I. INTRO:

A. Aryanna Caligiuri - Edge(cross cultural studies); El Disneo(gathering place, art gallery)

B. Prayer: Job 26:14 Indeed these are the mere edges/fringes of His(God's) ways, And how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?

C. How do you brace yourself to face life without the one you love? How can sorrow really be turned into joy? If we’re promised tribulation, how can we be of good cheer?

1. Let’s find 4 words to hang our Hopes on: Joy, Love, Faith, Peace.
   a) Sorrow to Joy; Access from Love; Knowledge to Faith; Tribulation to Peace.

2. Hope - A man approached a little league baseball game one afternoon. He asked a boy in the dugout what the score was. The boy responded, “18 to nothing, we’re behind.” “Boy,” said the spectator, “I’ll bet you’re discouraged.” “Why should I be discouraged?” replied the little boy. “We haven’t even gotten up to bat yet!”

II. 4 WORDS ON WHICH TO HANG YOUR HOPES!

A. SORROW TO JOY! (16-24)

B. Explanation Overview:
   “You won’t see me anymore” - refers to his death, which will bring about great grief.
   “You will see me again” - refers to his resurrection, which will bring about great joy.

C. Example: To illus how their sorrow will turn to joy, Jesus refers to a woman giving birth.

D. (19) They had talked the matter over among themselves w/o consulting or asking Him.
   1. Wow, how often do we do that? - Yet still, He knows, He is aware, He cares.

E. (20) The Lord does not replace our sorrow with joy; He transforms our sorrow into joy!
   1. The same baby that gives the mother pain also brings her joy.

F. (21) Some of you might take the as soon as to task! But “soon” you do get over it...otherwise mommy’s wouldn’t ever have a second child!

G. (22) He wants to clarify that this isn’t the end of their relationship.
   1. Just as a violent thunderstorm turns the desert into a bed of wildflowers, so the sorrowful storm to pass over the disciples would bloom joy in abundance.
   2. But this flower has deeper roots (read 23,24).
a) It isn’t like some flowers, here today, gone tomorrow. It is permanent & complete, a fully blossomed flower.

3. Ps.30:5b Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.

H. (23) In that day you will ask Me nothing - What day? Why nothing?
1. In that day probably refers to the day when the Spirit would come and begin His ministry among them.¹
2. While Christ was on earth, the disciples were accustomed to taking their questions & needs to Him personally.
3. When Christ returned to heaven, He sent the Spirit to assist them in their praying (Rom. 8:26–27), & instructed them to pray to the Father personally.
4. Bible prayer is to the Father, through the Son, in the Spirit.
   a) It will not be necessary for Christ to beg the Father on our behalf (26) because the Father is willing to answer our requests (27).

I. (24) Among those who served in the court of Alexander the Great was a famous philosopher who had outstanding ability but little money. He asked Alexander for financial help and was told he could draw whatever cash he needed from the imperial treasury. When he submitted to the treasurer a request for an amount equal to $50,000, he was promptly refused. The treasurer had to verify that such a large sum was indeed authorized. But when he asked Alexander, the ruler replied, “Pay the money at once. The philosopher has done me a singular honor: By the largeness of his request he shows that he has understood both my wealth and generosity.”
1. Be Large in your request: for your own personal generosity towards others; to live the missional life (missionary lifestyle); for your own character transformation; to encounter God daily; to grow a merciful heart towards others. Pray Large!

J. C. S. Lewis: Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink & sex and ambition, when infinite joy is offered to us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in the slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

K. ACCESS TO LOVE! (25-29)
L. (26,27) The coming new day would give the disciples direct personal intimate access to the Father through Jesus.  
1. Jesus would no longer need to pray on-their-behalf, they could ask for themselves
   a) This truth doesn’t negate the promise of Christ’s intercessory work.

¹ Warren Wiersbe; Outlines of the NT; Jn.16:23.
2. The disciples were now in a personal love-and-faith relationship with the Father. Only children have this privilege of access to their Father.
   a) Wow, someone up there likes me! - Being assured of God’s love does wonders to keep us going. It keep us mentally/emotionally/spiritually whole.
   b) It’s spiritual adrenaline. It supplies us with reserves of encouragement.

M. (28) Jesus summarized His mission in one sentence:
   His Incarnation (I came forth from the Father),
   His Humiliation (and have come into the world), and
   His Res, Ascension, & Exaltation (again I leave the world and go to the Father)

N. KNOWLEDGE TO FAITH! (30,31)

O. Faith & knowledge are connected throughout Scripture.
   1. Our faith in the Lord directly influences our growth in knowledge.

P. TRIBULATION TO PEACE! (32,33)

Q. (32) What does that mean for you & I when those closest to us abandon us in our greatest time of need? - We are not alone!

R. (33) The Bad news & the Glad news! [2 opposing spheres, in which they/we live!]

S. You will have tribulation!
   1. Mosquitos are said to bite strangers more than natives.

T. The believers 2-fold Life: In Christ & in the world.
   The believers 2-fold Experience: In Christ peace; & in the World tribulation.
   The believers 2-fold Secret: The Fact, I have overcome & the Feeling, be of good cheer.²

U. I have overcome the world - Really? I look around and...really? Overcome what?
   1. Victory over a moral & spiritual world of evil. When you & I see through the external to the internal & spiritual, we recognize Jesus as the greatest conqueror in history. I have overcome this present world-system!
      a) He overcame the world’s flatteries [from satan(if you’re the Son of God...), or men (when they were going to take Him by force to make Him king, Jn.6:15)]
      b) He overcame the world’s hostilities (all they could get from him in the end was “Father forgive them...”)

² Griffith Thomas; John; pg. 218.
c) He overcame the world’s principles (principles like...never using His power for selfish ends; or modify His message to avoid opposition)

d) He overcame the world’s prince (From the wilderness to the final wrestle in Gethsemane, “the prince of this world has nothing in Me”...Lucifer had met his waterloo!)

2. Who comes to mind of one who conquered the world? Alexander the Great.
   a) Yet, he died prematurely, in a drunken state of debauchery.
      (1) Alex was overcome by the world!
   b) The true victor & hero is the man who overcomes the world within himself.
      (1) How are you doing with the world charming you?
          With its self-seeking? With its prejudices? With its evil genius?

3. Satan has usurped a temporarily permitted power over men, & has organized the world of mankind upon the principles of force, greed, selfishness, ambition, & pleasure.
   a) He has organized it so as to push God out, & to keep men’s minds chained for mundane things. The world is anything that shuts God out.

V. In the next few hours, the disciples would watch their world fall apart, & yet Jesus assured them that He was the winner!

1. I have overcome the world is a fact, not a promise. (note: have, not will)
   a) The force of this verb indicates a continuing victory!

2. It also applies to us today,(1 Jn.5:4,5) for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. [We are overcomers through Him]

3. Q: Is your world coming apart at the seams?
   Remember, you win (By obtaining: His Joy, His Love, His Faith, His Peace.) He wins (Having obtained the Victory!)

If God made your cup sweet…drink it w/Grace.
If God made your cup bitter…drink it in communion w/Him.

As a third-century man was anticipating death, he penned these last words to a friend: “It’s a bad world, an incredibly bad world. But I have discovered in the midst of it a quiet and holy people who have learned a great secret. They have found a joy which is a thousand times better than any pleasure of our sinful life. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They are masters of their souls. They have overcome the world. These people are the Christians—and I am one of them.”