

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe A World of Trouble and the God Who Overcomes

John 16:25-33

Sunday, October 8, 2017

Introduction

Have you ever found there to be a difference between what you say you believe about difficult times and how you respond when life gets hard? The reality is often it is difficult to take what we say we believe and apply it to life when the pressure is on.

As we have followed this conversation over the last three chapters there has been one overarching goal – Jesus wants His disciples to be able respond with hope and faith in the midst of difficulty (John 14:1; 16:33)

This passage is a reminder of the hope and peace that we have in Jesus, but it is also a reminder of how hard it can be to live out our faith in the midst of difficult times.

A Time of Clarity is Coming (vs. 25)

• The Manner of Jesus’s Teaching

One thing that has always been true of Jesus’s teaching is that it was hard to understand. He often spoke using parables, metaphors and illustrations. And, on top of that, the things He was talking about were often far beyond what His hearers could comprehend (Mark 9:31-32)

But now Jesus tells His disciples that they have something to look forward to – A time is coming when He is going to tell them plainly about the Father.

• The Time of “Plain Teaching”

The ‘hour’ that Jesus is referring to is probably bigger than any one moment. We know that after the resurrection the disciples would have the ability to see things in much different light. In addition we are told that after the cross Jesus had time to teach His disciples more fully (Luke 24:44-49)

In addition to the these things, we know that Jesus has promised that the Holy Spirit would come and be a teacher to the disciples on behalf of Jesus (John 16:12-15).

A Preview of Jesus’s ‘Plain’ Teaching on the Father (vs. 26-28)

• The Gift of Access to the Father (vs. 26-27a)

Because of the work of Jesus on the cross we access to God the Father in a way that wasn’t possible prior to the cross. Jesus wants the disciples to know that He doesn’t prevent access to the Father, instead He it is through Him that we are brought near.

Application: As we consider the difficulties of life this should be a source of incredible hope and comfort – we have the ability to go to God Almighty in prayer. We have been granted access through Christ.

• The Love of the Father for His Children (vs. 27)

While the Scriptures tell us that God loves all people, it is also clear that He has a special love for His children (1 John 3:1; 4:9-11; Romans 5:8; Eph. 2:4-5).

Application: While life can be unbelievably hard, this should be a truth that we cling to: We are loved by God. While so many things in our lives are uncertain we can always have the surety that we are loved and cared for by our Father.

• The Relationship of the Father to the Mission of Jesus (vs. 28)

Jesus makes it abundantly clear that everthing that He has done has been in connection with God the Father. This verse also serves as another teaching to the disciples of why He was going away and where He was going.

The Disciples’ Declaration of Faith (vs. 29-30)

After hearing all that Jesus said the disciples were ready to make their faith known. In this moment they were more aware of who Jesus was and wanted Him to know that they believed.

The Disciples’ Faith Under Pressure (vs. 31-32)

While the disciples declared their faith with confidence, Jesus knew that their faith would have moments of weakness. He wants them to know that very soon they will waiver in their faith and they will abandon Him.

A Final Word of Hope (vs. 33)

- The goal of all that Jesus has said is that we may have peace in Him
- Jesus makes this clear – our world is hard – will face trouble. But even in a world of trouble, we can have hope – He has overcome the world!

Application: How can we strive to have faith doesn’t waiver under pressure?

- We must constantly immerse ourselves in the promises of God, so much so that they are always the first things to come to mind when difficulty comes. We must be people of the Word.
- We must stay closely connected to others who will remind us of the promises of God and who will challenge us if we start to fall away. (Hebrews 10:23-25; 3:12-13).