

“Take courage: I have overcome the world!”

John 16.25-33

In John 16.25, Jesus’ time with His disciples is coming to an end. These are His final exhortations, and every word matters. They must know that when He is gone, they aren’t alone. Their faith still needs to grow. They must be courageous in the world. *And He has overcome the world!*

A Coming Day of Intimacy and Understanding (25-28)

After the resurrection Jesus spoke plainly (Lk. 24.27; Acts 1.3)

The veil is torn; access to God is immediate (Mt. 27.51; Heb. 4.14-16)

Jesus returns to the Father, the Spirit comes (Jn. 14.16-17, 25-26; 15.26)

Developing Faith – but it still needs to grow (29-32)

Disciples: “OK, Lord, we’ve got it! We believe!”

Jesus: “Oh, so NOW you believe?!!”

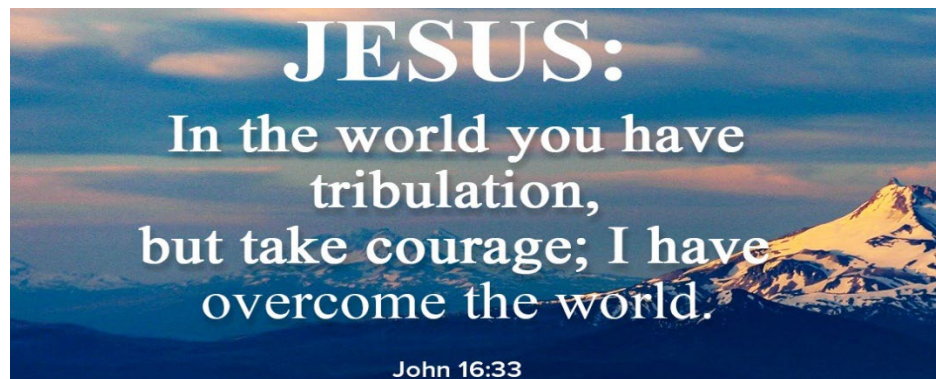
Jesus: “You’re still weak...learn from Me.”

Courage brings Peace and Victory (33)

Reality: In the world...you have...tribulation

Promise: In Me...you may have...peace

Why? “I have overcome the world!”



1. Last words are important words, and these are Jesus’ last prepared words to His disciples before His crucifixion. What final messages does He communicate to His disciples in John 16.25-33? In verses 25-28, He forecasts a day when His followers will have intimacy and openness with God greater than they’ve ever known. When will this time be? How will Jesus speak plainly to them? What role will the Holy Spirit have in this?
2. John 16.28 nicely summarizes Jesus’ entire mission to the world: He came from the Father into the world, and He is leaving the world to return to the Father. Why did Christ have to come to the world (that is, become human)? After completing His work (dying on the cross for the sins of mankind), why is His return to heaven (resurrection and ascension) so important? What does it show about the Father’s view of the Son’s saving work? Jesus is “the Word”: Consider how His ministry shows the power of God (see Isaiah 55.10-11).
3. In John 16.29-30, the disciples enthusiastically state that they *now* know that Jesus knows all things, and they believe He came from God. What does Jesus’ terse reply in v31 seem to imply? Their faith has grown during three years with Jesus, but what will the coming hours (v32a) reveal? What makes faith grow strong? Why did Jesus say that while they would leave Him alone, He wouldn’t be alone? What is He indicating can be true for each of them? How does this apply to our lives?
4. In v33, there is a contrast between what life will be like for disciples *in the world*, and what it can be ‘in Christ’. They’ll have tribulation, but despite that, Jesus says they can have “peace” (the Greek word, εἰρήνη (*eirēnē*), describes ‘tranquility, freedom from worry’). What spiritual reality enables Christians to experience that?
5. Contrast the disciples’ fear on this night, with their fearlessness just a few weeks later (recorded in the early chapters of Acts). What has changed? What have they seen and heard? *Who* have they received? Do we have all these advantages today? Are you ‘fearless’?