Remain When Life Is Hard
John 16:16-33

When life doesn't make sense …

What do you do when the life you're *experiencing* is so different from the life you *expected*?

We know Jesus rose from the dead. But how does His resurrection help us face the hardships of life *right now*?

Our Shattered Expectations (vv. 16-19)

"What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about."

The disciples could not understand how Jesus' departure fit with His identity as the promised Messiah. Instead of the _____ they anticipated, Jesus was preparing them for _____.

We should not expect all the blessings of the _____ while we are still living in the present _____.

The Great Reversal (vv. 20-22)

"You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy"

The great turning point is the _____ of Jesus Christ.

The childbirth analogy:

The joy is greater than the _____ of the pain ending.

The joy comes from what the suffering has _____.

And this promised joy is _____!

The Father Who Loves Us (vv. 23-28)

"… the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God."

Through Christ's death, resurrection, and exaltation, we have _____ to the Father who loves us as He loves His Son.

Our Fragile Faith (vv. 29-32)

"the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone …"

The disciples were confident in their _____, but unaware of their _____.

Our confidence may _____, but Christ's faithfulness will never _____.

The Assurance of Victory (v. 33)

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

"In the world" and "in me."

Every Christian lives in both realities at the same time.

Remaining in Christ does not remove us from the world of tribulation. Through His indwelling _____, the risen Christ sustains us, and no suffering can _____ us from the _____ of our life.

So, remain.

Remain by _____ what Jesus has promised.

Remain by _____ to the Father for what you need.

Remain by _____ in the ultimate victory of Christ.

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