

RESURRECTION JOY

John 16:16-22

March 31, 2013; Easter Sunday

I. The joy of seeing again someone that you love

II. The joy of coming to understand the meaning of the cross

III. The joy of coming to understand the meaning of Jesus' resurrection

1. today Jesus lives.
2. we can have spiritual life
3. we can be forgiven.
4. though death will overcome these bodies of ours, God will resurrect these bodies and change them into perfect eternal bodies.

IV. The joy that Jesus is here with us now

V. The joy when Jesus comes again, and we see Him finally and fully and forever.

You can look *four directions* and find resurrection joy:

1. We look **back** at the cross where Jesus died in our place: forgiven
2. We look **up** to heaven where Jesus is now alive with all authority
3. We look **in** to Jesus with us forever
4. We look **ahead** to Jesus coming again

VI. Resurrection joy is always available.

Nothing can steal it away. Not:

1. Stuff.
2. Thrills, victories, accomplishments, adrenaline:
3. Memories: even memories can be forgotten.
4. Relationships?

So what took away your joy this week?

1. Was it finances?
2. Was it health? Pain? Fear of test results?
3. Was it relationships?
4. Was it loneliness?

In all of these things, we can look *back* to a crucified Jesus; *up* at a risen and ruling Jesus; *in* to find a present Jesus here with us; and *ahead* to a glorious coming Jesus.
There is no joy like this joy: no one can take it away.

