

Take Heart - John 16:25-33
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

This week we jump into Travis Dierker's favorite passage. John 16 is part of a very large section of the Gospel of John (chapters 13-17) as Jesus' best friend shares the communication Jesus had with His Disciples on the last night before going to the cross. The other Gospel accounts point us to the events of the evening as Jesus redefined the celebration of the Passover and gave His people the Lord's Supper. But John focuses on the dialogue between Jesus and His guys as He prepares them for the events of the next few days and their mission to the world afterward. It is a fabulous section of Scripture, well worth you read this week. Our text this morning are the very final words Jesus will share with these guys, the culmination of the instruction given on that night. Jesus will end with a prayer over His followers (chapter 17) and then they will leave the room, going out to Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

Of course, Jesus' teaching since He began His ministry with these men three years earlier He had been telling them how the story would end, with multiple references to the cross and numerous stories revealing the end game. He had to go to the cross as a ransom for our sin and to rescue all of creation. Yet, these men never understood the purpose of Jesus' mission nor the glory of God on display through Him. A major reason for this is that they expected Jesus to be like other kings, just greater. He would rule by conquering and taking names. They could not fathom the seat on a cross being Jesus' throne and His death being a coronation. So Jesus opens this section by telling them that He has been using figures of speech, its because they just can't, and won't understand the full meaning of His teaching until after the first Easter morning. But He does confirm His purpose and love for them as well as the love of the Father for the Disciples. Verse 28, then reveals the culmination of the Father's love for us as Jesus shares once again, in shorthand the entire Gospel. The Father sent Jesus into the world, becoming fully human with us. If you had read all of John you would have come across several passages where Jesus shares that the Father sent Him with an explanation of His purpose in the world. But now it is time for the Passion events that include his suffering, death, resurrection, and then His ascension back to the Father. Of course, He has also told them that His departure, which seems awful for them is for their ultimate good because the Father and Son will send the Holy Spirit to be a close and inner presence of the True and Living God in the lives of all of His followers.

Of course they respond with a statement of belief, "Oh, we get it now, and we believe in you." On one hand, they had been with Jesus the whole time, seeing His miracles and trusting in His call to them. On the other hand, the next 12 hours will test this resolve and they will all fail. Peter almost gets Jesus and these boys in a brawl at Jesus' arrest, then they all scatter and ditch Jesus. Peter and John sneak into the courtyard where the trial takes place, and from that location Peter denies knowing Jesus three times going as far as cursing Jesus, the equivalent of saying, "I don't know that blankety blank guy." The whole crew then falls into a despair, but they are no shows on the day of Jesus' crucifixion, leaving Him totally alone on the cross. Yet, Jesus is not alone because His Father is with Him there, as the Father is with us in all of our trials here.

Jesus then ends with his final statement, yet the one that should shape us as we live for Christ in this world. We will have tribulation, this is both part of life and following Jesus. We do live in a hard world, and suffering is part of the journey. Beyond that, as followers of Jesus we do live in a world that will protect its power and therefore will see the cross of Christ as a problem and will reject those who truly cling to Christ as enemies. Yet, Jesus tells us to take heart, He has overcome the world. These words, simply put, are the key to victorious Christian living.

So take note of a couple important things in verse 33. First, Jesus tells them to take

heart. I love how Travis puts this, to live with confidence and courage. Second, notice Jesus does not tell them to take heart because they have overcome the world, they should take heart because “I have overcome the world.” The word overcome is the Greek word *nike* (yes, the shoe company got their name from this word) meaning to be victorious, prevail, to win. Jesus is claiming victory over all things in the world, and His resurrection and ascension will vindicate this claim. Furthermore, it is a guarantee that the mission of the church in the spreading of the Gospel and planting new churches around the world cannot fail! But that victory is not found in our efforts, energy, faithfulness, or success. These Disciples are proof, they leave the room and fail immediately, and we fail too. No, our victory is in Christ who has overcome the world. So live boldly for Christ, you can't lose!

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Genesis 28	Genesis 29	Genesis 30	Genesis 31	Genesis 32	Genesis 33	Genesis 34

Reading from this past week: John 6:22-40

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Micah 6:6-8

Family Worship

Song - *Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor*

<https://youtu.be/WDsh4sqRXOA>

Gospel Project

Story: Running the Race

Story Point: Following Jesus is like running a race for a wonderful prize.

Big Picture Question: What is sanctification?

Answer: Sanctification is the process of becoming more like Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture: Philippians 3

New City Catechism

Question #26: What else does Christ's death redeem?

Answer: Every part of fallen creation.

Verse: Colossians 1:19-20

Scripture

John 16:25-33

- Imagine you are in this room with the Disciples. What fears and questions would you have for Him?
- Why is it important to remember that our hope is in Jesus' victory and not in our own?
- How can focusing our lives on Jesus' victory over the world give us courage and confidence as we face our own trials and hardships?

Prayer

*Pray that God would help us live each day taking heart knowing Jesus has overcome the world.

*Pray for Nick & Lorraine Mosca, our missionaries with Samaritan Aviation. Pray for their family and for Nick's work as a pilot and mechanic as they work to rescue people needing desperate medical care.