Sermon Title: **“Sadness Turned to Joy”**

3-Fold Purpose: ***Love God, Love Others, Serve the World***

One Mission: ***Make Disciples***

4 Commitments:

***Shaped by the Word***

1. Read John 16:16-33. After reading this passage aloud, share with your life group something that stood out to you from the passage and/or Sunday’s sermon.
   1. On a scale of sadness to joy, where do you tend to fall? Why?
   2. During times of sadness, what is it that helps you move forward and gives you hope?
   3. Jesus states in vs. 24: “Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” Have you found that there is a correspondence between asking God and being filled with joy? Explain.

***Surrendered to His Will***

1. Your answer to question “c” above is at least in part contingent on your motivation for asking.
   1. What is it that typically drives your motivation for asking God for something? Is it driven more by a desire to be close to him or a desire to receive something from him? Discuss.
   2. In vv. 26-27, Jesus refers to our direct access to the Father “because you have loved me”. Our motivation for asking then should be out of love. How would you distinguish prayer that is motivated by love as opposed to selfishness?
   3. In the midst of the turmoil of life, where are you seeking your peace? Are you seeking peace in the struggle for security, solitude, success . . . or in surrender? Discuss.

***Connected to His Spirit***

1. In last week’s passage, Jesus promises his Spirit will “guide you into all the truth” (vs. 13); in this passage he promises to tell us “plainly about the Father” (vs. 25). Each promise is contingent upon the Holy Spirit’s presence.
   1. Share with your life group something that the Holy Spirit revealed to you this week through scripture or prayer?
   2. Share a time this week in which you experienced anxiety or turmoil. Did you find your peace through the Holy Spirit or did you seek for it elsewhere?
   3. If you were unable to answer questions “a” and “b” above, why do you think that is the case? Are you aware of what is hindering your connection to His Spirit?

***Building His Kingdom***

1. Jesus’ final words in chapter 16 are: “I have overcome the world.” What do these five words mean and how should they impact our perspective on life?
2. How should they impact our service for God and our relationships with other people?
3. Write a commitment for this week in the blanks below:

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Weekly Scripture Memory

*Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.* Psalm 126:6 (NIV)