

John 16:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart.

Analysis

Sorrow hath filled your heart (ἡ λύπη πεπλήρωκεν ὑμῶν τὴν καρδίαν, hē lypē peplērōken hymōn tēn kardian)—the perfect tense of plēroō (to fill) indicates a completed state: grief has completely saturated their hearts. The word lypē denotes pain, grief, and sorrow. Jesus diagnoses their condition with pastoral precision before offering the remedy (verse 7's promise of the Spirit).

The disciples' sorrow, while understandable, revealed their limited perspective. They mourned Jesus's departure without yet grasping that His 'going away' was necessary for the Spirit's coming (verse 7). Human grief, even over seemingly spiritual losses, can blind us to divine necessity. Christ's gentleness here is remarkable—He doesn't rebuke their sorrow, but seeks to transform it through fuller understanding of His purposes.

Historical Context

The disciples faced the unthinkable: their Messiah announcing His imminent departure after only three years of ministry. For Jews expecting a conquering Davidic king to restore Israel's kingdom, Jesus's talk of 'going away' contradicted all messianic expectations. Their grief was compounded by confusion, fear, and the collapse of their political and eschatological hopes.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What 'losses' in your spiritual life might actually be divine preparations for something better?
2. How does your grief over circumstances sometimes prevent you from seeing God's larger purposes?
3. In what ways is the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence 'better' than Jesus's physical presence would be?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλ' ὅτι ταῦτα λελάληκα ὑμῖν ἡ λύπη
But because these things I have said unto you sorrow
G235 G3754 G5023 G2980 G5213 G3588 G3077

πεπλήρωκεν ὑμῶν τὴν καρδίαν
hath filled your heart
G4137 G5216 G3588 G2588

Additional Cross-References

John 14:1 (Parallel theme): Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

Luke 24:17 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

Luke 22:45 (Parallel theme): And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow,

