence for the Resurrection
 - If God, why evil?
- With Others:
 - Spend time with some brothers and sisters in Christ this week sharing your struggles with each other and "lamenting" to the Father in the name of Jesus together.
- On Mission:
 - Continue to engage with our "Invitation to Hope" initiative this week.
 - Prayerfully write down the name of someone to invite, post it on our HOPE board in the lobby, and commit to praying for them.
 - Take an Easter invite card and personally give it to them.
 - Invite them to attend the "Reasons to Believe" conference with you.