

Series: I Wish I'd Asked That; Sermon: **“How Do You Find Complete Joy?”**  
Delivered on May 5, 2019, by **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor

**Bible text explored: John 16:17–28**

<sup>17</sup>So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father?’” <sup>18</sup>So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” <sup>19</sup>Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’?” <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. <sup>24</sup>Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

<sup>25</sup>“I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. <sup>26</sup>In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; <sup>27</sup>for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. <sup>28</sup>I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.” [ESV]

**Review and application:**

1. Our Declaration of Independence declares as our unalienable rights: “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” What are indications that this pursuit is not going well in our culture?
2. What deeper quest did Jesus address (vv. 17-19) behind the confusion his disciples were feeling?  
What is the difference between happiness—reliant on happenings—and joy—sustained in spite of adversity? (See *James 1:2-4* and *12*.)
3. To what (vv. 20-22) did Jesus compare the anguish of his coming death and the subsequent elation and wonder of his resurrection?  
Pastor Josh compared the unquenchable joy that believers experience to reading a conflict-filled book, like Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings*, another time. What makes a second reading different?
4. For Jesus’ disciples, how (vv. 23-28) would praying be transformed once he had returned to the Father?
5. Praying to the heavenly Father in Jesus’ name implies what about . . .  
. . . the basis on which we may approach God directly?  
. . . our understanding of the things that Jesus “could sign off on”?  
. . . what kind of responses we are entitled to expect?
6. How should confidence about receiving what we’ve asked for make our joy complete?