

40- Being an Overcomer 16:16-33

There is an old saying that everybody loves a winner. Oh, sure we root for the underdog but we are doing so hoping they win. Jesus has been telling His disciples some disturbing things in the last few hours of time that has passed recorded for us in the last couple of chapters of John.

He told them that one in their midst would betray Him. Judas departed to betray Christ. Peter has been told he would deny Him also. They were informed that they were going to be separated from Christ, a thought they could not bear to entertain. They are now being told that they would suffer for being a follower of Christ. Boy this sure does not sound like the winning team.

I- A Little While:

We can handle a lot of things when we know they are yet in the future. It is when they become a reality in the immediate future that they cause our stress to be heightened. There is an interesting phrase translated for us into English. In three verses the words, "a little while," are used 7 times.

Joh 16:16 A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father. 17 Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father? 18 They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith. 19 Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me:

and again, a little while, and ye shall see me? Jesus would die the next day.

II- Analogy of Birth Pains:

One thing that is considered extremely rude and uncivilized is when someone gets pleasure out of someone else suffering. Jesus told the disciples that the world was going to rejoice at what was going to make them weep.

Joh 16:20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

Please notice that He tells them however that their sorrow would be turned into joy. There is no doubt that He is talking about the sorrow of His death, that the world rejoiced over, and His resurrection that brought such joy to the brokenhearted. He's alive, He's alive would be the cry.

He acquaints this sorrow to a woman giving birth. The pain is real but she soon forgets the pain when a child is laid in her arms.

Joh 16:21 A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. 22 And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

III- His Intercession:

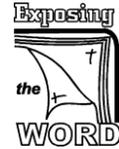
Perhaps one of the most important questions that Christians need to consider is, where do you see Jesus today. Many still have Him on the cross dying continually.



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Some see Him just raised from the dead. But may I suggest that while He was on the cross at one time He is no longer there. While He certainly was raised from the dead and the grave is empty He is not still waiting by the tombs entrance for people to come by. He is on the right hand of the Father.

Jesus had been with His disciples the whole time and they could converse with Him as needed. He was going to be go back to heaven and they needed to know that He would still be interceding for them.

Joh 16:23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. 24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

He was teaching them that just because He had gone away they could still call upon Him. *Joh 16:25 These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father. 26 At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: 27 For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. 28 I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father. 29 His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb. 30 Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God. 31 Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?*

They tell Jesus that they understand now. He is going to go back to the Father from which He came. Jesus would pray in

the next few minutes, *And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. John 17:5*

This was verification of Messiah by the Holy Spirit into the hearts of these men. Jesus had known what was in their hearts. He knew they were reasoning about the little while. This dialogue unfolded and they understood by His words to them that He had not only read their minds but their heart. This sprang forth faith in the fact that He had indeed come from God. They had seen the miracles but for the most part they were toward someone else. This now had gotten very personal with them.

IV- Being an Overcomer.

Joh 16:32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. 33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

After Jesus tells them of the coming hardship He tells them that they can be of good cheer, or countenance. We might say pick up your chin. So might I suggest that because Jesus has overcome the world that we also can be overcomers. How, let me give us a few suggestions, not an exhaustive list.

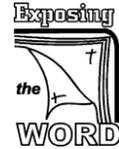
1- Realize that true joy is not linked to circumstances but to Christ. *Joh 16:22 And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.* When we set our face on Him he will make the pathway so we can walk it. The



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disciples sorrow would turn to joy because of Christ.

Notice a few other verses.

1Jn 4:4 *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*

1Jn 5:4 *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*

2- Realize that we always have Christ interceding for us. Joh 16:26 *At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you...*

Remember Christ is sitting on the right hand of the Father. **Hebrews 7:25** *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

3- Do not be surprised by opposition and persecution. Joh 16:32 *Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own...*

2 Timothy 3:12 *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

This is difficult. To be an overcomer we are often call upon to love our enemy and forgive them. **Rom 12:21** says, *Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Hear again the word of Jesus. **Matthew 5:44-46** *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of*

your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

4- Remember Hardships are only for a season.

Remember Jesus used the analogy of birth of a child. Many have told me over the years that if God did not let them forget the pain there would only be families with one child because not one would have the second. The birth pain is only remembered for a short time then joy comes.

Romans 8:35 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*