

#### 4. God Causes The Source Of Our Pain To Become The Source Of Our Joy

John 16:21, NIV – (21) *A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world.*

Esther 9:22, NIV – “*their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration.*”

- ☐ A mother doesn't learn how to rejoice in the pain, she rejoices in the fruit of that pain
- ☐ No matter what you are going through right now, now matter what God has allowed, God will cause the fruit of your pain, to become the source of your joy

Psalms 30:11, NIV – “*You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.*”

#### 5. No One Can Take From Us, What God Gives Us

John 16:22, NIV – (22) *So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.*

- ☐ The test as to whether your joy is man-made, or sent from heaven, is if new circumstance can rob you of your joy
- ☐ God doesn't offer Jesus to you today, to take away your pain, so that you'll be happy, until the next painful circumstance comes your way
- ☐ God sends Jesus into the midst of your pain, to give you an opportunity to allow Him to turn the source of your pain into the source of your joy, a joy that will never fade, and never leave you

Jude 1:24-25, NIV – “*To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.*”

## THE ART OF LAMENTING

### # 3 – Joy Beyond The Lament

David Hibbert – April 11, 2004

- ☐ Easter is the day that all of the disciples worst fears were dispelled forever, and their greatest hopes were realized
- ☐ This Easter, let's do the same, let's let go of our all of our greatest fears, and to embrace, with new energy and resolve, our greatest hopes

John 16:16-22, NIV – (16) *“In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.” (17) Some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’, and ‘Because I am going to the Father’?” (18) They kept asking, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don't understand what he is saying.” (19) Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’? (20) I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn [lament] while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. (21) A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. (22) So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.*

#### FACING PAINFUL CIRCUMSTANCES

- ☐ There are many times in life, where we are forced to deal, not only with the despairing circumstances around us, but also with our own disillusionment and confusion

## 1. When God Allows Us To Lose Something, What We Gain Is Always Better

John 16:16-18, NIV – (16) *“In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”* (17) *Some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’, and ‘Because I am going to the Father’?”* (18) *They kept asking, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand what he is saying.”*

John 16:5-7; 13-14, NIV – (5) *Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, ‘where are you going?’* (6) *Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief.* (7) *But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.* (13) *But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.* (14) *He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.”*

- The disciples lost Jesus in the flesh, they lost their expectation of how the kingdom of God was going to be restored, but they gained something much better – His abiding presence through the Holy Spirit, with them 24 hours a day, for the rest of their lives
- We need to learn to look to God, in the midst of our pain, realizing that if God is allowing the pain, there’s something greater in store for us
- “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose”. – Jim Elliot, Missionary Martyr
- “God gives His very best to those who leave the choice up to Him”. – Hudson Taylor, Missionary Founder of China Inland Mission

## 2. When We Present Our Pain To God, God Will Always Offer Us Fresh Hope

John 16:19-20, NIV - (19) *Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’? (20) I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn [lament] while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.*

- God wants us to confess our pain to Him; He wants us to present it to Him, so He can minister to our pain

Psalm 30:5, NIV – “... weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.”

Psalm 30:11, NIV – “You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.”

## 3. God Never Condemns Our Emotions

- Our love, our compassion, our trust, our hope, all of our positive qualities would be meaningless without emotion
- God never rejects our emotions, He never says, “You shouldn’t feel that way”

Psalm 56:8, NIV – “You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your record?”

- Our emotions are so precious to God, that he records every struggle we face, every tear we shed, and He stores them into bottles, in heaven
- God will always work at bringing healing in the midst of our emotions