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JOHN 16:1-21

John Series

[PRAYER] Right now, Father, we open our hearts to you and we ask you to do some work deep inside there as we talk today about this particular area of our lives. We ask you to adjust our thinking and adjust our hearts so that we're following you and trusting you in everything that we do. Lord, bless us in the next few minutes as we open your word. In Jesus' name, amen.

Please open your Bibles to John 16. Today we're going to talk about a very specific need that we all have. We all have to deal with this in our lives. I want to make sure we understand what that is and how we're going to deal with it.

Every one of us experiences disappointment in our lives. How do you deal with disappointment? Because if you don't deal with it well, you're going to have a problem. This is like one of the basic things as Christians we need to understand how to deal with disappointment God's way. This passage is going to show us how to do that. I'm going to read through parts of this and then I want to explain to you how we're going to apply it to our lives.

Jesus is in the upper room, He's talking to His disciples, He's explaining to them about what is going to happen. He's going to be leaving and they don't understand. They are going to be disappointed. And how are they going to handle that disappointment?

He starts in verse 1. Notice He says, *"All this I have told you so that you will not fall away."*

In other words, I want to prepare you now for what's going to happen. There are some bad things that are going to happen and I want you to know what they are so you're not disappointed, so you're ready to handle it when you are disappointed, so you won't fall away.

Notice verse 2. *They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God.*

Disappointment is really important to know how to handle it. They have these expectations of who Christ is, what He's going to do, and it's not all going to happen the way they thought. Just like in your life and my life things don't happen exactly the way we expect.

Let's take something really small for a moment. Let's say you set an appointment with someone at Starbucks. You say, "I'm going to meet you there." You go to Starbucks and they don't show up. You're disappointed. You have to have a plan for doing that.

Let me give you another example. Let's say you see a sale on chocolate chip ice cream at ACME or something. You go there and you find out that it really isn't on sale or they don't have it, it's sold out. And then they're apologizing for it, but they don't have it. You're disappointed because you really like chocolate chip ice cream.

Those are just small examples of disappointment. But when you're disappointed you have to do something about it. If you don't handle the disappointment in the right way, even something like ice cream or someone didn't show up, then it moves into some other things. It can move quickly into anger. "What do you mean? You told me you were going to be there!" So you can get angry really quickly. "What do you mean? You told me you had ice cream on sale! What is this?" And so we go after those people. Right?

It can move quickly to anger or sometimes it moves to apathy. "I'm disappointed. I just don't even care anymore," some people say. Some people get disappointed and it just moves to this sense of despair. "I'm disappointed in my life. I don't like the way it's turned out. I don't know how to handle it so I'm upset about it."

I think we need to handle that well because most of the problems in our life don't come because of ice cream or somebody missing an appointment at Starbucks. The problems come in our lives when a relationship is a problem, a relationship didn't turn out the way we thought it would be.

If you follow me on Facebook or Twitter then you know that this last week I was at a very important meeting in Detroit where I was meeting with leaders from family ministries around the country. One of those was FamilyLife Today, the largest Christian organization strengthening families today. They've got a new book coming out. I'm real excited to look at it. It's called *The Good News About Marriage* and it's coming out on May 6th. So I'll be buying the book. I'll share more about it with you.

One of the things they're saying is the greatest enemy of marriage today is not divorce. The greatest enemy of marriage today is disappointment. There are some people who don't get divorced. They stay in a relationship, but they've given up because they're disappointed.

You've got to understand this idea of disappointment is so important. Jesus knows that, so He wants to prepare His disciples. He's saying, "Look. *All this I have told you so that you will not fall away.* I'm giving you this information, I'm sharing it with you so you won't fall away."

Now the word *fall away* is going to be an important word there. He wants to share all of these words with them for the future, not just now. So you need to know that the things I'm sharing with you now may not be for this moment because right now you may not be experiencing major disappointment in your life. But if you are, this is what you need right now. You want to set them aside. Just like Jesus is saying here, "*All this I have told you so that you will not fall away.*"

He's going to use the word 'remember' as we go down here. There are times when we experience problems in our lives that we did not expect and we need these words to help us understand how to process that. So Jesus is saying to them there's some unfair times coming for you. I want you to be ready for them so you won't fall away.

Falling away is bad and the reason it's bad is because when you fall away you're falling away or pulling yourself away from the source of strength that you need in order to manage this. You're falling away from the Lord.

Maybe you're disappointed with life. Maybe you're disappointed with Jesus. Maybe you're disappointed with the way things are turning out. When you start blaming God for those things then it's very easy to pull away from Him. That's a mistake. Jesus says, "I don't want you to fall away because when you do that, when you fall away, you pull yourself away from the solution, the source of the strength you're going to need."

The word *fall away* is an interesting word. It's the word 'offended.' We might even put that in here. *All this I have told you so that you will not be offended* when these bad things happen. When they think they're going to kill you, that they're offering service to God. It's the same word used in Matthew 15:12 when it says *the Pharisees were offended* by the way Jesus talked.

You don't want to be offended by disappointment. When the disappointment comes you want to be able to move with that and understand what the solution is. Part of that has to do with our expectations. We have unrealistic expectations. Maybe they're realistic expectations, but we still get disappointed because someone has done something or because life didn't happen the way that we thought. So we have to have a solution.

Now God is going to share some solutions in this passage for us that I think are going to be very helpful for us. I think if Jesus was here today and He was reading these verses, He might share it a little bit differently with us. He might say something like this: "I want you to understand the words that I'm saying here so that when you lose your job you won't be offended. So that when your child dies you won't be offended. So that when a drunk driver slams into your car you won't be offended. So that when your marriage becomes distressing you won't become offended, you won't fall away."

Now we're starting to talk about real stuff. Now we're starting to talk about things that affect each one of our lives. We need to have a plan for addressing those. Because we are all going to run up against brick walls at times in our lives. Things are going to happen. Likely this is very personal for some of you because as I'm talking you're thinking of a particular situation where you're disappointed right now. So you need to know what God's solution is for that so that you can get well, so that you can go on, so that you can be healed and move forward.

Let's go on to verse 3. Remember verse 2 says these guys are going to think they're killing you, they'll think they're offering a service to God. In other words, bad things are going to happen.

Verse 3: *They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember (that's the word – you want to remember these truths that we're going to share in this passage) that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, but now I am going to him who sent me.*

I want you to be ready. I want you to remember this, He's saying. You see Jesus Christ is going to die in the next twenty-four hours from this passage that's here. Some of the expectations that they had were that Christ is going to come set up a kingdom and now things aren't going to happen the way they thought. Their leader's going to be crucified. It's not exactly what they expected. How are they going to handle that? What are they going to do in order to make the adjustment?

I think we're going to see two words in this passage that are going to help us. One is that we grieve over the loss. It's not wrong to grieve over the loss that no ice cream's there or that the person didn't meet you at Starbucks or something much more significant. We grieve the loss, but then we embrace new truth and something happens.

I would suggest that every time we're disappointed, we must change. If we don't change then our heart becomes hard and bad things start happening inside of us.

Let's go on because Jesus is going to give us some advice here. He says, *None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' Rather, you are filled with grief.* Remember grieving. If you're disappointed that means you're grieving over something. Maybe a minor grieving because you don't have ice cream that you wanted or maybe it's a major grief because you've lost someone or lost something or lost a job or something along that line. *Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away.*

This is an important thing. He wants us to understand this. This is powerful and He's going to share with us now in this passage two pieces, two significant pieces of information. But I think when we're disappointed it's not information we need, although He's going to share this truth, because often we have to adjust our hearts to some new truth in order to move forward in our lives or we get trapped in the past. We have to be able to adjust and move forward. So it is truth that we're going to have.

But there are two relational things, and this is what's so beautiful about this passage. Jesus is going to say there are two things all about relationship that are going to help you grieve through the disappointments of your life so that you can move forward.

Look at what he says in the next verse. Verse 7: *Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.*

The Holy Spirit is a gift given to us by Jesus. When Christ left He sent the Holy Spirit to us. We need the Holy Spirit in tough times because the Holy Spirit comes inside of our heart and He does things inside of us. He helps us, He encourages us, He comforts us, He guides us into all truth. We're going to see those words are in this passage. He's going to take us to new pieces of information, new truths so that we can make the adjustments in our hearts so that we don't become hard inside or angry or bitter or whatever it might be.

But the emphasis, what I want you to see in this passage is when the Holy Spirit comes in the Holy Spirit does something through us to minister to the world. Other people are watching you when you're disappointed. People who are not believers are watching you when you're

disappointed to see how you're going to handle life situations. Jesus is saying that to His disciples. Bad things are going to happen and people are watching you and good things are going to come out of that.

Let's go on. I just want to share with you where we're headed and then I want to read the verses. Notice it says (I'm going to read the verse again out of verse 7), *Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.*

Verse 8: *When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment.*

We're going to elaborate on those in a minute, but notice the idea is the Holy Spirit comes where? Back there He says He comes to you – *I will send him to you* – at the end of verse 7. So He's saying the Holy Spirit's going to come into your life and a result of being in your life, He's going to convict the world of these three things: sin, righteousness, and judgment. It's expedient. That's the word good. It's expedient that I go away so that I can send the Holy Spirit to you.

This is a personal person who comes in and helps us manage the challenges we face. Especially in disappointing times. We can expand it beyond that, but He's talking to the disciples about their expectations so they aren't offended. I'm trying to make the same application to our lives as well.

Let me read the verse as He amplifies them about these three things, sin, righteousness, and judgment. *About sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.*

So the Advocate, who is the Holy Spirit, will come. He's going to be an integral part of the plan and Jesus wants His disciples to know it. Because when life hits a brick wall and bad things happen, we need something to help us move past where we are to where we need to be. The Holy Spirit is that guide that takes us to that new place in our heart that God wants us to be. So we can release whatever it was, the expectation, the hope, the dream that we had and we can move forward to where God wants us to be in our lives. Life has unexpected turns. We need to be able to deal with it.

Now notice there that the Holy Spirit is referred to in the masculine sense. It says *he*. Do you see the word there? *He* will do this. There are three genders in English and there are three genders in Greek. Just the same in this case. He, she, or it. It doesn't say 'it' because the Holy Spirit is not a power or a force. He's a person. It's a relational person. He walks with you, He guides you, and we see that emphasized here who He is in that particular way.

Part of the work that He does is He convicts the world and He does it through believers' lives as they are demonstrating their response to God in the midst of disappointment or other kinds of situations.

Now the word ‘convict,’ which is used in the King James Version, is the word ‘to convince in a courtroom.’ He’s going to prove the world wrong in these three areas, sin, righteousness, judgment. So there’s this sense of convincing of them. Again, I just want to say this because He sends the Holy Spirit to you, disciples, so that the world may be convicted of these things. So the world is going to see it through us when we’re responding in the right way to the challenges.

Let’s look at those three words, sin, righteousness, and judgment. Notice the word *sin* is singular. Theologically you need to understand that sin is what we have in our heart and it results in actions that come out, sins. When Jesus Christ died on the cross He died for our sins, but He really died for sin, the problem we have in our heart.

We have this sin in our heart or this sin nature that is a magnetic pull toward doing actions that are sins or the wrong thing. When God comes into our lives He provides the Holy Spirit that empowers us then to overcome that magnetic pull and do the right thing. So now we can choose to do what’s right by the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and that magnetic pull towards sin then is overcome. It’s like when an airplane takes off, the pull of gravity is overcome by another force so the plane can rise into the air. The same thing is true here with the Holy Spirit. He empowers us when He comes into our lives.

If you look at the verse notice it says He convicts the world of sin because *people do not believe in me*. Here’s the thing. When people look at you disciples, Jesus is saying, they’re going to be convicted in their hearts because you’re responding in the right way to these life situations. They’re going to be convicted in their hearts that they have sin and they need to believe in Jesus.

That’s what’s going to happen in your life. People are going to look at you and say, “Wow. You’ve experienced a really difficult thing in your life. Oh I can’t believe it. I can’t imagine.” Some of the things I hear that you guys or others have experienced, I’m saying I can’t imagine what that would be like to be in that difficult situation, how painful that would be. As you respond to that through God’s grace, God opens the door for other people to say, “I really want that.”

If you’re here today and you’ve never accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you want that. You want Jesus Christ reigning in your heart. You want Him inside of you because He’s the one who helps you deal with disappointment. He helps you with all kinds of disappointment, but it’s the small disappointments of someone not meeting you at Starbucks or someone not providing the ice cream that you want or not picking up their underwear during the day, or whatever it is they’re supposed to do – those are the things that make us mad, right?

The Holy Spirit helps us in the small things in life, not just the big things. For sin. Sin is singular. We need to be able to deal with that.

Righteousness – because people start seeing there’s a right and a wrong. I tell kids, “Inside your heart there is a right and a wrong. You know you’re doing the right thing, you need to do that.” As Za’here was saying to me during worship, “I’m doing the right thing at school. I’m doing better at school.” I’m saying, “Great! He’s doing the right thing.” Here he’s in worship and he’s

just being reminded there's a right and a wrong. Very important for us to know that there's righteousness in life.

And judgment. There's a judgment that's coming. We need to know all about that. It's not just about the conscience. Not just about the conscience feeling good about something.

In 1 Corinthians 4:4 it says this: *My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.*

So just because you feel good about something doesn't make it right. You might feel very good about telling somebody off and getting even with them or something like that. It doesn't make it right. Just because you feel good about it in your heart doesn't make it the right thing. It's God who's the one who judges us.

The Holy Spirit works through us, especially when we hit brick wall kind of situations, to convict the world. The world is watching this. It means you have truth. It means you can say to someone, "Look, you're sleeping with your girlfriend. That's wrong." There is a right and wrong. You're getting drunk, you're abusing drugs; that's wrong. You can say that because there is a right and wrong.

The real issue though isn't people's behavior; it's what's going on inside their hearts. Because someone doesn't change on the inside, we're not just trying to get people sober and free from drugs. That's not our goal. We're trying to help them get free on the inside to deal with the sin problem that they have. So being able to address that, that real issue of salvation, is strategic.

The power that we receive with the Holy Spirit working in our lives is very important. Jesus is saying if I go away, this is expedient, this is good for you because the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, is going to come and work in you.

This is the first of two of the benefits that come to us so that we can handle disappointments in life. This is very important, I think. It's important for my life too because it's the disappointments that happen in our lives that get us off track. That's when we start making mistakes. We start yelling at people or we start making decisions that are wrong. We've got self-pity or all kinds of things because we are not handling this disappointment correctly. So Jesus is saying, "I want you guys to know this is really important."

We're going to get to the second one a few verses down. But we have some verses to cover before we get there.

Let's go to verse 12. Jesus says to them, "*I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.*" Well that's interesting. What Jesus is saying is I give out information to you only that you can handle right now.

I really appreciate that about the Lord that He doesn't tell me everything right now. It would be overwhelming for us to know that information. So one of the things we know is He's saying, "I'm only giving you what you can know right now. I can't tell you everything because you

wouldn't be able to bear it." Wow. God only gives us what we can handle at that particular moment.

1 Corinthians 10:13 is the verse that's going to appear in the next song that we sing. There's a point in the song where just the verse shows up. This verse is saying something similar to what Jesus is saying. I can't share everything right now because you wouldn't be able to bear it. Notice what Paul is saying. He's saying *God is faithful; he will not let you to be tempted beyond what you can bear*. There is no problem that you will experience in your life, no disappointment, no brick wall that you will experience in your life that you can't bear. God will not allow something to come into your life that you can't handle at any given time.

It's like when we teach children about sex. We want them to know about the information so that they'll be prepared to handle the values and what's going on, but we don't share it too early or they'll get freaked out. Right? God knows for us when we can accept the information. God knows what we need, what we can handle, and He only gives us what we can bear.

Let's go to verse 13. *But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes* (this is the Advocate, this is the Holy Spirit talked about here), *he will [do what? He will] guide you into all the 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.*

Here's what happens. Jesus is saying to His disciples bad things are going to happen. They're going to throw you into prison and they're going to think that they're doing something good by killing you. They think they're serving God by killing you. That's what they're going to think. Bad things are going to happen. I don't want you to be surprised. I don't want you to be offended. I want you to be ready for that. I'm sending the Holy Spirit into the world when I leave and He's going to help address this and the Holy Spirit is going to guide you into all truth.

Because here's what happens. Every time we're disappointed, we must change. If we don't change, the heart becomes hard. We must embrace that new truth and we must move to a new value. We have to grieve over what we lost, but we have to move on. If we don't move on to this new truth, we are going to be lost and bad things will happen in our hearts. We'll be stuck in the past, we'll be stagnant, we'll be apathetic, we'll lose hope, we'll get angry, we'll get bitter. Those are the bad things that happen with disappointment if you don't have it. It starts at the pathway of disappointment. How are we handling the disappointment?

The Holy Spirit's there to say, "Come on. I'm going to take you down this path to some new truth you're going to have to change. Life is going to have to be different for you." You're going to have to take this new piece of information because there's no chocolate chip ice cream. You're going to have to forget the chocolate chip ice cream today. Or here's something that's happened in your life. You're going to have to adjust and make changes. So the Holy Spirit is the one who takes us through there. When He, the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all truth.

Verse 14: *He* (that is, the Holy Spirit) *will glorify me* (that's Jesus) *because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.*

So we have this dynamic between the Trinity that's kind of interesting here. As Jesus is explaining it to us, He's saying the Father gives the information to Jesus, Jesus gives it to the Holy Spirit, and the job of the Holy Spirit is to exalt Jesus, and Jesus' job is to exalt the Father. That becomes helpful for us if we start overemphasizing the role of the Holy Spirit. If we're just having Holy Spirit meetings, there's some good emphasized in that where we're trying to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. Today we're actually emphasizing the Holy Spirit.

There were a couple churches in town. One was having a Holy Spirit meeting and another having a Jesus meeting. I want you to know the Holy Spirit would show up at the Jesus meeting because that's what's important. The Holy Spirit's job is to amplify Jesus and that's what it's saying in these verses.

Verse 16: *Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."*

Now the words *in a little while* are going to be used six times. We're going to see here that those words *in a little while* mean something different to Jesus than they mean to us. I don't think we get it sometimes and we don't realize what *in a little while* means when it comes to Christ.

Now when He's saying *in a little while you will see me and then after a little while you're not going to see me again*, He's referring to the fact that He's going to be crucified. They're going to see Him, He's going to go away, they're not going to see Him. Then He's going to come back in the resurrection and He's going to go and ascend to the Father and then He's going to come back a second time. So that's what all this *in a little while you're going to see me and not see me*. But it takes over a long period of time and the disciples don't understand this whole thing.

I would suggest that sometimes we don't understand this *little while* because for us a little while is much shorter than the little while that God has. In fact, let me show you some verses. I just want to park on this for a moment because I think we get frustrated with *a little while*. We get challenged by it.

In Hebrews 10 it says, *You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For, "In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay."*

Christ is coming back. Two thousand years after that verse were written and He hasn't come back yet, but He's coming back in a little while. That's a long little while in my mind.

If we look at another verse in 1 Peter 1:6 it says, *In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.*

We look in the Bible and we see people like Joseph who suffered a trial for twenty years and you look at some of the problems and you're going, "A little while? That's not a little while to me."

I think we're drawn to this idea that in 2 Peter when Peter says, *But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.*

Sometimes when we go through problems and we say, "Lord, I want to get rid of this," and we start throwing things in God's suggestion box and we say, "Hey Lord, would you do this and would you do that?" I think these words here *a little while* are designed to give us some eternal perspective. Because we're in a path. If we can understand that the eternal perspective is helpful, it will help us to deal with some of the challenges we face right now.

Verse 17: *At this, 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'?" They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'?" (So we're not the only ones who have a problem here.) We don't understand what he is saying."*

They're wondering the same thing. I want you to see how Jesus cares for them because they have a question. They have a question about this problem that they're facing or they're wondering about where he's going and a little while.

Notice it says in the next verse, verse 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'?"*

Here's what I want to say. Jesus knew their question. Do you see that? He *saw*. He perceived that they wanted to ask Him about this. They didn't come and ask Him, He perceived it. He knew the question before they asked.

I think we have questions about life. "Lord, why so long? Why did this happen?" I don't know that we'll ever find out the whys sometimes, but God knows our questions even before we ask.

Notice Jesus isn't frustrated with the disciples. "Where are you guys? Don't you guys get it?" No, He doesn't do that. He's very gracious with them and He cares for them in the whole midst of this. I just like the way that happens.

Verse 20: *Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.*

This grief that He's talking about is this grieving that takes place because of the pain that comes into life situations. You're going to grieve.

But He says *your grief will turn to joy*. This isn't the idea of I'm going to take the grief away and give you joy instead. That's not what He's saying. He's saying the *grief will turn into joy*. The same thing that's causing you grief can be a source of joy in your life. That may be really hard to understand if you're disappointed with something, but that's what He's saying here.

He compares it in verse 21 to the birthing process when a woman gives birth to a child. Verse 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.*

I think that's a mild description of the process. I'm sure this is a very painful thing for all you women to experience, but I can imagine you saying, "Quit telling me to breathe! Just get this thing out of me!" The experience is always more dramatic in the midst of the pain, just like it is in your and my life.

You may have experienced some disappointment at some time in your life and that pain is real and painful and hard. But it doesn't say in this case they're going to take away the sorrow and give you joy instead. He says you're going to transform that painful experience into joy and God can use that in an interesting way. It's interesting how God does that.

You have to ask a very important question. I think the hardest disappointments aren't the one-time things where you didn't meet me at Starbucks and I'm disappointed kind of thing. It's where you have to live with the disappointment every day of your life because it's not working out the way you'd expected. So you live with the constant disappointment and you have to reorient your heart to be a servant in that situation.

What you leave is the dream of having it a certain way. That's what you have to leave, the dream of being this way – now I've got to move over here to a whole other situation. We've got to change what we believe, adjust to some new truth, give up the dream. We've got to grieve over the loss of that dream and we're going to embrace this new truth. It often happens in the middle of that weakness.

Paul says it this way in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10: *I was given a thorn in my flesh (we don't know exactly what that is, but some disappointing thing in his life), a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. "God, would you take this away? I want it to go back to the way it was. Change this back!" But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Paul is saying something very important here that I think we need to hear. And that is instead of saying I want it all to change, I want to get rid of it, I want it to go back the way it was, we need to say there's something in this, something in this disappointment that I need to take that God wants to bring. Change, orient my thinking. He wants to bring joy into my life because He's worked through His grace through the weakness or through the difficulty or whatever word you want to put. He's given us a lot of choices. Choose whatever one you want. But when that happens then God does this work inside of our hearts.

Man, this is really something. I think this is not an easy thing for us. And it's not just big things in our lives; it's the small things that happen every day in our lives that need to be adjusted so that we can move forward.

Well I'm going to stop here today. I want to continue this subject next week. It's just so important I don't want to rush through it.

I think handling disappointments in our lives is very strategic. And if we don't handle them well, the way God has designed for us to handle them, we get ourselves into problems that last a long time.

If you're finding yourself in a disappointing situation, now's the time, I would suggest, to recommit yourself to the Lord in this area of your life. "God, I do not know what to do in this disappointment. I do not know how to handle this, but I want you to do something." Maybe God will change something, maybe He won't. We don't know. Sometimes God does that. Sometimes He resurrects things. But sometimes, like Paul, His grace is sufficient and He does something in the midst of that to bless us and care for us. I trust God will use that in your life.

Next week we're going to pick up right here and talk more about the other thing. He's going to give us a second thing in the passage, a relational thing that's going to help us deal with disappointments.

It's hard. Disappointments are so hard. It's not just about getting truth; it's about also the relationship that's provided for us in order to carry this through in different areas.

I would encourage you to think about that. If the Lord is speaking to your heart today then as we sing this next song use it as a time to reflect on what Jesus has done for you and maybe what He wants to do going forward, not just what He's done in the past, but what He wants to do right now in your relationship with Him as you move forward.

I'm going to pray and then we're going to sing this next worship song.

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, speak to our hearts now. I ask that you would work through the disappointments of our lives to teach us, to lead us. Help us to be the people you want us to be. Lord, rescue us from the pain of hurt hearts that result in anger or apathy or despair. Teach us how to respond well to the disappointments of life. We sacrifice our hearts to you in that regard. In Jesus' name, amen.